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DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
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FROM: BERLIN  
TO: Secretary of State  
NO: 186, AUGUST 13, 10 PM  
NIACT

ACTION DEPARTMENT 186, BONN 160, INFORMATION PARIS PRIORITY 108, LONDON PRIORITY 102, MOSCOW PRIORITY 99, PRIORITY POLAD USAREUR 96  
PARIS FOR EMBASSY, USRO, STOESEL AND FINN.

FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY DEVELOPMENTS FROM EARLY MORNING TO MID-AFTERNOON:

EAST GERMAN ACTION SEALING SECTOR BOUNDARY AND INTERRUPTING S-BAHN SERVICES WAS CARRIED OUT BETWEEN 2:30 AND 6:00 AM. ALONG CAREFULLY PREPARED PLAN ON WHICH COMPLETE SECURITY HAD BEEN PRESERVED. FIRST INDICATION OF ACTION WAS POLICE OBSERVANCE THAT WESTBOUND S-BN TRAIN FAILED TO CONT IN, BUT EASTBOUND TRAINS STILL LEAVING WEST BERLIN. HOWEVER, SINCE S-BAHN NORMALLY OPERATES REDUCED NIGHT SCHEDULE, ACTION WAS NOT IMMEDIATELY DETECTABLE AS MAJOR TRAFFIC INTERFERENCE. EAST GERMAN RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT AT 5:00 AM., WHICH HAD BEEN PRECEDED BY EAST GERMAN NEWS AGENCY (ADN) RELEASE RE GDR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS' DECISION AND IMPLEMENTING DECREES (BERLIN'S 177 DEPT, 151 BONN) PROVIDED FIRST CONFIRMATION MAJOR SEAL-OFF OPERATION.

STRONG DEPLOYMENT OF EAST GERMAN MILITARY AND PARA-MILITARY UNITS (BERLIN'S 182 DEPT, 156 BONN), EQUIPPED FOR RIOT CONTROL WITH TANKS AND ARMORED RECONNAISSANCE VEHICLES, WAS AUGMENTED BY CONCENTRATIONS OF SOV MILITARY FORCES IN SOVZONE BUT APPARENTLY NOT IN EAST BERLIN; ONLY SOV OBSERVER TEAMS SEEN IN EAST BERLIN. POLAM MILITARY MISSION, HOWEVER, DETECTED TWO SOV MOTORIZED RIFLE DIVISIONS WITH FULL COMBAT EQUIPMENT DEPLOYING IN SEMI-CIRCLE NORTH WEST.

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-2- 186, AUGUST 13, 10 PM, FROM: BERLIN

WEST AND SOUTH OF BERLIN, WITH SOV TANK DIVISION IN POSITIONS SOUTH OF CITY. IMPRESSIVE MILITARY SHOW OF STRENGTH OBVIOUSLY DESIGNED TO INTIMIDATE PEOPLE FROM OUTSET, AND THUS NIP IN BUD ANY POSSIBLE RESISTANCE. SOV MILITARY PRESENCE PRESUMABLY HAD PURPOSE MAKE CLEAR FROM BEGINNING THAT CIVILIAN DISOBEDIENCE WOULD BE RUTHLESSLY SUPPRESSED, INVOKING MEMORIES OF 1953; IT ALSO CAST INTERESTING LIGHT ON SOV EVALUATION OF EAST GERMAN MILITARY RELIABILITY.

IT INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT WESTERN OBSERVERS (BRITISH AND AMERICAN MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL DISPATCHED TO SOVSECTOR AND PUTSDAM MISSION PERSONNEL IN ZONE) ENCOUNTERED NO DIFFICULTY; AS INDICATED BERLIN'S 183 DEPT, 157 BONN, VOPOS APPEARED UNUSUALLY CAREFUL NOT TO OBSTRUCT FREEDOM OF ALLIED CIRCULATION.

EAST GERMAN MEASURES CLEARLY DESIGNED TO HALT STREAM OF REFUGEES BY PREVENTING EAST SECTOR AND ZONE RESIDENTS FROM ENTERING WEST BERLIN, WHILE ALLOWING TRAFFIC FROM WEST BERLIN TO PROCEED UNIMPEDED. NEVERTHELESS, REFERENCE IN INTERIOR MINISTRY DECREE (BERLIN'S 178 DEPT, 152 BONN) TO "PEACEFUL CITIZENS FROM WEST BERLIN" FORESHADOWS POSSIBILITY EAST MAY UNDER ITS OWN DEFINITION OF "PEACEFUL" RESTRICT CERTAIN WEST BERLINERS FROM ENTERING EAST BERLIN. SAME APPLIES TO LANGUAGE IN GDR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS' RESOLUTION (BERLIN'S 184 DEPT 158 BONN) RE KEEPING "REVANCHIST" WEST GERMANS OUT OF EAST BERLIN.

MISSION OFFICERS OBSERVED DURING AFTERNOON THAT CONTROL MEASURES DECREED BY GDR REGIME BEING IMPLEMENTED EVERYWHERE. BORDER BETWEEN EAST AND WEST SECTORS CURRENTLY MANNED BY SECURITY ALERT POLICE, DISTRICT ALERT POLICE AND VOPOS, WHO ARE BUILDING OBSTACLES AND STRINGING BARBED WIRE AT BORDER POINTS CLOSED BY REGIME DECREES. AERIAL OBSERVATION SHOWS RELATIVELY FEW TROOP MOVEMENTS DURING DAY AFTER FORCES HAD ASSUMED POSITIONS. STATUS OF CONTROLS FROM SOVZONE INTO EAST SECTOR NOT YET CLEAR, BUT RELATIVELY FREE FLOW TRAFFIC OBSERVED TO SCHOENEFELD AIRPORT IN SOVZONE JUST OUTSIDE EAST BERLIN. VEHICULAR AND PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC FROM WEST BERLIN MOVING FREELY THROUGH 13 EAST-WEST SECTOR CROSSING POINTS. AUTOBAHN TRAFFIC TO AND FROM FEDREP PROCEEDING NORMALLY.

DURING AFTERNOON GROWING CROWDS OF CURIOUS AND SILENT ONLOOKERS GATHERING ON EAST BERLIN SIDE OF CROSSING POINTS, PARTICULARLY AT BRANDENBURGER

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-3- 186, AUGUST 13, 10 PM, FROM: BERLIN

BRANDENBURGER TOR. HEAVILY ARMED SECURITY ALERT POLICE AND KAMPFGRUPPEN CONTINGENTS REINFORCED AT SEVERAL MAJOR EAST-WEST SECTOR CROSSING POINTS, TOGETHER WITH VOPOS, EVERYWHERE ABLE TO CONTROL CROWDS THAT HAVE FORMED SO FAR. 24 TANKS AND 20 ARMORED TROOP CARRIERS OF EAST GERMAN ARMY, AND 80-90 TRUCKS OBSERVED PARKED IN CENTER OF CITY AND OCCASIONAL MOVEMENTS OF MILITARY VEHICLES SEEN ELSEWHERE.

ALTHOUGH EAST REGIME HAS NOT SO FAR PUBLISHED REGULATION INDICATING EXACT PROCEDURE BY WHICH SOVZONE AND EAST BERLIN RESIDENTS MIGHT OBTAIN PERMITS TO ENTER WEST BERLIN UNDER NEW DECREE, WEST BERLIN POLICE REPORT STATES SOVZONE MARRIED COUPLE WERE TODAY GIVEN ONE-DAY PERMIT TO ENTER WEST BERLIN TO ATTEND FAMILY PARTY. SENAT REPORTS THAT BETWEEN YESTERDAY NOON AND 10 A.M. TODAY 3,190 REFUGEES REPORTED AT RECEPTION CENTER AND ANOTHER 800 REFUGEES BETWEEN 10 AM. AND 4 P.M.; LATTER EITHER CAME TO WEST BERLIN YESTERDAY OR CROSSED THROUGH CANALS AND FIELDS TODAY.

LIGHTNER

DMJ/22

Note: Mr. Knox (EUR) informed 9:45 p.m., 8-13-61, FMH.

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