

TOP SECRET

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Army and State Dept. reviews completed

TOP SECRET

WEEKLY CHRONOLOGY OF REPORTS CONCERNING THE BERLIN SITUATION
RECEIVED DURING WEEK OF 12 DEC - 18 DEC

NOTE: The following items of 7 and 8 December published in the Weekly Chronology of 5 - 11 December should read:

- 7 Dec Elements of the 1500-man First Battle Group of the 19th Infantry began moving to Berlin via the Helmstedt Autobahn to relieve troops of the 18th Infantry sent to Berlin in late August. The rotation to and from Berlin via the Autobahn was to be completed on 15 December. (CONF)
- 8 Dec Neues Deutschland reported that the "courageous behavior" of a conductor had foiled a "criminal plot" against the Hamburg-West Berlin express on the night of 5 December, when the engineer and fireman of the Oranienburg-Albrechtshof commuter train--"hired" by "frontline city bosses"--sought to derail the express by abandoning their train in its path. (CONF)

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NOFORN

1 Dec

A Reichsbahn crew began demolition of the water tower and other buildings at Gesundbrunnen in the French sector, following an agreement between Reichsbahn director Arndt and French "technical level" officials. (CONF)

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4 Dec

Special travel permits were withdrawn from 20 East German Reichsbahn railroad employees who are working in West Berlin, according to a usually reliable source. Other Reichsbahn workers in West Berlin were scheduled for transfer to East Berlin or the Soviet Zone before 20 March 1962.

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5 Dec The US element at Marienfelde processed 41 refugees--
38 of whom claimed to have fled after 13 August. (CONF)

West Berlin police announced that during November, 23
West Berliners and East Germans had been arrested
by East German police at the Babelsberg checkpoint
and Michendorf rest area on the Autobahn, which
they had used as meeting places. One West Berliner
had been sentenced to 16 days imprisonment on charges
of illegal parking. (UNCL)

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NOFORN

6 Dec

USCOB reported that more Soviet personnel than usual were present at the Autobahn checkpoints, and that 2-4 East German VOPOS had been observed at most Autobahn entrances, exits and overpasses between Helmstedt and Berlin. (CONF)

The US element at Marienfelde processed 50 refugees --42 of whom claimed to have crossed after 13 August. (CONF)

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NOFORN

7 Dec

The US Mission reported that 10 inbound and 10 out-bound passenger trains currently ply between West Berlin and the Federal Republic daily. Beginning on the afternoon of 6 December, Hamburg-Berlin passenger trains enter and depart West Berlin by the same route as all other passenger trains, i.e., via Potsdam-Griebnitzsee, rather than crossing the city border in the north via Albrechtshof. (OUO)

The Chief US controller at the Berlin Air Safety Center reported that one of the Soviet duty controllers had told his American counterpart, with whom he has "always been quite friendly and frank," that he was especially gratified to be stationed at BASC at this particular time "in that the closing of BASC would be a most historic occasion and he was happy to be part of it." Pressed to elaborate, the Soviet said he thought BASC would be closed "perhaps in January or maybe in December." He doubted that the East Germans would participate in the operation of BASC. (SECRET)

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NOFORN

8 Dec The US element at Marienfelde processed 31 refugees--
23 of whom claimed to have crossed after 13 August.
(CONF)

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NOFORN

9 Dec

The US element at Marienfelde processed 7 refugees--
1 of whom claimed to have crossed after 13 August.
(CONF)

The German Institute of Economic Research estimated that West Berlin's GNP for 1961 will show an increase of about 10 percent in monetary terms with a real growth rate of about 6 to 6.5 percent. The rate of expansion has slowed since the first quarter which showed a growth of 15 percent; growth for the last quarter is estimated to be about 7 percent. The Institute emphasized the importance of additional labor to permit expansion of the city's economy, but--presumably barring extraordinary measures to attract labor from West Germany or elsewhere--predicted a decline of 3 percent in the labor force in 1962.
(CONF)

The US Mission reported that West Berliners feel that many of their city's ties with the Federal Republic cannot be put on a contractual basis, and are disturbed by the idea of a "contract" because: (1) it carries an inherent Allied denial of responsibility for the development of Bonn-Berlin ties in the past; (2) it raises the danger of making these ties the subject of an East-West agreement thus opening the door to Soviet interference in West Berlin affairs; and (3) by establishing the Senat's competency to enter into such relations, it advances an undesirable image of West Berlin as a third German state, i.e., a free city in Khrushchev's sense. (CONF)

West Berlin economic indicators continued mixed in the second half of November, with private sight deposits and short term credits up and time deposits and savings accounts down. Commercial bank deposits have declined modestly but steadily, inhibiting banking transactions because of reserve requirements, etc. Orders data for October are not available, but the US Mission is inclined to accept reports that West German businessmen have been more "cold-blooded" than foreigners in cancelling industrial orders, especially for heavy machinery and clothing. Although industrial production was down slightly in October, production for the first ten months of 1961 was 10.7 percent above that of the same period in 1960. (OUO)

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NOFORN

9 Dec
Con't

An Austrian youth living in West Berlin was killed and a West Berlin youth captured by VOPOs when they and four others sought to assist the escape of an East Berlin woman by cutting through the barbed wire emplacements at the zonal border near Spandau in the British sector. (UNCL)

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NOFORN

10 Dec

During his regular bi-weekly radio broadcast, Mayor Brandt assured West Berliners that his administration is "not inactive" in trying to arrange intersector visits. Brandt said he could make no promises, but promised that no questions of prestige would stand in the way of Christmas reunions. Brandt noted the apparent absence of Christmas spirit in Berlin and East Germany and said that many anticipated the holidays with anxiety or even despair. He warned against allowing bitterness to give rise to acts of desperation and hopelessness. Brandt reiterated his personal misgivings about debates in the "market place," suggesting that much of the "jumble" of ideas, proposals and counter-proposals shouldn't be taken seriously. (UNCL)

Lucet, French Foreign Ministry director of political affairs told US and UK officials that nothing very sensational had occurred during De Gaulle's talks with Adenauer the previous day. In the face of Adenauer's urging that France move from the position of observer, De Gaulle had maintained his well-known view point but Lucet interpreted De Gaulle's reiteration of the point that he had no objection to the US and UK ambassadors taking soundings in Moscow as perhaps an encouragement of the US to take such steps. Lucet also suggested that the reference in the official communique to "the need to maintain solidarity among the Allied powers" might be taken to indicate slightly greater flexibility in the French position. (SECRET S/S)

10-13
Dec

The Communists were deliberately planting "scare" stories in West Berlin as part of their war of nerves against the already apprehensive and uncertain West Berliners. French officials in Berlin noted a sudden increase in rumors that East Germany is planning to "do something" prior to the end of the year--perhaps around Christmas time. Two sources have told US military officials that 150,000 East German troops may attack West Berlin on a "quiet day" such as Christmas. (CONF)

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11 Dec East Berlin's domestic service charged that "the Spandau BMW Plant in West Berlin has become one of those concerns working for the Bonn rocket program. The BMW machine factory, Spandau, a branch of the Munich BMW works, received orders to produce special devices for use in jet propulsion engines for the Bonn air force. Similar armament orders are being carried out in West Berlin by the Siemens, AEG, Lorentz and Telefunken concerns."
(UNCL)

The US element at Marienfelde processed 68 refugees-- 42 of whom claimed to have fled after 13 August. (CONF)

Joachim Lipschitz, West Berlin Senat official responsible for police affairs, died. (UNCL)

Marshal Konev replied to General Watson's letter of 28 November, regarding the 28 November detention of a US Army duty train at Marienborn and inquiring as to the whereabouts of US military personnel thought to be in the GDR. Konev's reply stated that he considered the train incident "settled" and that the US personnel in question had "requested the authorities of the GDR to grant them political asylum." Konev called Watson's attention to what he called "recent instances of provocative actions on the part of American military police in West Berlin in regard to vehicles carrying personnel of the Commandatura of the Garrison of Soviet troops in Berlin....You obviously will agree that if the necessary measures are not taken in connection with this, this can lead only to an increase in tension. This is not in our, and one must suppose not in your, interest as well." (UNCL)

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11 Dec
Con't

A US Army Autobahn convoy to West Berlin was detained for two hours at Babelsberg, during which a US Army sergeant brushed against an East German officer who had approached the scene during a protracted checkpoint head count. At the termination of the head count, the convoy was further detained while a Soviet and East German officer attempted to secure an apology; the convoy finally was released on the understanding that Soviet officials would report to the Soviet commandant and the US convoy commander to the US commandant. When the US provost marshal arrived to investigate the incident, he was given an unsigned statement in German with a Soviet endorsement alleging that the US sergeant had acted in a provocative manner. During the whole of the incident, East German public address system carried an English language broadcast aimed at the US troops. (CONF)

Acting Soviet Commandant Pokrovsky and his POLAD, Lt. Col. Alekseyev called on General Watson to protest six instances of "deliberate and illegal detentions" of Soviet military vehicles in West Berlin by US patrols on 4-5 December. Pokrovsky passed off East German harassment of US military vehicles in East Berlin on grounds that "it is well known that the Soviet command does not exercise controls" there, which are entirely in the hands of East German authorities; "We are Russians," he said, "you cannot mix us up with the Germans." He added that it is up to the US whether it recognizes the GDR but that it must nevertheless observe the laws and regulations of the GDR--such as that prohibiting two-way radio equipment in cars operated in East Berlin. Pokrovsky disclaimed responsibility for the installation of additional barriers and lift gates at the sector border crossing points by the East Germans and, citing a Neues Deutschland article, said that procedures set forth by the SED paper would be adhered to. Pokrovsky defended the delaying of a US troop convoy by Soviet authorities at Babelsberg the previous day, declaring that if the US sergeant had pushed a Soviet soldier he would have been arrested and tried as a "hooligan" and threatening that if there were a re-occurrence of the incident the culprit would be turned over to East German authorities. Concerning the increasingly

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11 Dec
Con't

frequent delays of US military trains en route to and from Berlin, he accepted a list citing delays and said he would pass it on to competent authorities. He disclaimed competence over the killing of an Austrian student on the Staaken-West Berlin zonal border, but said that the students had been armed and had hurt an East German VOPO. Finally, he was non-committal with respect to Watson's references to communications between the US and Soviet commandants, noting that one should not expect too much of a telephone and asking for personal delivery of messages. (CONF)

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NOFORN

12 Dec

USCOB reported that during the period 13 August--
4 December a total of 350 S-Bahn cars deliberately
damaged in West Berlin, were sent to the East Ber-
lin Schoeneweide shop for repairs. (CONF)

The US element at Marienfelde processed 45 refugees--
44 of whom claimed to have crossed after 13 August.
(CONF)

A USAREUR source reported that "slow downs" by East
German railroad employees unloading coal cars and
moving empty rolling stock from unloading sites to
distribution points, had caused the East Berlin re-
gional railroad district's coal reserves to fall to
4.5 days as of 11 December. (CONF)

25X1C

For the second night in a row the East German customs
police delayed West Berlin and West German trucks for
an hour or more at the Babelsberg checkpoint outside
Berlin. (UNCL)

The British Commandant in Berlin protested "in strong
terms" to Soviet authorities the seizure by VOPOs of
two West Berlin youths at the sector-zonal border on
9 December, when the East Germans forced the youths
to climb through barbed wire barricades at gunpoint
and abducted them. The British Commandant demanded
the release of the two youths and the punishment of
the offending VOPOs. He warned that "all necessary
measures will be taken to secure the British Sector
against further illegal incursions." (UNCL)

12 Dec
Con't

At an East Berlin press conference, East German Deputy Foreign Minister Otto Winzer rejected President Kennedy's suggestion of international control over the Autobahn, saying that the need was to make West Berlin a free, demilitarized city under UN supervision and not to give the Western Allies extra-territorial rights on sovereign GDR territory. Winzer said that UN supervision would "not only be a guarantee for the independence of the free city, but also against interference by the West German imperialists." He accused West Germany of misusing the air corridors "for ideological preparations of aggression." (OUO)

12 Dec
Con't

GSFG placed under permanent restriction ten areas
totaling approximately 250 square miles in East
Germany. (CONF)

13 Dec West Berlin police reported that 13 East Berliners and East Germans had fled westward during the preceding 24 hours. (UNCL)

The POLADs agreed tripartitely in Berlin that the Allies had no objection to the International Red Cross establishing a permit-issuing office in West Berlin and that the Senat should be given the widest latitude to arrange such a facility. The POLADs recommended to the Senat that (1) the permit office be located as closely as possible to the sector border, and (2) that an agreement that West Berliners visiting the Soviet sector not import propaganda materials or engage in espionage, be made orally, if at all, together with a reciprocal undertaking by East Berlin authorities not to recruit West Berliners for espionage or thrust propaganda upon them. (CONF)

At a Quadripartite meeting in Bonn, the West Germans presented a detailed report dated 11 December, on the seven East-West Berlin sector-border crossing points from the Bonn Foreign Ministry's Berlin representative. It noted that the recently installed lift gates were open at some points and closed at others, where they were opened only for the passage of vehicles. VOPOS man only two of the crossing points, having been replaced at the other five on 10 December by Grenzpolizei--a move which Bonn sees as an effort to create the "visual illusion of the existence of a state border." Bonn expected that the next step could be the imposition of visas or customs controls for all friendly missions in Berlin--except the Allies. (CONF)

The US element at Marienfelde processed 26 refugees--all of whom claimed to have fled after 13 August. (CONF)

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13 Dec
Con't

West Berlin police reported that East German loud-speaker trucks parked at five places along the East-West Berlin sector border threatened "counter-measures" if West Berlin's "barbed-wire broadcasts" across the wall were not stopped. (UNCL)

14 Dec

The Press Office of the GDR Council of Ministers announced that at a meeting held that day the Ministers had "adopted the draft law on customs. It will be submitted to the People's Chamber for discussion." (UNCL)

The First Battle Group of the 19th Infantry completed its eight-day "motor march" of 1500 troops to West Berlin via the Autobahn. (UNCL)

Neues Deutschland reported a speech by SED politburo member Paul Verner, in which, after commenting on the need for a peace treaty and rejecting proposals for internationalizing the Autobahn as an "April fool's joke," the East Berlin party boss stated that "the free city of West Berlin may conclude economic agreements and have other relations with West Germany, as with any other country...West Berlin, however, may not take over any laws from the separate West German state. The 80 Federal offices with 20,000 Federal employees which are currently in West Berlin are illegal...and should be accommodated as soon as possible on the territory of the West German Federal Republic." The US Mission commented that Verner's was the first statement it had seen which said, specifically, that no West German laws would be acceptable under a "free city" status for West Berlin. (OUO)

East German police hurled rocks at the Christmas trees set up along the sector border in Kreuzberg. (UNCL)

West Berlin police announced that 5 East Berliners had fled westward during the night, and that one man--who clambered up on the wall and shouted "I am coming over to you, Comrades!"--crossed into East Berlin. (UNCL)

The French Military Liaison Mission in Potsdam informed the USMLM that French Headquarters at Baden-Baden was issuing a new permanent restriction map to the Soviet Mission attached to it. The new restrictions, effective 14 or 15 December, bar the Soviets from an area roughly comparable to that from which the Soviets barred the Allied missions in East Germany on 12 December. (CONF)

14 Dec
Con't

East German construction crews laid I-beam tetrahedron barriers along both sides of the road leading to the Glienicke Bridge zonal crossing point at border with the US Sector and began erecting a guard shelter 20 feet north of the traffic control wall at the Friedrichstrasse crossing point into East Berlin. Construction of three sector border observation posts--one opposite the British Sector and two opposite the US Sector--was observed. (CONF)

14-15
Dec

A two-day meeting of the Chemnitz SED kreis executive, presided over--at least in part--by SED First Secretary Ulbricht, expelled five unidentified party functionaries for "violating the Leninist norms of party life." "They suppressed criticism and disregarded the collectivity of leadership work..." The expellees were replaced by "battle-proven comrades with experience of the party," according to Neues Deutschland.

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15 Dec

In a note dated 13 December and delivered by the Czech Foreign Ministry to the Counselor of the US Embassy in Prague, the GDR lodged "a resolute protest against the unlawful and provocative troop movements of American NATO units in the territory of the GDR" and demanded "an immediate cessation of such aggressive acts." The note referred specifically to "provocative troop movements on the Autobahn of the GDR between Marienborn and West Berlin" and the recent subordination of the Berlin Command to the Seventh Army "which forms an integral part of NATO's armed forces." It declared that the alleged incorporation of USCOB into NATO was "absolutely incompatible with the Potsdam Agreement and the peaceful interests of the German people" and insisted that "there are no legal foundations any longer for the presence of US troops in West Berlin." The note stated that the GDR "reserves itself the right to demand due compensation for such damages as are caused by the unlawful transportation of troops." (CONF)

The West Berlin Senat, disclosing that GDR authorities had turned down its offer to have the Red Cross arrange "technical-level" contacts between the two city administrations with a view to facilitating inter-sector visits, suggested that "coordinated" pass-issuing offices be opened at five sector-border crossing points--presumably the four points reserved to West Berliners and one other--and that free movement "for personal reasons" be permitted by the East Zone regime. (UNCL)

The last convoy of troops from the 18th Infantry's Battle Group, posted to Berlin in August, departed for Mannheim in West Germany. (UNCL)

Three VOPOS and two border guards--all uniformed and armed--fled to West Berlin during the preceding night. (UNCL)

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NOFORN

15 Dec
Con't

The US Army duty train from Bremerhaven to Berlin was delayed at Marienborn from 0239 to 0346, awaiting an East German engine. The Frankfurt-Berlin train also was delayed and did not obtain an engine until after the Bremerhaven train had departed. Following unsuccessful attempts that day and the next to have the Soviets accept a telephone message regarding the delays, USCOB delivered a written note to Deputy Soviet Commandant Lt. Colonel Pokrovsky at Spandau Prison.
(CONF)

Information Bureau West reported that Horst Sindermann, chief of the SED central committee's agitation commission, recently told a party meeting in Halberstadt that "the bars around the cage, West Berlin, could become still closer" and that there were "dozens of possibilities for stopping all who wanted to do silly things on the Autobahn or other communication routes to West Berlin." (UNCL)

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NOFORN

16 Dec

Gerhard Stiller, deputy director of the Criminal Law Institute of the Walter Ulbricht Law Academy, writing in the GDR Ministry of Justice's house organ Neue Justiz, demanded the death or imprisonment of those who commit "anti-state crimes"--including "attempts to break through the border"--or who because of "ideological diversion and imperialist propaganda violate our legal order even more obstinately than before and form a reserve of counter-revolution," according to western press reports. (UNCL)

The GDR Ministry of Interior, replying to the West Berlin Senat's announcement of the previous night that East German authorities had rejected proposals to permit the Red Cross to arrange intersector visits, reiterated East Berlin Mayor Friedrich Eberts' offer of 23 August to open pass-issuing offices in West Berlin. (UNCL)

Volksarmee appealed to all East German military forces to be alert, asserting that "only children could believe that Christmas is too sacred for the Bonn extremists to utilize it for their nefarious activities.... Anyone who is on duty at Christmas time must act for two, listen for two and be on the alert for two." Commenting for the first time on the Christmas decorations strung along the sector border by the West Berliners, the East German press compared the holiday lights to the flares which Allied bombers used to illuminate their targets during World War II. (OUO)

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NOFORN

17 Dec At dusk on Sunday 50,000 electric candles, strung on hundreds of Christmas trees were lighted along the East-West Berlin sector border at the wall. (UNCL)

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7 Dec

A TASS correspondent told [redacted] that the US was encountering problems with its Allies over Berlin and that "a Foreign Ministers' meeting on Berlin may lead to nothing." He then suggested that the deadlock could be broken only at the highest level and said that he felt the sensible course would be an advance meeting between the President and Khrushchev. "I think we can all make a reasonable settlement on West Berlin and your rights of access," he told the source, adding that in his opinion it should and must be done within the next three months. He said that the USSR cannot keep postponing the settlement forever. He then cautioned the source not to be elated over the Moscow-Tirana split. "Remember, Albania is in Europe and I sometimes think that Berlin is less important to us all than the trouble potential of Albania. Albania is today's Balkan tinderbox." (SECRET/NOFORN/NO DISSEM ABROAD/LIMITED/BUO)

25X1X

9 Dec

Growing criticism of "narrow" negotiations on Berlin by West German government and opposition leaders, including Mayor Brandt, may serve to restrict Adenauer's ability to support such a concept, according to the US Ambassador in Bonn. During the 6 December Bundestag debate on government policy, all parties went on record as having "serious concern" over limiting East-West negotiations to Berlin. Subsequently, Heinrich von Brentano and Erich Mende, the Christian Democratic and Free Democratic party Bundestag leaders, strongly attacked negotiations confined to the Berlin question.
(SECRET/NO FURTHER DISSEM/S/S)

SECRET

NOFORN/BUO/NO FURTHER DISSEM/CONTINUED CONTROL

14 Dec

The US Mission reported that, after completion of the battle group rotation on 15 December, only routine un-armed supply movements along the Autobahn had been planned for the remainder of December and that US Army units from Berlin were not scheduled for training in the Federal Republic until March 1962. Because of this, Berlin Brigade was requesting USAREUR's approval to move one company to the Hildesheim training area between 17-23 December. The company would move out in two sections and return in one, with its travel synchronized with that of regular supply convoys to provide for US traffic along the Autobahn every day. (SECRET/S/S/BUO)

SECRET

15 Dec

25X1X

[redacted] expressed the belief that the only concession which the Soviets would be willing to make regarding Berlin involves access. The Soviets, he said, assume that the US will refuse to negotiate with the GDR, since this affects the prestige of the US and other western powers. Therefore, the only solution is to make West Berlin a free city with a "koridor" or "kanal" which would mean that the Western Powers would not have to deal with the East Germans. [redacted] was certain that Moscow would agree to this solution, but said that it would not make any concessions regarding its recognition of East Germany as an independent state. Actually, he said, the Soviets will still be in control in East Germany and Soviet troops will remain there under the provisions of the Warsaw Pact. (SECRET/NOFORN/NO DISSEM ABROAD/LIMITED BUO)

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