

OSMA 1799

MAY 13 1953

Chief, Berlin

Chief of Base, Bonn

Operational/GALL/GADNEY

CANLET - Resumption Free
Exchange News Media

INFO: Chief of Mission, Frankfurt
ATTN:

Chief, EE

Chief, PULLACH

REF: OSMA 1674

1. Reference problem was taken up with the appropriate HICOG official in general terms and without divulging the source.

2. With regard to the questions posed in paragraph 7 of reference dispatch the HICOG official stated that this involves a matter of high policy. The resumption of the free exchange of news media, the problems which follow therefrom, and the manner in which these problems are to be dealt with, are matters of concern to practically all HICOG offices and involve policy decisions which could, at best, be made at the Rober level, and then only as far as the U. S. position is concerned. Moreover, the free exchange of news media could only be resumed on the basis of a decision made jointly by the Western Allies and, possibly, the Federal Republic as well. Thus, in order to obtain definitive guidance as to: (a) whether the Allies would agree to a possible Soviet offer along this line, and (b) what steps HICOG might be prepared to take to assist West Berlin newspapers in such a situation, involves setting in motion the policy making machinery of HICOG and their British and French, (and possibly German), counter-parts.

3. The HICOG official also pointed out that the British and French would undoubtedly want to know the reason for HICOG's sudden interest in this matter, and that, even if a plausible cover story were given by HICOG, it would inevitably leak out that the Western Allies were concerning themselves with this problem.

4. It is to be emphasized that the HICOG official is perfectly prepared to undertake to obtain a ruling on this matter. However, he wishes to be assured that the information is definitive enough to warrant setting the

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