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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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30 June 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Russian Directive Indicating Soviets intend to Incorporate Berlin into the Soviet Zone

On 23 June 1948, the justice administration of the Soviet Zone issued a directive on the judicial measures to be taken in connection with currency reform. Addressed to the Ministry of Justice, Soviet Zone Laender, the Landgericht, and the Kammergericht in Berlin (both located in the Western Sectors), the directive treats Berlin as a part of the Soviet Zone. A copy of the directive is in the possession of the Central Intelligence Agency.

The above directive was discussed on 26 June 1948 among the justice and police officials of the Soviet Zone. When the Chief of Police of the legal section stated that the directive cannot be enforced because of the geographical location of the courts in Western Berlin, former President Wagner of the Interior Administration stated that this was of no consequence since detailed instructions for enforcement will not be ready for three weeks, by which time the Western Allies will have evacuated Berlin. This view was seconded by President Melzheimer of the justice administration.

Field Comment: The above information is an indication that the Soviets mean business in the present crisis. Having gone this far, it is difficult to see how they could back down without a maximum loss of face even in their own camp.

(The above information has been disseminated to Mr. Murphy in Berlin and to the Armed Services and State Department in Washington.)



R. H. Hillenkoetter
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