

**S E C R E T**  
**NO FOREIGN DISSEM-----CONTROLLED DISSEM**

**WEST GERMANY/EAST GERMANY  
EAST GERMAN OFFER OF A NEW PRISONER  
RANSOM DEAL**

**EGB-23607**

**18 JANUARY 1967**

**GERMANY, BERLIN /19 JANUARY 1967/**

**EGB-23617**

**MEDIUM-LEVEL WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL WELL-CONNECTED  
AMONG BONN OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH EAST-WEST NEGOTIATIONS.  
SOURCE'S REPORTING RECORD IN THIS FIELD HAS BEEN ACCURATE.**

**1. THE EAST GERMAN PRISONER EXCHANGE NEGOTIATOR,  
WOLFGANG VOGEL, SENT A LETTER TO WEST BERLIN NEGOTIATOR,  
JUERGEN STANGE ON 17 JANUARY 1967 CONTAINING PROPOSALS  
FOR A NEW PRISONER RANSOM DEAL. STANGE REFERRED THE LETTER  
TO FEDERAL AUTHORITIES IN BERLIN. ITS CONTENTS ARE NOW  
BEING DISCUSSED BY THE ALL-GERMAN AFFAIRS AND FINANCE  
MINISTRIES IN BONN.**

**2. VOGEL'S LETTER GIVES FOUR CATEGORIES OF PEOPLE  
PRESENTLY SERVING SHORT SENTENCES IN EAST GERMAN PRISONS  
WHOSE RELEASE TO WEST GERMANY THE EAST GERMANS ARE WILLING  
TO NEGOTIATE-**

**DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2E  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2005**

**A. EAST GERMAN RESIDENTS WHO WOULD PREFER TO RESETTLE IN WEST GERMANY UPON RELEASE.**

**B. UNWED MOTHERS OR EXPECTANT MOTHERS WHOSE PARAMOURS ARE IN WEST GERMANY.**

**C. PERSONS SERVING SENTENCES UNDER TWO YEAR'S DURATION WHOSE HUSBANDS, WIVES, OR FIANCES ARE IN WEST GERMANY. THIS CATEGORY SPECIFICALLY INCLUDES EAST GERMAN CITIZENS WHO HAVE BEEN ARRESTED IN OTHER EAST BLOC COUNTRIES WHILE ATTEMPTING TO FLEE TO THE WEST.**

**D. WEST GERMAN CITIZENS IMPRISONED FOR ASSISTING ESCAPE ATTEMPTS WHO ARE SERIOUSLY ILL, E.G., WITH TUBERCULOSIS, OR URGENTLY REQUIRE AN OPERATION. VOGEL SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED WANTING TO AVOID A REPETITION OF THE WOLTERS AFFAIR WHERE THE INDIVIDUAL DIED EN ROUTE TO THE WEST. /FIELD COMMENT- CATEGORIES A, B, AND C ARE IN EFFECT FAMILY REUNIONS./**

**2. VOGEL ESTIMATED THAT THERE ARE BETWEEN 400 - 500 PEOPLE INVOLVED AND THAT THE TOTAL PAYMENT WOULD AMOUNT TO ABOUT 6,000,000 MARKS /WEST/. IN ADDITION, HE STATED THAT THERE ARE 1040 FAMILY REUNION CASES NOT INVOLVING IMPRISONMENT. THE TOTAL PAYMENT ASKED FOR THESE CASES IS 1,200,000 MARKS /WEST/.**

**3. VOGEL STATED THAT THE EAST GERMANS ARE ALSO WILLING TO NEGOTIATE THE RELEASE OF LONG-TERM PRISONERS. HE**

STATED THAT THERE ARE PROBABLY ABOUT THREE HUNDRED ELIGIBLE PRISONERS. HE SUGGESTED THAT PRIOR TO THE START OF NEGOTIATIONS THE WEST GERMANS SUBMIT A LIST OF PRISONERS FOR WHOM THEY ARE WILLING TO MAKE RANSOM PAYMENTS. /FIELD COMMENT- ACCORDING TO EGB-23607, DISCUSSIONS HAD ALREADY TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN SENAT AND FEDERAL OFFICIALS AT LEAST AS EARLY AS 16 JANUARY, THAT IS ONE DAY PRIOR TO THE RECEIPT OF THE VOGEL LETTER, CONCERNING THE COMPILATION OF A LIST OF 300 PRISONERS. IT MAY BE ASSUMED, THEREFORE, THAT AN UNDERSTANDING ON THE SCOPE OF THE NEW PRISONER EXCHANGE ROUND WAS REACHED IN INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN EAST AND WEST GERMAN NEGOTIATORS PRIOR TO THE SUBMISSION OF THE VOGEL LETTER./

4. THE FINAL PARAGRAPH OF THE VOGEL LETTER ALLUDED TO THE HEINZ FELFE CASE AND OFFERED, IN CIRCUMSPECT TERMS, TO EXCHANGE HIM FOR SEVERAL WESTERN AGENTS IMPRISONED IN THE EAST.

5. FIELD DISTRIBUTION - USBER, AMEMB/BONN/

END OF TT/4 333/WASH 047/Fran 110/MUNI 096/HAMB 206/BONN  
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