

Document No. <sup>16</sup>

Approved For Release 2006/03/16 : CIA-RDP78-01617A006000040065-7 JUL 1948

NO CHANGE in Class.

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Class. CHANGED TO: TS S (C)

DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

Auth: DDA REG. 77/1763

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25X1 Date: 15 MAR 1978 [redacted] GENERAL

1. UK desires negotiations with USSR on German situation--US Ambassador Douglas reports that Foreign Secretary Bevin believes the western powers should reply without delay to the Soviet note on the German situation in order to keep the initiative. Bevin takes the view that the US, the UK, and France should remain firm in setting forth their rights and rejecting the Soviet arguments but should not close the door to discussion of the outstanding differences with the USSR. Bevin believes that the Soviet Government would be willing to discuss the problems further and that the western powers are now in a position to contemplate the resumption of negotiations on a basis of equality if not superiority. Bevin is inclined to believe that these negotiations could include not only the German problem as a whole but also the "general situation." Douglas adds that Bevin insists that the western powers must maintain supplies to Berlin and keep up resistance to Communist infiltration.

Estimated food and fuel requirements for western Berlin--  
 The US Office of Military Government (OMGUS) in Berlin estimates that minimum daily requirements for the western sectors in that city during the summer months are: food, 1178 tons; medical and maintenance supplies, 73 tons; military supplies, 160 tons; coal, 2380 tons; gasoline and diesel fuel, 20 tons (3811 tons total). OMGUS reports that on 17 July the reserve stocks of food for the entire population amounted to a 30-days supply, which was being maintained by the air lift; reserve stocks of fuel were estimated to amount to a 40-days supply. OMGUS further estimates that during the winter months of December, January, and February, the coal requirements will be increased by 620 tons, thus making a daily total of 4431 tons. OMGUS believes that although any reduction of this total would mean considerable hardship to the population of Berlin, if necessary the figure for coal could be lessened by about one half, thus reducing the average daily air lift to 3000 tons. (Air lift tonnage as of 19 July was averaging about 2400 tons daily.)

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State Department review completed

ARMY review(s) completed.

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Soviet press and radio quiet on Berlin--According to US Embassy Moscow, the Soviet people are still uninformed regarding the Berlin crisis except for the texts of the US note of protest and the Soviet reply. In evaluating this unusual lack of Soviet propaganda treatment, the Embassy comments that: (a) it is wrong to interpret the continuing press silence as "any real indication" of Soviet intention to retreat on the issue; and (b) the Soviet leaders are probably awaiting further western power reaction to the Berlin blockade before committing themselves with their people to a definite course in the fluid Berlin situation.

(CIA Comment: CIA concurs in the foregoing explanation of the lack of Soviet press and radio comment on the Berlin issue.)

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