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11 November 1961

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CENTRAL

INTELLIGENCE

BULLETIN



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

11 November 1961

DAILY BRIEF

USSR-Berlin: /Foreign Minister Gromyko used his informal conversations with the American, British, and West German ambassadors at a 7 November reception to underscore the USSR's readiness for four-power negotiations on a Berlin settlement. Now that Adenauer has been installed as chancellor in West Germany and the 22nd party congress has ended. Moscow apparently intends to step up the pace of its diplomatic moves in an effort to induce the West to agree to early negotiations. According to Gromyko, Soviet Ambassador Smirnov has instructions to meet with Chancellor Adenauer, apparently to resume their mid-August discussion on Berlin. Khrushchev received the West German ambassador on 9 November, and Yuriy Zhukov, chairman of the State Committee on Foreign Cultural Relations, urged Ambassador Thompson to make arrangements to see Khrushchev.

On the substance of the Berlin and German questions, Gromyko made no mention of a peace treaty and confirmed that the negotiations could be limited to the problems of access to and the status of West Berlin. While insisting on demilitarization of West Berlin and termination of the occupation status, Gromyko stated that the USSR was prepared to provide the "most formal guarantees" that East Germany would respect an agreement. He was adamant in rejecting any formal link between Bonn and Berlin, but did indicate that present financial and economic ties could be maintained.

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