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BERLIN TASK FORCE

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23

Minutes and Assignments of Meeting, December 14, 1961

1. INR Briefing

Mrs. Mautner provided an intelligence briefing, stressing the following points: a) Soviet commentary on American reaction to Heusinger note, b) Soviet protest to Lebanon over inclusion of West Berlin in a trade treaty with the Federal Republic, c) Polish protest to the Danes on the formation of the Baltic Sea Command, d) Report that VOPOS are throwing rocks at the Xmas trees located on the wall, e) East German loudspeaker trucks threatening West Berlin loudspeaker trucks, f) East German press agency attack against West Berlin journalists, g) Red Cross agreement for interchange of Xmas visits between the East and West sectors, h) CDR protest to the British on border incidents, and i) Ulbricht interview with Dan Scherr. (MM is transcribing the interview.)

2. Xmas Cards to East Germans

Mr. Achilles suggested that West Germans might send Xmas cards to their friends and relatives in East Germany. Information officers in the field would suggest this line to their counterparts.

3. BTF 68 (Rail Access to Berlin-INR Paper)

Mr. Achilles asked that this paper be expanded to cover the various degrees of harassment less than total shut-down of rail facilities possible to the East Germans.

4. Paris Conference

Mr. Achilles commented that there had been no meeting of the minds on negotiations yet in Paris. The Secretary continues to urge unity.

5. ^{Spring} Leipzig Fair

Mr. Achilles noted that a telegram had been sent to the field asking that steps be taken to discourage the participation and attendance of NATO powers at this trade fair.

6. Heusinger Note

Mr. Davis said that in view of Moscow's comments we will not return the note to the Soviets as unacceptable. We will, however, stand on Linc White's public statement on the note if the Secretary concurs. Mr. Davis asked that the quadripartite

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Information Subcommittee review the note and utilize our propaganda media to counter it especially in those areas of the world where the note is able to arouse sustained public interest.

*(This was broadcast - I.C. advised
General Sov. Gen. campaign that
is Soviet, reductivist + war-mongering)*

7. Rotation of Battle Groups

Colonel Spraggins stated that the movement of convoys today had encountered no delays or harassments.

8. Forum to Discuss Disarmament with Soviets

Ambassador Beam stated that this forum of 18 nations would initiate discussions in February or March at either Geneva or New York.

9. Potsdam Mission Harassment Briefings

Mr. Davis asked Defense to provide a briefing on the harassments and restrictions now imposed on our Mission. The briefing would include comments on the status of the Soviet Mission at Frankfurt. Mr. Day noted that in response to a British request, GER/EUR, in cooperation with Defense authorities, will prepare a paper on the US position on the character of the Mission during actual negotiations with the Soviets and in the event the Soviets sign a separate peace treaty with East Germany.

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