

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

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*Berlin*

Action  
EUR CONTROL: 19952  
REC D: DECEMBER 31, 1963, 11:34 AM

Info  
FROM: BERLIN  
ACTION: SECSTATE 874

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SAL INFO: BONN 799  
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Authority E.O. 11652 SEC. 5(A) and (D)  
By *inf*, NARS, Date 4-26-76

SUBJ: US CITIZENS IMPRISONED IN EAST GERMANY (HAMMERSTEIN AND LOBA).  
REF: DEPTTEL 493 TO BERLIN.

SINCE MCGHEE-ABRASIMOV MEETING DEC 4, MISSION OFFICER HAS TWICE RAISED HAMMERSTEIN CASE WITH SOVEMB OFFICER. LATTER HAS GIVEN NO RPT NO FURTHER INDICATIONS OF SOV INTENTIONS, BUT ASKED FOR DETAILED INFO ON LAST FORMAL STEPS TAKEN BY EAST BERLIN ATTORNEY VOGEL. DESPITE REPEATED EFFORTS OVER PAST TEN DAYS, MISSION OFFICER HAS BEEN UNABLE RENEW CONTACT WITH SOVEMB OFFICER TO PROVIDE INFO REQUESTED. (DELIBERATE EVASIVENESS OF EMBOFF IS PRESUMABLY ALSO CONNECTED WITH SOV STALLING RE GEN POLK'S PROPOSED VISIT TO EAST BERLIN.)

VOGEL HAS BEEN ON VACATION SINCE BEFORE CHRISTMAS. HE WAS SUPPOSED INTERRUPT VACATION AND RETURN BRIEFLY TO BERLIN LAST WEEKEND FOR MEETING WITH MISSION OFFICER. CONTRARY TO EXPECTATIONS, VOGEL DID NOT RPT NOT RETURN BERLIN AND IS NOT RPT NOT NOW EXPECTED BACK UNTIL MID-JANUARY. VOGEL WROTE HAMMERSTEIN DEC 23 STATING RELEASE ON BASIS CLEMENCY APPEAL NOT RPT NOT POSSIBLE AT PRESENT.

WEST BERLIN ATTORNEY STANGE HAS REPORTED THAT RELEASE OF LOBA, WHICH VOGEL HAD INDICATED MIGHT BE EXPECTED BEFORE END OF YEAR, HAS RUN INTO SNAGS. STANGE UNABLE GIVE PRECISE DETAILS OF WHAT INVOLVED.

MISSION WILL GIVE NEXT-OF-KIN STATUS REPORTS BASED ON ABOVE INFO AND WILL CONTINUE ENDEAVOR ASCERTAIN PROSPECTS IN CASES THROUGH SOVS AND/OR VOGEL.

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