



Department of State

N. G. J.   
TELEGRAM

32

208

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ 872

PAGE 01 BERLIN 02137 261526Z

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.4  
By AM/PC NARA, Date 1-12-06

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ACTION EUR 20

INFO CIAE 00, DODE 00, GPM 04, H 02, INR 07, L 03, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SP 02,  
SS 25, USIA 12, NSA 02, IO 13, SR 01, SA 01, SAL 01, SAH 02, NIC 01, E 15,  
ACDA 16, RSR 01, /143 W  
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R 261455Z AUG 68  
FM USMISSION BERLIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3018  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD/HEIDELBERG  
CINCEUR FOR POLAD/VAIHINGEN  
USELMLO/CASTEAU  
CINCUSAFE FOR POLAD/WIESBADEN

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BERLIN 2137

SUBJECT: IMPACT OF CZECH SITUATION ON BERLIN MORALE

REFS : BERLIN 2132, 1981, 1764, A-691, A-811

1. AS ANTICIPATED, THE SOVIET MILITARY INTERVENTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAS FURTHER ADVERSELY AFFECTED BERLIN MORALE, AND WE AGREE WITH THE GOVMAYOR'S JUDGEMENT THAT A "STRONG FEELING OF INSECURITY PREVAILS IN THE CITY."

2. THE FACT THAT AN ENTIRE COUNTRY WAS OCCUPIED OVERNIGHT SEEMS TO HAVE LED MANY BERLINERS TO FEAR THEIR CITY MIGHT BE TAKEN OVER IN A FEW HOURS BY THE GDR AND SOVIETS. BERLIN MORALE WAS ALREADY LOW AS A RESULT OF GDR-SOVIET MOVES SOME WEEKS AGO AGAINST THE CITY, THE APPARENT FAILURE OF THE ALLIES AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO REACT (EXCEPT BY PROTESTS) AT THAT TIME, THE MORE RECENT ALLIED BAN ON THE LATVIAN YOUTH CONGRESS, AND IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CANCELLATION OF THE SEPTEMBER BUNDESTAG WORK WEEK, AS WELL AS SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS AND UNCERTAINTY ABOUT BERLIN'S "STATUS" AND THE

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# TELEGRAM

32

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 02 BERLIN 02137 261526Z

POSSIBILITY THAT THE ALLIES OR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MIGHT STOP OTHER FORTHCOMING BERLIN EVENTS (SUCH AS TAG DER HEIMAT, THE OCTOBER BUNDESTAG WORK WEEK AND CDU CONVENTION). EVEN BEFORE THE CZECH INTERVENTION A NUMBER OF OUR BEST CONTACTS HAD BEEN OF THE OPINION THAT BERLIN MORALE HAD NEVER BEEN AS LOW, IN ANY CASE FOR SOME YEARS. A FEELING OF "RESIGNATION" SEEMED WIDESPREAD, TOGETHER WITH A CONVICTION THAT THE BERLIN SITUATION WAS SLOWLY BUT SURELY DETERIORATING. A LOSS OF CONFIDENCE IN THE ALLIES, PARTICULARLY THE UNITED STATES, WAS APPARENTLY A MAJOR FACTOR IN THIS DETERIORATION OF MORALE.

3. IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT THE CZECH INTERVENTION HAS ONLY FURTHER ACCENTUATED THIS UNHAPPY PICTURE. IN PARTICULAR, MANY BERLINERS SEEM TO FEAR THE UNITED STATES IS NO LONGER WILLING TO STAND FIRM IN THE DEFENSE OF THE CITY AND IN SUSTAINING ITS VIABILITY.

4. BERLIN MORALE IS OBVIOUSLY OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE US AND ITS ALLIES. BERLINERS ARE OBLIGED TO RECOGNIZE OUR AUTHORITY HERE, BUT IF THEY COME TO DO SO MORE AND MORE GRUDGINGLY AND WITH DECREASING CONFIDENCE, THE ALLIES AND WE COULD ONE DAY FIND OURSELVES LARGELY IRRELEVANT TO EVENTS IN BERLIN. THOUGH WE ARE STILL A LONG WAY, WE TRUST, FROM THIS POINT, DEVELOPMENTS OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS CERTAINLY SUGGEST WE ARE MOVING IN THIS DIRECTION.

5. A FURTHER DIFFICULTY RESULTS FROM THE LACK OF STRONG POLITICAL LEADERSHIP. BERLIN BADLY NEEDS ANOTHER ERNST REUTER OR WILLY BRANDT, WHO CAN IMPART CONFIDENCE AND ESTABLISH A STRONG BOND WITH ITS POPULATION. DESPITE SCHUETZ' ABILITIES, NEITHER HE NOR ALBERTZ HAVE ENJOYED THE KIND OF CLOSE RAPPORT WITH THE POPULATION AND ABILITY TO INSPIRE TRUST AND HOPE WHICH BOTH REUTER AND BRANDT DEMONSTRATED SO NOTABLY DURING PREVIOUS BERLIN DIFFICULTIES.

GP-3. MORRIS

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