

## U.S. ARMY CONVOY BALKS AT PROCESSING

### Soviet Statement

East Berlin ADN Domestic Service in German 1208 GMT 6 November 1963--L

(Text) A Soviet press officer at Marienborn today issued the following statement on the three-day holdup of the U.S. military convoy:

On 4 November a U.S. military convoy consisting of 12 vehicles refused to submit to the customary control at the Soviet crossing and checkpoint in Marienborn. It did not proceed on its scheduled route from the German Federal Republic to West Berlin. The officer in charge of the convoy, who produced documents pertaining to the trucks and the U.S. military personnel traveling in them, declared that he could not parade his military personnel; nor could he give orders to open the sides of the trucks for checking the military personnel shown in the documents. He added that he would be relieved of his command if he did this. The conduct of the military personnel in this instance distinctly departed from the rules governing the passing of U.S. military personnel through Soviet crossing and checkpoints previously observed by U.S. military convoys.

The reference by the Americans to instructions issued among the U.S. troops in Germany and which violate the rules laid down, of course, cannot have any validity for Soviet crossing and checkpoints. At the conference of the commanders in chief of the allied powers on 29 June 1945, it was clearly laid down that "Soviet troops will guard, patrol (kommandodienst), and regulate traffic on the roads mentioned." For many years, no complication arose in this connection at the crossing and checkpoints. The rules governing the passing of military personnel and supplies of the three powers through crossing and checkpoints are known to the American military authorities. The incident caused by the convoy in question has thus clearly been artificially created by the U.S. military authorities guided by some erroneous considerations.

In the morning of 6 November the U.S. military personnel at the Marienborn crossing and checkpoint observed the control rules laid down and, after going through the control procedure which has become the practice, the convoy continued on its way. On 5 November, a few hours before the U.S. motor convoy passed at Marienborn, a British and a French convoy immediately allowed their military personnel to be checked and subsequently passed through the Soviet crossing and checkpoint without delay.