

~~SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

6 May 1954

DDP-1-2786

# EYES ONLY

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Lampton Berry  
Policy Planning Staff  
Department of State

SUBJECT: Proposed diversion of SS WULFEBROCK.

2003

1. Reference is made to the State Department telegram to the High Commissioner's Office in Bonn, believed to have been dispatched on or about 5 May 1954, concerning instructions to request the West German governmental authorities to arrange for the diversion of the voyage of the SS WULFEBROCK, a West German flag vessel presently on the high seas and suspected of carrying a secret cargo of contraband arms originating behind the Iron Curtain. This State Department telegram was sent on the basis of a suggestion originating with this Agency and with the endorsement of various State Department officials including Assistant Secretary Holland.

2. The original draft of the above-mentioned telegram, which was prepared by this Agency and approved by Mr. Allen Dulles, contained a sentence which was deleted from the State Department message as follows: "If our information concerning the nature of the contraband and the illegal cargo should prove to be inaccurate, the US Government would accept liability for the reasonable damages arising out of such diversion", the thought having been to authorize the Office of the High Commissioner to make this statement in anticipation of an inquiry on this point from the West German authorities. Being concerned lest the omission of this assurance might stultify the entire request, and having first consulted with Assistant Secretary Holland and Mr. Laddy, I caused a telegram to be dispatched to [ ] authorizing that [ ] be informed that, if asked by the Federal Republican authorities who would assume financial responsibility in the event that our information proved inaccurate, [ ] could say that the US Government, as the maker of the request, would be prepared to reimburse the Federal Republic for the reasonable cost and expenses arising out of the delay of the shipment caused by the requested direction. This message was sent on our own authority and represented an undertaking on the part of this Agency to assume responsibility for reimbursement to the West German Government for such reasonable cost and expenses arising out of the delay of the shipment in the event that our information should prove inaccurate. [As to where any liability might rest in the event that the information should prove accurate, and contraband arms be found in the

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM  
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

NE

ISS NO. \_\_\_\_\_ BOX NO. \_\_\_\_\_ FILE NO. \_\_\_\_\_ DOC. NO. 14  
IN CLASS/ UNCLASS/ CLASS CHANGED TO: IS E  
DATE REV'D BY: 8/1 REV DATE: 24/7/79 REVIEWER: [ ]  
REV FOR: 10 CREATION DATE \_\_\_\_\_ ORG COM: [ ] ORG CLASS: [ ]  
REV CLASS \_\_\_\_\_ REV COORD. \_\_\_\_\_ AUTH: HR 785

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~SECRET~~

- 2 -

cargo, no responsibility was assumed or intended to be assumed by this Agency and the authorization to the High Commissioner's Office likewise did not provide for any assumption of financial responsibility in such event.]

3. We are just in receipt of a reply from [ ] indicating the approach was made to the German authorities, whose first question was whether the United States would be willing to bear expenses incurred in any delays resulting from the inspection. They were advised, pursuant to the authorization granted in our telegram, and appeared satisfied with this degree of assurance. However, they stated that it would be necessary for them to investigate the whole question further in view of certain other complications and legal technicalities. Shortly thereafter the West German authorities reported that the SS WULFEBROEK was under a 2 1/2-month time charter to a Dutch firm whose identity was being sought, and that it would probably be necessary to obtain the consent of the chartering firm to the inspection.

FRANK G. WISNER  
Deputy Director (Plans)

cc: Assistant Secretary Holland

cc: C/WH  
C/EE  
ECD/PP

DD/P-FGM/cjm 5/3/51

Orig. to Mr. Berry

1 cc to each, as above.

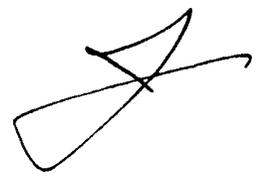
1 cc - DD/P SUCCESS FILE - THIS ONLY ✓

~~SECRET~~

5/5-54

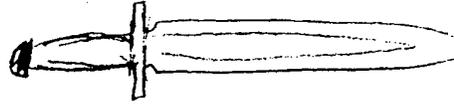
To: Frank Wisner

1. [ ] said that the State message to HICOG did get off yesterday.



Holland was most enthusiastic about this proposal and said to me that he was giving it his full support in state - with Bob Humphrey et al. He acknowledged that it was better than anything he had been able to "think up".

~~SECRET~~



DRAFT  
5/5/51  
FGW/bjm

*Green*

Mr. [ ] - this should be sent PRIORITY to whoever we have in [ ]

*Address  
to  
Bum*

*Down*

1. Please note State Dep't No. 3084 to HICOM requesting FEDREP action concerning suspected shipment contraband arms to Central America.

2. You are hereby authorized inform [ ] that if asked by FEDREP authorities who will assume financial responsibility in event information inaccurate, he may say that "US Gov't" as maker of request would be prepared reimburse FEDREP for the reasonable cost and expenses arising out of delay of shipment caused its direction.

3. Please advise us of outcome HICOM approach to FEDREP. This is matter of utmost importance.

*Lately*

*The 12/11 meety - Sent to CFE*

*The Holland payment meety - Perry*

*Henderson situation - William to release*

*The address*

*The one common means to be cleared correct. <sup>implication of bond</sup>*

*William -*

*① Events - yesterday, lady in bond made her look pretty good - even the clerical plan with Holland exp. like Guat too in. This to be mentioned to [ ]*

*② Polly. - gift - some sort of instructions can possibly be given.*

*③ The stop over in Guat - cleared with Defense Dept. we are getting some thick books -*



DRAFT  
5/5/54  
FGW/bjm

*chromo*

~~SECRET~~

*Subject in  
question*

Mr. **C** ] this should be sent PRIORITY to whoever we have in **C** ]

1. Please note State Dep't No. *6000 3084* to HICOM requesting FEDREP action concerning suspected shipment contraband arms to Central America.

2. You are hereby authorized inform **C** ] that if asked by FEDREP authorities who will assume financial responsibility in event information inaccurate, he may say that "US Gov't" as maker of request would be prepared reimburse FEDREP for the reasonable cost and expenses arising out of delay of shipment caused its direction.

3. Pls advise us of outcome HICOM approach to FEDREP. This is matter of utmost importance.

*Fed Rep*

*Sent to C/EE  
TO Release*

~~SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~SECRET~~

ROUGH DRAFT

4 May 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Mr. E ]  
Mr. C ]

SUBJECT:

Proposed urgent communication to HICOG for delivery to West German Government.

1. Will you please take up immediately with your top contacts in EUR [ ] request that a communication be sent top secret and top priority to the High Commissioner's office in Bonn requesting the High Commissioner's office to make an urgent request upon the appropriate German authorities as follows:

2. The US Government has reason to believe that the SS Wulfsbrook of West German flag, is presently on the high seas carrying a secret cargo of contraband arms ~~xxx~~ originating behind the Iron Curtain and destined for some Central American port. Our information further indicates that the cargo is falsely ~~manifested~~ manifested and that the ship is otherwise improperly documented for this voyage. This ship ~~xxx~~ is believed to have sailed from \_\_\_\_\_ (port in Germany) on or about \_\_\_\_\_ and to have touched at Antwerp on or about \_\_\_\_\_. Needless to say this is a matter of the gravest concern to the US Government inasmuch as the delivery of such a cargo of arms would have a serious impact upon peace in the Western Hemisphere. It is deemed of sufficient urgency to warrant our requesting the German Government to issue instructions that a communication be sent to this German flag vessel ordering it to proceed direct REPEAT direct to

FORM NO. \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY \_\_\_\_\_ FOR \_\_\_\_\_  
REVIEWED BY \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
AUTHORITY \_\_\_\_\_  
REV CLASS \_\_\_\_\_ REV COORD \_\_\_\_\_ AUTH: NR 70-3

*to other US port*  
 Cristobal for inspection of cargo there by nearest and most available German official representative, or in the alternative, that the German Government authorize US Government to take such measures as are necessary to divert this ship to Cristobal for inspection of cargo. If our information concerning the nature of the contraband and illegal cargo should prove to be inaccurate, the US Government would accept liability for reasonable damages arising out of such diversion.

REF ID: \_\_\_\_\_ FILE NO. \_\_\_\_\_ INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_ NOT IN \_\_\_\_\_ NO CHANGE  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 NO. OF \_\_\_\_\_ OR \_\_\_\_\_ NO. OF \_\_\_\_\_ OR \_\_\_\_\_ ORG CLASS  
 REV CLASS \_\_\_\_\_ AUTH: 22783

Recommend that in light of the fact that the WULFSBROOK is now in San Juan port and being inspected there, that the State Department send off messages to The High Commissioner's Office and to the Embassy at The Hague advising them of this fact and further pointing out that the WULFSBROOK proceeded to San Juan in accordance with her own schedule and not REPEAT not as the result of her having been diverted to that port. The message should also indicate to the High Commissioner's Office and Embassy Hague for their information only at this time, that the cargo is being thoroughly examined and that they will be advised in due course of what is found.

The two messages should conclude with a statement: "Please inform

[ ]

Handwritten: *Handwritten*  
5-11-54

Handwritten: [ ]  
L. J. ...

Stamp: *RECEIVED*  
...  
Handwritten signature: *Shannon*