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HEADQUARTERS
BERLIN BRIGADE
Office of the AC of S, G2
APO 742 US FORCES

G2 DIVISION, BERLIN BRIGADE
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY
Period Ending 142400 Dec 61
(ISUM #3) (U)

1. (S) SOVIET FORCES:

a. Helicopter flight over Installation 4154 and August Bebel Platz in East Berlin on 13 December revealed the following:

(1) 29 T-54 tanks, 1 BTR, 1 bus and 3 wheeled vehicles are located in August Bebel Platz.

(2) The tanks that were parked in Installation 4154 are no longer parked on the hardstand inside the installation.

G2 Comment: It is possible that 10 to 12 tanks could be parked inside sheds in Installation 4154. Believed, however, that all tanks have departed this installation. Tank unit in Bebel Platz is believed to be the Tank Battalion, 83d Motorized Rifle Regiment from Installation 4161 in Karlshorst. Unit to have departed Installation 4154 believed to be a tank battalion of 68th Tank Regiment from Installation 4102 (Berlin Biesdorf).

b. Headquarters, GSPG imposed new permanent restrictions on Western Military Missions effective 120001 December 1961. The new restricted areas are located in Schwerin-Ludwiglust, Wittenburg and Koehnigsbrueck areas. The permanent restricted areas of Guestrow, Letzlinger Heide, Altengrabow, Jena-Weissenfels, Ohrdruf and Jueterbog were extended. This is the second increase in size and number of permanent restricted areas in 1961 and could indicate a buildup of conventional forces in these areas. However, a study of their locations in relation to SAM sites and suspected SSM locations indicates that Soviets may desire greater security for modern weapons. The new restricted areas conceal 6 additional known missile sites making a total of 11 located in restricted areas. Whether the new restrictions are coincidental or planned, combination of old and new restricted areas lie along a natural north-south line of defensible terrain and natural obstacles from Schwerin through Ludwigslust, Wittengerge, Klietz, Burg, Magdeburg, Dessau, Merseberg, Jena and Weimar to Arnstadt.

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BY AUTHORITY OF:

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c. The general tempo of GSFSG training activities decreased during past weeks. Although considerable portion of East Germany was covered by USAREUR sources this past week, very little activity observed. Majority of installations reported "quiet". Training such as gun drill and short road marches conducted in local areas by 34th Artillery Division, communications exercise conducted by elements of the 10th Guards Tank Division, and driver training by these and other units indicated low level remedial training. No reports or indications of preparations for large scale exercise. Recent reports of M-Wagons indicate receipt of recruits, if not an actual rotation program. Activity this next week may indicate integration of recruits into training program.

2. (C) EAST GERMAN ARMY FORCES:

a. Report received from source given F-3 evaluation stated that the EGA Guard Regiment would be transferred to an EGA Installation in Berlin Biesdorf by 31 December 61.

COMMENT: Installation 4101 (Berlin Biesdorf) is presently occupied by a Car Company, GHQ Car Battalion. The present kaserne of the EGA Guard Regiment (Installation 4806) in Straussberg is shared by Hq EGAF and Air Defense Command. Since the EGA Guard Regiment performs duty at many locations in East Berlin and since EGAF could probably use additional space, report of move seems logical.

b. Major elements of 1st Motorized Rifle Division remained at home stations training locally.

3. (C) GARRISON SECURITY FORCES:

a. Security Alert Police (SAP) defector stated that as a result of new construction of tank obstacles along the sector/sector border, the rumor arose that the seven remaining crossing points would be closed. A Sergeant told the EM of the SAP unit that the East German government has no intention of ever closing these crossing points. (F-3)

COMMENT: Permanent closing of all sector crossing points most improbable. However, East German government might attempt to impose further restrictions by demanding passports and visas, while continuing to attempt to conclude a peace treaty.

b. Defectors report Sonnenallee crossing point and adjacent area on Berlin sector border controlled by special company subordinate Berlin Civil Police Headquarters. Probable all 7 crossing points on Berlin sector border controlled by such units called Control Point Companies. Since units are basically civil police, they will not be added to USAREUR Order of Battle holdings, "Internat Zwei" Border Guard Battalion carried Installation 4222, Berlin/Koepenick, is dropped from Order of Battle holdings.

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c. Numerous defector reports indicate that all members of the Berlin Border Command will be issued the BSP uniform for duty wear.

G2 COMMENT: This is supported by the fact that personnel in BSP uniforms have been observed along all parts of the sector/sector and sector/zonal border.

4. (C) ACCESS SITUATION:

a. Railways:

(1) At 2140 hours, 7 Dec 61, the US Military Berlin-Frankfurt Duty Train, enroute to Helmstedt, was boarded illegally at Gerwisch Station, in the Soviet Zone of Germany, by two East German males. Access was gained by shaking the outer door handle causing the ring locking device to slip off the inner door handle which permitted opening of the door from the outside. The East Germans said they had been told by a friend that the US train had been slowing down in Gerwisch every night for the past two weeks because of work being done on a bridge. The East German conductor of the train was apparently unaware of the situation, as all processing was normal and the train completed its run without incident.

(2) Since the closing of the East Berlin sector/sector borders on 13 August 1961, operation of the US Military Duty Trains has been adversely affected. This has resulted from changes in East German Reichsbahn operating procedures which include changing of locomotives and crews at Potsdam and Marienborn, lack of sufficient Reichsbahn personnel and the overall poor condition of the Reichsbahn.

b. Air Corridors: During this period there were no incidents involving Allied access to the air corridors leading to West Berlin.

c. Autobahn:

During this period the only major incident on the Autobahn involved the detention of a convoy of Co A, 1st Battle Group, 19th Infantry. The convoy arrived at the Soviet Checkpoint at Helmstedt, enroute to Berlin, at 1425 hours, 10 December. At this time the US troops dismounted from their vehicles, on the right side, for processing. During processing, a Soviet officer arrived and requested the troops to move to the left side of their vehicles, which was complied with. In the process of moving the convoy NCO escort brushed against an East German officer who was walking toward the head of the column. Processing continued, and at 1545 hours a Soviet officer and the East German officer left the Checkpoint and asked for the convoy NCO escort. The Soviet officer stated that the convoy could not proceed to Berlin until the NCO apologized to the East German officer. The Soviet Officer was informed by the Convoy Commander that the East German Officer would have to file a complaint through normal channels. The Soviet Officer then informed the Convoy Commander that the convoy was officially detained

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and that he would call his commandant and recommended that the Convoy Commander call his also. At 1622 hours the convoy proceeded to Berlin after the Soviet officer was assured that the Berlin Brigade Liaison Officer was on his way to discuss the matter.

COMMENT: The actual time of detention was only 12 minutes. However, the convoy, complying with orders from Berlin Brigade remained until 1622 hours. During the processing, propaganda was broadcast to the troops over loudspeakers located in a building across the highway. These loudspeakers have never been used in this manner before. This incident is the first of this nature reported this year and illustrates the extent to which the Soviets will go to harass US Military personnel. Similar propaganda broadcasts took place on the 12th, 13th and 14th of Dec.

d. East Berlin:

(1) During the reporting period there were no incidents involving detention or vandalism by East German personnel to US Military vehicles travelling in East Berlin. Three vehicles were tailed, the duration of each tail being approximately 15 minutes. (Note: See para 12 for number of US vehicles in East Berlin.)

(2) One British tour was detained by the Soviets in the vicinity of Installation 4102 Berlin/Biesdorf. While stopped a Soviet Major approached the vehicle and invited the OIC to accompany him into the barracks. The OIC refused but in doing so opened the car door. Upon doing this, the Soviet Major removed the ignition keys. After a half hour a Soviet interpreter arrived and handed back the keys and pointed out to the British that they were in a restricted zone.

COMMENT: This is the second detention incident involving British tours. The attitude of the Soviets each time was friendly.

5. (C) HOSTILE RECONNAISSANCE: Hostile reconnaissance patrols continue to maintain surveillance of installations in the American Sector of West Berlin. In retaliation to the tailing of US vehicles in the Soviet Sector, Soviet vehicles have been tailed for corresponding periods by US Military Police patrols.

6. (C) REFUGEES: During this period, an approximate average of 34 refugees per day were processed at the Marienfelde Refugee Center; this is a slight increase since the last reporting period.

7. (C) POPULATION ATTITUDES:

a. East German population extremely depressed in anticipation of worse Christmas since 1944-45. USAREUR source reports low morale

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and apathy reflected in low retail sales. East German and East Berlin authorities stockpiling luxury food items now for release just before Christmas so populace will have full shelves before holidays. SED (Communist) party leadership concerned about public sentiment and particularly passive resistance encountered in industry. Workers refusing to participate in production speed-up program and political discussions at factory meetings. Work slow-downs also reported. Present situation described by party functionaries as comparable to that prevailing in Hungary immediately after 1956 revolution and in East Germany during 1953 revolt. Recent train breakthrough widely discussed and cited as example that East German population must help themselves since no help can be expected from Western Powers. Rumored that packages from West Berlin and West Germany may be banned. US prestige low, partly as result of East Press propaganda and lack of Western news. Functionaries consider new lift gates at crossing points propaganda maneuver rather than security measure. US vehicles could now be forced to come to full stop before entering East Berlin.

COMMENT: Report believed to reflect sentiment of East German population correctly. Passive resistance in industry confirmed. Enforcement higher work norms could spark local outbreaks.. Agree that installation lift gates undertaken to underline EG sovereignty rather than to secure border.

b. It was reported from various quarters that many people here fear that an unprecedented suicide wave could break out on both sides of the wall during the Christmas holidays. It is reasoned that many people feel that the wall has destroyed the last human contacts which they had; hence they will seek to end it all on Christmas eve or during the holidays. Some observers also suspect that Berliners on both sides of the wall will attempt to take heroic actions to release their tensions; these could be expressed in attempts to tear down the wall and in attacks on VOPO's or SED functionaries.

8. (C) PROPAGANDA:

NEUES DEUTSCHLAND and BERLINER ZEITUNG carried descriptive stories on an East Berlin exhibition of Western medicines confiscated by East German customs officers controlling parcels mailed from Western to Eastern Germany. The display of confiscated medicines was made by the customs office for the press.

Both reports underlined the dangerous character of the Western products and cited Professor Jung as claiming that the mailing of dangerous drugs to East Germans was part of Western psychological warfare. The papers cited several doctors as welcoming the ban imposed

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on the import of such drugs and as calling on their colleagues to fight the erroneous belief that Western-made medicines were better than those manufactured in the East, so the smuggling of untested Western medicines would stop.

9. (C) OBSTACLES AND BARRIERS;

a. Press office for the East German Ministry of Interior announced on East German radio on 080800 Dec that lift gate barriers would be constructed at the seven East-West Berlin sector border crossing points. Announcement stated all persons in civilian clothes must identify themselves but that military personnel in uniform could pass as usual. Measure effective 081400 Dec.

As of 120700 Dec all the lift gates had been installed. According to available statistics the opening in the wall at Friedrich Strasse is 9'6", and at the gate approximately 11'.

COMMENT: Measure constitutes no change in recent procedures. US had suspended, but not relinquished, right of officials and dependents to enter East Berlin in US Forces licensed vehicles without identifying themselves to East German police. East German announcement merely re-emphasizes its demand that all personnel in civilian clothes, without exception, identify themselves. Measure directed not only against Allied personnel but also, and possibly to a greater degree, presages future action against West Germans and West Berliners. Communists will take all possible steps short of those estimated as evoking severe Allied reaction, which tend to perpetuate division of Germany and emphasize East German sovereignty and the status of East Berlin as the East German capital. It is apparently the current communist thinking that the West will fight only for West Berlin and free access thereto, and not for Four-Power right in East Berlin.

b. During this period there was no new construction at the Babelsburg or Marienborn Checkpoints.

10. (C) NEW MATERIAL IDENTIFICATION:

During this reporting period there were no new material identifications made.

11. (C) NEW UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Ref para #3, GARRISON SECURITY FORCES.

12. (C) STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS:

During this reporting period, there were 21 ground reconnaissance patrols dispatched to East Berlin; 49 Staff Tours were made in East Berlin; 7 helicopter flights were made over the sector/sector and sector/zonal borders; 1 helicopter photographic reconnaissance mission was flown over East Berlin and Babelsburg Checkpoint; 21 ground reconnaissance patrols were made of the sector/sector border from the American side; and 14 ground reconnaissance patrols were made along the sector/zonal border.

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13. (C) COUNTERINTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY:

a. There was one possible compromise reported during the period. Two Americans, tentatively identified as Airmen, discussed classified information at the "Playboy Bar" in the presence of their German girlfriends.

COMMENT: This security violation is currently under investigation. Refraining from loose talk in bars, public areas, and at home must be continuously stressed in Berlin Brigade units.

b. Two Americans, one in uniform, placed themselves in a position that could have resulted in serious consequences by riding the S-Bahn.

COMMENT: Current reports indicate the S-Bahn is being used for the purpose of "Highjacking" certain hard-to-get commodities from the Western Sector. In addition, utilization of the S-Bahn without approval of unit commanders is prohibited by Change 1, dated July 1961, to Berlin Brigade Garrison Regulations. Investigation continues.

14. (C) MISCELLANEOUS:

a. Steinstücken Exclave: A routine patrol relief of the U. S. Army three-man patrol in the Steinstücken Exclave was conducted on 14 Dec 61 without incident.

b. During the period 3-9 December 1961, the USMLM dispatched 12 tours into East Germany. The length of tours in hours totalled 16 days. The BRXMLS dispatched 15 tours during this period. The incidence of surveillance and detention of these patrols by East Germans during this period was greatly increased.

15. (C) SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS:

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- a. Location of Soviet tanks - Bebel Platz (Para 1a).
- b. Possibility that tanks have departed Installation 4154. (Para 1a)
- c. New restrictions on MLM travel in East Germany (Para 1b).
- d. Possible transfer EGA Guard Regiment (Para 2a).
- e. East German morale at new low. US prestige low. (Para 7a)
- f. Lift gates at crossing points (Para 9a).

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