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USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
26 February 1962

Soviet authorities are once again striving to confirm illegal claims to West Berlin, which, as is known, is not related to the German Federal Republic. In particular, it is planned to hold a session of the Equalities Committee and other revisionist organizations, and also a congress of the West German Social Democratic Party.

ABEL FAMILY WRITES LETTER OF THANKS

Moscow TASS in English to Europe 1545 GMT 22 February 1962--L

(Text) Moscow--IZVESTIYA today publishes an open letter from Helen and Lidiya Abel, the wife and daughter of Rudolph Abel. They request that this letter be published so "the entire Soviet public should know of the humane act of the Soviet Government."

In 1957, while staying in the United States, the letter says, Rudolph Abel was informed on by a rascal and provocateur, unlawfully arrested, accused of state crimes for allegedly spying for the Soviet Union, and unlawfully sentenced to 30 years' strict penal servitude. All our numerous appeals, including to the U.S. President, for pardon of our innocently condemned father and husband did not lead to any positive results, Helen and Lidiya Abel write.

The authors of the letter addressed the Soviet Government and contacted the relatives of Francis Powers, who had been convicted in the USSR; his relatives in their turn addressed the Soviet Government with a request to pardon him and asked the U.S. Government to help them in every way in this effort. The Soviet authorities, the letter points out, took a favorable view of these requests, Powers was released. "February 10 of the current year became a great holiday for us as well. On that day the American Government returned our father and husband to our family."

"From the bottom of our hearts, we thank the Soviet Government its head, Nikita Khrushchev, personally for this highly humanistic magnanimity," Helen and Lidiya Abel write.

POWERS REPEATS U-2 ACCOUNT TO GIA

Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0100 GMT 23 February 1962--L

(Text) "The Interrogation of Powers" is the title of an article in IZVESTIYA. It says:

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POWERS REPEATS U-2 ACCOUNT TO CIA

Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0100 GMT 23 February 1962--L

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NEWSWEEK in its latest issue publishes the following report on the results of the interrogation of Francis Powers by members of CIA. Last week CIA, with the help of representatives of the military departments, interrogated Powers for several days and obtained necessary replies. He was first taken to the government estate of Ashford Park in Maryland where he met his family. Later, when the ubiquitous correspondents had found out where he was, the 38-year-old pilot was transferred to another secret place, reportedly in Delaware.

According to a person having a direct connection with the whole affair, Powers was first asked simply to tell his story in as much detail as possible. Then he was asked to repeat everything, but this time during the course of a detailed interrogation. After this he was asked to tell his story a third time and, moreover, was simultaneously subjected to tests by a lie detector, to which he made no objection. It is supposed that Powers will be given a special serum chiefly to determine whether he will remember under the influence of medicine any confessions, long forgotten, made to the Russians who questioned him.

The fact that the U-2 plane in which Powers was flying did not catch fire has great significance, since it confirms that whoever brought the plane down, it was done at a height which was reckoned earlier by U.S. military authorities as inaccessible to Soviet anti-aircraft weapons. At the trial in Moscow, Powers gave evidence that his plane was brought down by something at a height of approximately 68,000 feet, but what brought him down he did not know. Powers told those who interrogated him that, as far as he knew, his plane was not shot down--that is, shot down as a result of a direct hit. However, it was damaged by something which he did not see--possibly an explosion of an unknown weapon nearby. The plane was damaged instantaneously, so quickly that he did not have time to use the special device to destroy the plane as he was expected to do.

USSR NOTE TO U.S. DEMANDS EXTRADITION

Moscow TASS in English to Europe 2240 GMT 21 February 1962--L

(Text) Moscow--Following is the full text of the note of the USSR Government to the U.S. Government:

The Foreign Ministry of the Soviet Union presents its compliments to the U.S. Embassy, and, referring to the ministry's note No. 105-GSA of 11 October 1961, deems it necessary to call the embassy's attention to the fact that the Soviet Government is waiting for a reply to its