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8VV FHE910JCA023
RR RUEHCR
MDE RUFHJC 119 23/1700Z
R 231630Z ZEA
FM USBER BERLIN
TO RUEHCR/SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO RUFHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN
RUDTLN/AMEMBASSY LONDON
ZEN/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
RUFHGP/AMEMBASSY PARIS
RUFHC/USCINCEUR
RUFHAG/USAREUR
RUDLSK/USNMR SHAPE
RUDLSK/USELMLO
STATE GRNC
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1964 JUN 23 022297 PM 6 43

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Authority E.O. 11652 SEC. 5(A) and (D)

By ing, NARS, Date 4-27-76

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ACTION DEPT 1629 INFO BONN 1540 LONDON
926 MOSCOW 870 PARIS 947 USCINCEUR USAREUR USNMR SHAPE USELMLO
FROM BERLIN 23 JUNE 1964 5:30 PM

USCINCEUR, USAREUR FOR POLADS; USNMR SHAPE FOR BURNS; PARIS
ALSO FOR USRO.

SUBJ: NEW PROCEDURES FOR US CIVILIAN ENTRY INTO EAST BERLIN

REF: A. DEPTTEL 548 TO BONN, 879 BERLIN
B. DEPTTEL 3529 TO BONN, 875 BERLIN
C. BERLINTEL 1471 TO DEPT., 1386 BONN
D. BONNTEL 4665 TO DEPT., 1268 TO BERLIN

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INSTITUTION OF NEW PROCEDURES FOR ENTRY US CIVILIAN OFFICIALS
INTO EAST BERLIN IS IN ABEYANCE AT THE MOMENT. DEPT SO INSTRUCTED
IN REFTEL A AND MISSION HAS WISHED TO GAUGE AFTER-EFFECTS OF
SOV-GDR TREATY BEFORE RECOMMENDING ON NEW TIMING. WE HAD
BEEN SOMEWHAT CONCERNED WITH POSSIBILITY THAT INCIPIENT
RUMOR ALLEGING PRIOR U.S. KNOWLEDGE OF AND THEREFORE
CONNIVANCE IN TREATY MIGHT BE FURTHER STIMULATED BY PROMPT
SETTLEMENT OF SUCH A SIDE DEAL. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT THE
RUMOR THAT THE U.S. KNEW IN ADVANCE ABOUT THE BUILDING OF
THE WALL AND FAILED TO ACT HAS BEEN A LONG-LIVED ONE IN BERLIN.

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-2- 1629, JUNE 23, 6 PM, FROM: BERLIN

REACTION TO TREATY TO DATE HAS NOT BEEN SUCH AS TO GIVE SUBSTANCE TO THIS CONCERN, HOWEVER. FURTHERMORE, FACT FED FONOFF AWARE OF OUR PLANS (REFTEL D) OPENS POSSIBILITY THAT THEY MAY BECOME MORE WIDELY KNOWN. WE THEREFORE RECOMMEND THAT WE BE AUTHORIZED TO PROCEED ALONG LINES REF C BASED ON FOLLOWING TIMING CONSIDERATIONS: (A) IN ORDER TO ENABLE US TO TIE PUBLIC EXPLANATION OF OUR MOVE TO CHANGES IN SOVIET PRACTICE (I.E. SHOWING PASSPORTS INSTEAD OF DIENSTPASS) AND GENERALLY ALSO TO CHANGES IN WEST BERLIN POLICE CONTROL OF CD-CC VEHICLES, WE SHOULD MAKE MOVE AT RELATIVELY EARLY DATE. IT IS LIKELY NEW POLICE PROCEDURES WILL GO INTO EFFECT BETWEEN JUNE 25 AND JULY 1; (B) BECAUSE OF NUMBER OF UPCOMING EVENTS, WE CONSIDER IT UNDESIRABLE INFORM SOVIETS OF OUR INTENTIONS PRIOR TO EARLY

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JULY. THESE EVENTS INCLUDE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S VISIT JUNE 26, JULY 1 BUNDESVERSAMMLUNG, AND US JULY 4 CEREMONIES; (C) MISSION BELIEVES IT WOULD BE UNWISE MAKE ANY MOVE AFTER BEGINNING AUGUST IN VIEW OF ANNUAL DETRIORATION OF POLITICAL TEMPER IN WEST BERLIN IN THAT MONTH (WALL AND PETER FECHTER ANNIVERSARIES) AND EARLY SEPTEMBER REOPENING OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WHICH MIGHT ONLY INVITE PUBLIC DEBATE ON MATTER.

AS RESULT OF ABOVE CONSIDERATIONS, WE WOULD RECOMMEND MAKING APPROACH TO SOVIETS DURING PERIOD JULY 6 TO 11, WITH END OF JULY BEING OUTSIDE LIMIT.

RE PRESS HANDLING - IDEALLY, WE WOULD PREFER THAT PUBLIC NOT BECOME AWARE OF CHANGES IN PROCEDURES. ON BASIS EXPERIENCE, HOWEVER, WE CONSIDER IT ALMOST CERTAIN PRESS WILL LEARN OF IT BEFORE VERY LONG. SINCE OUR ACTION, ON FACE OF IT, APPEARS RETREAT FROM OCTOBER 1961 POSITION, PRESS (PARTICULARLY THOSE ELEMENTS MOST CRITICAL OF ALLIED POLICY) WILL INTERPRET OUR SILENCE AS INDICATING OUR REALIZATION WE HAVE GIVEN IN AND OUR DESIRE SLIP ONE OVER. NORMALLY, WE DO GIVE PRESS SOME NOTICE OF LITTLE CHANGES SUCH AS THIS. ONCE SSTH SITUATION ARISES, NOTHING WE CAN SAY WILL REPAIR DAMAGE. WE THEREFORE BELIEVE WE SHOULD MAKE BLAND ANNOUNCEMENT, LOW-KEY, IN CONTEXT OF CHANGES KNOWN TO BE TAKING PLACE IN HANDLING OF CD AND CC VEHICLES AT CHECKPOINT CHARLIE. ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD BE MADE AT TIME NEW PROCEDURE ENTERS INTO EFFECT OR SHORTLY THEREAFTER.

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-3- 1629, JUNE 23, 6 PM, FROM: BERLIN

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AFTER DESCRIBING CHANGES, PRESS STATEMENT WOULD TAKE LINE THAT IN VIEW OF RECENT CHANGES IN SOVIET PRACTICE (RE PASSPORTS) U.S. ABLE PERMIT ITS OFFICIALS SHOW PASSPORTS TO EAST BERLIN CHECKPOINT PERSONNEL FROM WITHIN VEHICLES WITH SAME PURPOSE, I.E., DEMONSTRATING THAT BEARER OF DOCUMENT EXEMPT FROM GERMAN CONTROL PROCEDURES BY VIRTUE OF HIS SPECIAL STATUS IN BERLIN. STATEMENT WOULD ALSO NOTE THAT SOVIETS HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED OF CHANGE IN U.S. PROCEDURES, FOLLOWING THEIR NOTIFICATION TO US OF CHANGE IN SOVIET PROCEDURES. PRESS WOULD BE GIVEN BACKGROUND THAT SINCE OCTOBER 1961 AMERICAN CIVILIAN OFFICIALS HAD NOT TRAVELLED TO EAST BERLIN IN VEHICLES BECAUSE OF U.S. VIEW THAT VEHICLE LICENSE PLATES WERE SUFFICIENT IDENTIFICATION FOR ENTERING EAST BERLIN, AND SUBMITTING TO PERSONAL IDENTITY CHECKS BY EAST BERLIN OFFICIALS WAS UNNECESSARY. ON OTHER HAND, THESE OFFICIALS WHEN CROSSING ON FOOT OR BY U-BAHN HAVE SHOWN THEIR PASSPORTS AS EVIDENCE OF THEIR SPECIAL STATUS. CURRENT CHANGE IN US PRACTICE WAS UNDERTAKEN IN LIGHT OF RECENT CHANGES REGARDING IDENTIFICATION OF SOVIETS ENTERING WEST BERLIN WHO NOW IDENTIFY SELVES BY SHOWING PASSPORTS. AMERICAN PROCEDURES WILL NOW CLOSELY RESEMBLE THOSE LONG FOLLOWED BY BRITISH, AND, MORE RECENTLY, BY SOVIETS. GP-4. CALHOUN
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