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17 June 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

SUBJECT: American Committee Activity on the East German Riots

1. The first two cables quoted below were sent to the American Committee in Munich by Admiral Stevens on the morning of 17 June. The second two cables are replies to the first two, received later in the morning. Admiral Stevens requested that they be brought to the attention of Mr. Wisner immediately.

A. Cables to ANCOMLIB Munich from Admiral Stevens.

1. East German riots appear to offer opportunity for Radio Liberation to appeal to Soviet troops not to shoot or oppress the workers. East German workers are striving for the fundamental rights which workers everywhere should have but which are lost under the oppression of the Communist Party. Workers are doing only what Soviet workers would do if they had the chance. Regime statements that error was made in increasing norms shows workers have power, but Soviet troops should not intervene. Here is concrete case where Radio Liberation can effectively apply important points of its past propaganda to armed forces. Please cable summary of your treatment.

2. Suggested handling of East German riots: (1) Soldiers and workers: Do not allow yourselves or the peoples' police to be used against workers of Berlin and other East German workers who fight for better conditions and for a freer life. Who are you, soldiers or gendarmes? Who are you, sons of the people or hangmen of the people? (Semianov is a professional Chekist, a theme which should be tied in with above). (2) For the Soviet Army: This is the first test of whether they are for the regime or for the people. Are they defending the regime of concentration camps, purges, repressions, or are they defending the rights of the people? (3) Every defeat of Communism, regardless of where it takes place, weakens the position of Communist dictatorship in our country. The German workers are fighting our battle. (4) Tie up events in East Germany with events in Czechoslovakia to show that people are fed up with Communism. Plant the hope that the people of the Soviet Union will in due time join this united front.

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B. Cables from AMCOMLIB Munich to Admiral Stevens.

1. (Ref: A-1) -- Have sent Ronalds and Koehler 1500 plane to Berlin to telephone eyewitness account for possible special broadcast tonight. They will also try lease loudspeaker equipment for broadcast our today's program to East Berliners and Russian troops. Flying up our tapes at 1700. Also broadcasting part of program in German.
2. (Ref: A-2) -- Our programs done already along line you suggested.

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DC/SR/1

SR/1/AMP/bjc

DD/P - 2
C/PP - 2
C/SR - 1
SR/CPF - 1
SR/1 - 2

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