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SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF GDR PASSPORT AND VISA DECREE

REF: BERLIN 1647

1. ACCORDING TO WEST BERLIN AND WEST GERMAN CUSTOMS OFFICIALS EAST GERMAN CHECKPOINTS BEGAN ISSUING VISAS UNDER THE NEW PASSPORT AND VISA DECREE AS OF MIDNIGHT JUNE 12.
2. VISAS ARE BEING PREPARED BY OFFICERS OF THE PEOPLES POLICE. GERMAN/WEST BERLIN TRAVELERS ARE REQUIRED TO FILL OUT APPLICATIONS FOR TRANSIT THROUGH THE GDR. PROCESSING TIME OF THE APPLICATION IS REPORTED IN SEVERAL CASES AS BEING APPROXIMATELY 15 MINUTES. SPECIAL PAYMENT BOOTHS HAVE BEEN ERECTED TO COLLECT THE FEES. PROCESSING HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN COURTEOUS.
3. HOWEVER, WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW PROCESSING BOTH

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PASSENGER CAR AND TRUCK TRAFFIC EXPERIENCED BACKUP DELAYS. SOME TRUCK DRIVERS REPORTED THAT AS A RESULT OF THE TRAFFIC BACKLOGS, TRANSIT BETWEEN THE FRG AND BERLIN HAS TAKEN AS MUCH AS 2 1/2 HOURS ADDITIONAL TIME.

GP AR MORRIS

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958 Sec. 3.5
NLJ-S 98001
By CL, NARA, Date 7-6-00

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