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Action

Control: 1972
 Rec'd: AUGUST 2, 1961
 8:15 PM

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Info

FROM: BERLIN

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TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 127, AUGUST 2, 7 PM

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ACTION DEPARTMENT. 127, BONN 111, INFORMATION LONDON 66,
 PARIS 71, MOSCOW 63, POLAD USAREUR 60.

PARIS FOR EMBASSY, KOHLER, USRO, STOESSLE AND FINN

RMR

FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY BORDER-CROSSER SITUATION AS PIECED
 TOGETHER FROM SENAT AND PRIVATE SOURCES. THERE HAS BEEN
 NOTABLE INCREASE OF BORDER CROSSERS AMONG REFUGEES, FROM
 AVERAGE OF 5-8 PER CENT IN RECENT WEEKS TO ALMOST 15 PER
 CENT YESTERDAY. SENAT OFFICIAL BELIEVES THAT SITUATION
 WOULD HAVE TO BE OBSERVED FOR ABOUT A WEEK BEFORE IT CAN
 BE ESTABLISHED WHETHER HIGH PERCENTAGE DURING LAST 24
 HOURS WAS BEGINNING OF TREND.

SENAT INVESTIGATING CASES OF PRESSURE REPORTEDLY BROUGHT
 AGAINST BORDER CROSSERS IN ATTEMPT TO DETERMINE EXTENT
 AND INTENSITY OF EAST GERMAN INTIMIDATION CAMPAIGN. WEST
 BERLIN PRESS, ESPECIALLY TABLOIDS, GIVING SENSATIONALIST
 TREATMENT TO "TERROR AND BRUTE FORCE" AGAINST BORDER
 CROSSERS (HEADLINE IN B.Z. AUG 2). STORIES INCLUDE REPORTS
 THAT BORDER CROSSERS ON WAY TO WORK BEING TAKEN OUT
 OF BUSES BY VOPO'S AND RELEASED ONLY IN RETURN FOR PROMISE
 TO ABANDON WORK IN WEST BERLIN. (ONE SUCH CASE OF SOVZONE
 RESIDENT EMPLOYED SINCE 1927 BY BEWAT - WEST BERLIN
 MUNICIPAL ELECTRICAL WORKS - HAS BEEN VERIFIED BY SENAT.)
 ACCORDING TO OTHER PRESS REPORTS, SED HAS DEMANDED SPECIAL
 PASS BE ISSUED TO BORDER CROSSERS. SENAT OFFICIALS AND
 PRIVATE FIRMS QUESTIONED BY MISSION REPORT ONLY NORMAL
 ABSENTEEISM OF BORDER CROSSERS YESTERDAY AND TODAY;

SITUATION

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 OFFICE AFFAIRS
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 127

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-2- 127, AUGUST 2, 7 PM FROM BERLIN

SITUATION APPARENTLY STABILIZED SINCE EARLY AUG 1 REPORTS GIVEN TO MAYOR BRANDT AND REPORTED BY HIM TO US (BERLIN'S 118 TO DEPT, 102 TO BONN).

IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION YESTERDAY MAYOR AMREHN OFFERED TWO-FOLD EXPLANATION FOR EBERT LETTER: (1) EBERT MAY BE INTERESTED IN ARRIVING AT SOME AGREEMENT WITH SENAT TO PUT CEILING ON NUMBER OF BORDER CROSSERS (STATISTICS INDICATE THAT EAST BERLINERS AND SOVZONE RESIDENTS WHO RECENTLY BECAME BORDER CROSSERS MORE LIKELY TO BECOME REFUGEES THAN THOSE WHO HAVE WORKED IN WEST BERLIN FOR LONG TIME); (2) EBERT MAY WISH UTILIZE SENAT REJECTION HIS OFFER TO "NEGOTTATE" AS JUSTIFICATION FOR INTRODUCTION STRINGENT AND SYSTEMATIC CONTROLS.

EAST PRESS REPORTED DISPATCH EBERT LETTER WITHOUT SPECIAL COMMENT IN CONTEXT STORIES CALLING FOR STRONGER MEASURES AGAINST BORDER CROSSERS.

WEST PRESS REPORTED SENAT SPOKESMAN CONFIRMED RECEIPT OF LETTER BUT REFUSED ALL FURTHER COMMENT.

TRIVERS

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