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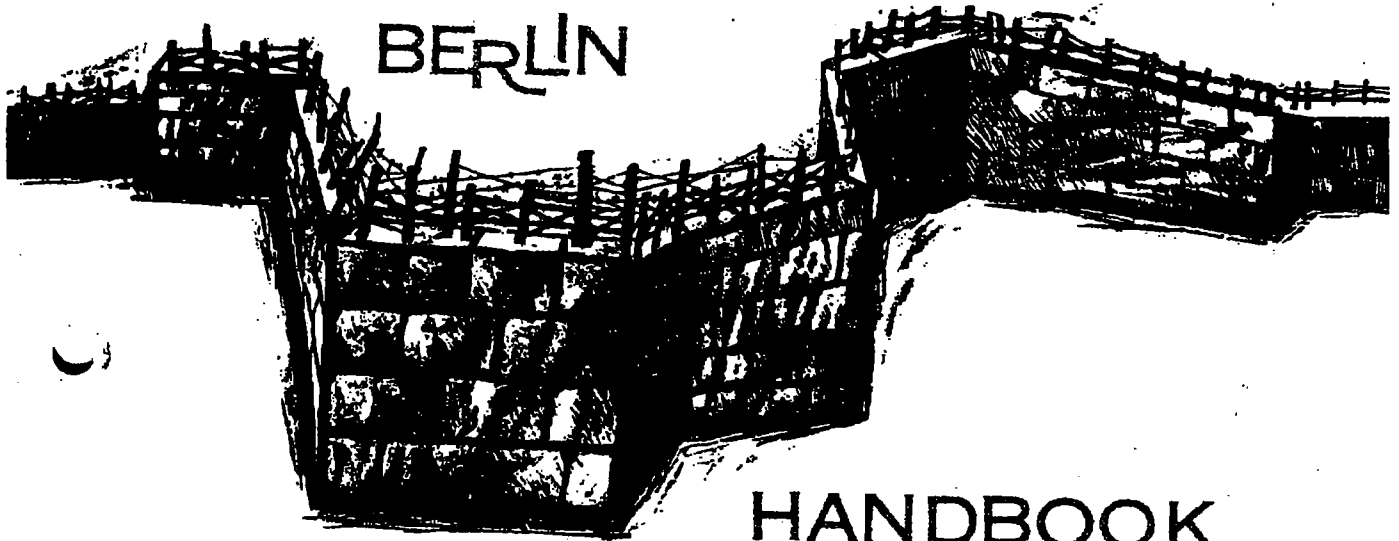
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BERLIN



HANDBOOK

OFFICE OF
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CENTRAL
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AGENCY

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A HANDBOOK ON THE BERLIN PROBLEM
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most recently in the February 1963 election in which it attracted only 20,887 votes or 1.3 percent of the total. It is estimated that the party has lost approximately 10 percent of its formal members since August 1961 and that a new campaign to "cleanse" the membership scheduled for early in 1963 is likely to mean the loss of another two or three percent. Hard core membership is currently about 5000.

In addition to the SED, the Communists have various auxiliary organizations, such as the Society for German-Soviet Friendship, in West Berlin. All these organizations lack financial support because of the economies imposed by the East Berlin SED organization. Nevertheless, they retain some potential for sabotage and harassment, although the basic threat of such actions comes from East Berlin and East Germany--rather than from inside West Berlin.

M, Exclaves:

About one-half mile south of the Zehlendorf district of the US sector, but belonging to it, is the 30-acre exclave of Steinstuecken, which is entirely surrounded by the East German district of Potsdam. The exclave has been subjected to intermittent Communist harassment; in 1951 East German police invaded the area and sought to annex it. After 13 August 1961, the East Germans fenced off the exclave, except for the one access road to West Berlin, and, in the process, blocked normal entrance to houses facing the Zone. Occasionally, refugees from the Zone have found safety in the exclave, later to be flown out in US helicopters.

There are seven other tiny exclaves of the British (5) and US sectors (2), being for the most part farm or forest land, or week-end garden plots. The East German police have occasionally insisted on changes in the documentation of land owners, and no longer permit gardeners of one British sector exclave to remain overnight in their cottages. For all practical purposes, these exclaves have been absorbed into neighboring areas of East Germany or East Berlin.

In addition to the exclaves, a large area adjacent to the British sector belongs to "Greater Berlin"--i.e. to East Berlin. In September 1945 the British traded part of Staaken to the Soviets in exchange for Gatow airfield. Although this area technically forms part of the "Mitte" District of East Berlin, it is administered from Potsdam District and its border with West Berlin is treated as a zonal, not sector, border.

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