

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

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CONTROL: 8548 ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Action RECD: FEBRUARY 12, 9:06 PM

BTF

Info

FROM: BONN

SS

ACTION: BERLIN 806 PRIORITY

G

SP

INFO: SECSTATE 2862 PRIORITY (SECTION TWO OF TWO)

L

PARIS 1043 PRIORITY

H

LONDON 893 PRIORITY

SAL

MOSCOW 499 PRIORITY

EUR

USAREUR UNN PRIORITY

IO

CINCEUR UNN PRIORITY

DAC

DATE: FEBRUARY 13, 1 AM

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INR

RMR

USAREUR AND CINCEUR FOR POLADS; PARIS ALSO FOR USRO
SUBJ: BERLIN PASS NEGOTIATIONS

7. KRAPF STRESSED THAT THE DANGERS WHICH A REPETITION OF THE CHRISTMAS PASS ARRANGEMENT WOULD POSE FOR FRG ALL-GERMAN POLICY WERE VERY REAL. HE SAID THAT AN ARAB AMBASSADOR CALLED ON HIM YESTERDAY AND SAID THAT HE HAD THOUGHT HE UNDERSTOOD THE FRG POLICY BUT HE NO LONGER FELT THIS TO BE TRUE IN VIEW OF THE CHRISTMAS PASS PROTOCOL. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT HE APPRECIATED THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CHINA AND GERMANY AS EXPLAINED BY THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT BUT THE GERMAN POLICY ON PASS ISSUANCE PLACED THE GERMAN QUESTION IN QUITE A DIFFERENT LIGHT. KRAPF HAD ALSO LEARNED THAT THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN BONN HAS BEEN TELLING NEUTRAL EMBASSIES THAT A DEFINITE CHANGE HAS TAKEN PLACE IN THE GERMAN QUESTION AS A RESULT OF THE PASS ARRANGEMENT. MOREOVER THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAD RECEIVED REPORTS FROM VARIOUS NEUTRAL COUNTRIES INDICATING A WIDE MISINTERPRETATION OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CHRISTMAS PROTOCOL.

8. THE US DCM STATED THAT THE ALLIES HAD NOT YET EXPRESSED ANY POSITION ON THE MATTER PROPOSED EASTER-WHITSUN ARRANGEMENT TO THE SENAT. THE US WAS PREPARED TO CONCUR IN IT IF IT WAS AGREED UPON BETWEEN THE FRG AND THE SENAT. NOW IF THE FRG AND THE SENAT AGREE THAT THE ARRANGEMENT IS NOT POSSIBLE WE CAN ALSO ACCEPT THIS. WE WOULD NOT WISH TO GET IN BETWEEN THE FRG AND THE SENAT, HOWEVER. HE EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE ALLIES SHOULD BE RESERVED UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES IN ORDER TO AVOID RUMORS THAT THEY HAD DISCOURAGED AN ARRANGEMENT OR THAT THEY WERE FOR IT AND THE FRG WAS AGAINST.

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-2- 2862, FEBRUARY 13, 1 A.M. FROM: BONN (SECTION TWO OF TWO).

9. THE FRENCH MINISTER SAID THAT FRANCE ALSO COULD HAVE AGREED TO THE EASTER ARRANGEMENT IF IT WERE CONCURRED IN BY THE FRG. NOW THAT THE FRG AND SENAT WERE OBVIOUSLY NOT IN AGREEMENT, FRANCE WOULD BE INCLINED TO ACCEPT THE FEDERAL POSITION BECAUSE IT RECOGNIZES THE DANGERS OF EXPLOITATION BY PANKOW.

10. KRAPF NOTED THAT INTERNAL POLITICAL COMPLICATIONS WERE NOW ALSO PRESENT AND REMARKED THAT BRANDT WAS NOT YET THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SPD WHICH HAD MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR A DIFFERENCE TO DEVELOP BETWEEN HIM AND PARTY LEADERS IN BONN. HE CONCLUDED BY STATING THAT IN THE JUDGMENT OF THE FRG THE EAST GERMANS WILL RAISE THE QUESTION AGAIN EVEN IF A TEMPORARY BREAK OCCURS IN NEGOTIATIONS AT THE PRESENT TIME. THE FRG HAD IN MIND THAT UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO DIRECT FURTHER TALKS INTO THE IZT CHANNEL. THIS WOULD BE DESIRABLE SINCE THEY FORESAW A CERTAIN DANGER IN CONTINUING CONTACTS BETWEEN WEST BERLIN AND ZONE.

11. COMMENT - WE BELIEVE THAT IT WILL BE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT FOR THE ALLIES TO STAY WELL IN THE BACKGROUND NOW THAT THE PASS QUESTION PROMISES TO BECOME AN INTERNAL POLITICAL ISSUE BETWEEN BERLIN AND BONN AND EVEN WITHIN THE SPD. THE FRG MAY WELL TAKE SATISFACTION IN THE PROSPECT OF OBVIOUS CONTROVERSY WITHIN THE SPD LEADERSHIP ON THE MATTER. WE WOULD PROPOSE TO TAKE NO DEFINITIVE POSITION UNTIL SOME AGREEMENT HAS BEEN THRASHED OUT BETWEEN THE FRG AND THE SENAT.

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