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NSC BRIEFING

8 December 1954

BERLIN ELECTION OUTCOME

I. Percent of popular vote and seats won (compared with 1950):

	<u>1950%</u>	<u>1954%</u>	<u>1950 seats</u>	<u>1954 seats</u>
SOCIALIST	44.7	44.6	61	64
CHRISTIAN DEM.	29.4	30.4	34	44
FREE DEM.	24.1	19.8	32	19
REFUGEE PARTY	2.2	2.5	--	--
GERMAN PARTY	3.7	4.9	--	--
SOCIALIST UNITE (Communist)	--	3.7	--	--
ALL OTHERS	1.9	2.1	--	--

*Handwritten notes: } = 66 (for Christian Dem. and Free Dem. seats); } = 63 (for Christian Dem. and Free Dem. seats).*

II. Two-party coalition (Christian Democratic - Socialist) now appears highly probable.

A. Socialists hold 64-seat majority in the legislature and could control the government.

B. Christian Democrats showed a marked gain in popular appeal--nearly six percent increase in popular vote over 1950.

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C. Leaders of both parties are reported strongly favoring such a coalition.

III. Neither radical right-wing party nor Communists won representation.

A. Right-wing German Party,

narrowly missed getting the five percent required for representation.

B. Socialist Unity (Communist) Party won only 2.7 percent, somewhat less than expected.

IV. Socialist-Christian Democratic coalition would assure continuation of moderate economic and social policies, general support for Adenauer on foreign policy.

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