

TELEGRAMForeign Service of the
United States of America

OUTGOING

US MISSION BERLIN

Charge:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~*Classification*

Control: 24

Date: Jan 7, 1963
7PMPOL 36
PASSES

ACTION: SecState WASH 900

824
 INFO: AmEmbassy BONN 567
 AmEmbassy PARIS 554
 AmEmbassy LONDON 495
 AmEmbassy MOSCOW
 USAREUR FOR POLAD
 CINCEUR FOR POLAD
 USNMR SHAPE FOR BURNS
 USELMLO

MIN3
 USCOB
 POL3
 EA
 ECON
 USIS
 PS
 ASG
 IO/U
 FAR2

Paris also for USRO

SUBJECT: Christmas Passes

Over half million West Berliners visited East Berlin Jan. 4 and 5, last two days covered by Christmas pass agreement. East German reports, which appear be generally accurate, indicate 235,716 West Berliners visited on Jan. 4 and 281,064 on Jan. 5. This brings cumulative total individual visits by West Berliners to East Berlin up to 1,240,000. While neither East nor West has released figure on total number West Berliners who made one or more visits during 17 days covered by pass agreement, we estimate up to 500,000 to 700,000 did so, assuming East statistics roughly accurate.

About 23,500 West Berlin vehicles passed three vehicular crossing points to East Berlin Jan. 4 and about 27,000 on Jan. 5. Estimated total vehicles ^{since Dec. 20} ~~for whole period~~ was 126,270. During rush hours this resulted in enormous traffic jams on both sides of sector border.

24-gk

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Control: 24

-2-

Date:

Throughout 17-day period East German authorities seemed make strenuous efforts avoid trouble and incidents in coping with difficult physical problems of processing large crowds of West Berliners pouring into and out of East Berlin daily through the four Sector crossing points and Friedrichstrasse Bahnhof (S U-Bahn traffic). During much of this time, especially periods of peak traffic, East authorities sacrificed normal security controls where these would hinder inter-sector movement. For example, during late hours of Jan. 5, cars were exiting Sonnenallee and Invalidenstrasse checkpoints at rate of 40 per minute at each place. At this rate Eastern authorities clearly unable perform more than most cursory document check, and some reports indicate vehicles were ~~waved~~ waved on without any check at all during peak rush hours.

In addition East authorities seemed also to sacrifice strict eligibility specifications in interest having large influx. During last week they reportedly stopped requiring applicants for Christmas passes to identify relatives they planned to visit in East Berlin in interest speeding processing at pass issuing offices. Consequently, it possible for West Berliners visit East Berlin even without having relatives there. Reportedly East authorities also permitted West Berliners with Christmas passes to

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Control: 24

-3-

Date:

visit relatives living ^{Berlin's} in/so-called ~~in~~ Randgebiete (suburbs outside of city limits) during last days of agreement.

Another sign suggesting strenuous effort by East authorities to avoid trouble and attract large West Berlin participation was lack of any serious incident reported in intersector travel. Aside from a few reports (some of them unconfirmed) of temporary arrests, Mission aware of no significant incident involving pass holders during entire Dec. 20 to Jan. 5 period.

Reports are circulating in West Berlin that many East Berliners escaped during this period. We unaware firm evidence supporting such claims, but any refugees coming out in this way would likely have stayed under cover at first.

It premature to attempt estimate full impact of experience on Berliners East and West, and on East Germans. Mission officers who observed situation in East Berlin for short periods during Jan. 2-5 were impressed at large crowds in main streets where excitement of people and bustle of activity contrasted sharply with drabness and reserve which has characterized East Berlin and its population since Wall. Tremendous influx Western automobiles alone presumably had important impact on East Berliners, who unaccustomed such sights. Late Jan. 5 four columns of automobiles backed up about a mile waiting exit crossing points back to West Berlin.

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Control: 24

- 4 -

Date:

Experience of holiday visits, although conducted physically in East Berlin (plus some Randgebiete according reports), has undoubtedly touched East Germans generally. Not only have regime and Western media helped entire population participate at least vicariously, but more than a few relatives or acquaintances of West Berliners reportedly came from provinces to East Berlin to participate in person. Experience of "break in Wall," however controlled by regime, may therefore have generated degree of ferment and new interest in political matters, but sources presently available inadequate enable Mission draw useful conclusions as yet re possible direction, force and foreseeable consequences.

GP-4

CALHOUN (in draft)

POL/DGleysteen:jb
EAS/RGMays:nb
7/1725

gsm

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Foreign Service of the United States of America

OUTGOING U.S. Mission BERLIN

FILE ROOM COPY

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Charge:

Classification

Control: 009

PK 36
PASSES

ACTION: SecState WASH 888

Date: 3 Jan. 1969

INFO: Amembassy BONN 814
Amembassy LONDON 548
Amembassy MOSCOW 490
Amembassy PARIS 561
USAREUR for POLAD
CINCEUR for POLAD
USNMR SHAPE for BURNS
USELMLO

USCOB
M 3
POL 2
EA-2
ECON
USIS
ASAG
IO/U
F&R-2

Paris also for USRO

SUBJECT: Christmas Passes

East German reports indicate ~~that about~~ 220,811 West Berliners visited East Berlin during Dec. 31 through Jan. 2 (4 PM), bringing grand total to 661,155. West Berlin police estimate total number individual visits through Jan. 2 as 497,628. Differences in East German and West Berlin police estimates probably attributable largely to fact latter estimates exclude visitors using S- and U-Bahnen ("Neues Deutschland" Jan. 3 claims S-Bahn can deliver "18,000 West Berliners hourly" to Friedrichstrasse Bahnhof). East press predicting record number visitors over coming weekend and claiming about 1,188,000 permits issued through morning Jan. 2.

East media have now increased stress on success of agreement, which beginning Jan. 1 they have dubbed "Berlin agreement between GDR Govt. and West Berlin Senat." Term "Berlin agreement" provides catchy title for facilitating propaganda (East German media already citing foreign papers as using term). East evidently hopes also use term in promoting separation of West Berlin from

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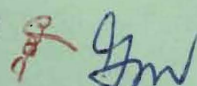
- 2 -


Date:

FRG. "Berliner Zeitung" commentator G. R. HARDTKE in employing term in Jan. 1 article, stated between 500,000 and 800,000 West Berliners profiting from agreement. Claimed their participation has "character of a Berlin plebiscite" in face of concerted opposition by ultras and revanchists and thus constitutes "vote against cold war and outpost/^{city}policy and for peaceful coexistence, understanding and rapprochement, and reasonable negotiations between GDR Govt and West Berlin Senat." "But it is important to do even more and maintain a consistent attitude." Alluding to report that Erhard Govt would welcome further opening of Berlin Wall "for West Berliners," if this could be "arranged in an official way," Hardtke claimed "that is too much of a good thing." FRG Govt "which has nothing to say in West Berlin, should for once absolutely not interfere in relations between GDR Govt and West Berlin Senat." Hardtke observed that Dec. 17 agreement brought temporary benefits to so many West Berliners only because "halfway orderly and undoubtedly official negotiations" produced an official and binding agreement and other side renounced efforts to arrange such important questions "technically" in any way.

GRM

CALHOUN


AUTH:RGMays


EAS:RGMays/POL:DGleysteen:nb 3/1830

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DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 67230

By BKT/NC on 2 May 2013

FILE ROOM COPY

POL 36
PASSES
PRIORITY

1-1087

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INIC : LONDON, MOSCOW, PARIS, BERLIN,
ALL CONSULATES and POLAD

Embassy BONN

December 31, 1963

The Christmas Pass Issue: Conversation with
Dr. Rainer Barzel, Acting Chairman of the CDU/CSU
Bundestag Fraktion

There is enclosed a memorandum of a conversation on
December 30 with Dr. Rainer Barzel, Acting Chairman (while von Brentano
is ill) of the CDU/CSU Parliamentary group. Dr. Barzel was until recently
Minister of All-German Affairs. He has a continuing interest in Berlin
and has been critical of the recent agreement with Pankow on the issuance
of Passierscheine (The Christmas passes to visit East Berlin). His views
on this question probably reflect the majority opinion in his Bundestag
Fraktion.

It is also of interest that Dr. von Brentano is now expected to
resume his duties around Easter. This is an advantage for Barzel since
he is not quite ready in terms of age, seniority and experience to take
over the Chairmanship on a permanent basis without some intra-party
strife.

For the Chargé d'Affaires ad interim:

Coburn Kidd

Coburn Kidd
Counselor of Embassy

XR
POL 36 GDR Xmas Passes
POL 12 Germany SPD

Enclosure :
Memorandum of Conversation.

Int. Dist:
AMB POL (6)
DCM USIS
OCA



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Group 4

JSSutterlin

Downgraded at 3-yr. intervals. Declassified 12 yrs. after date or origin.

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Enclosure
Bonn's A -1087
Page 1

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

December 30, 1963

Participants: Dr. Rainer Barzel, Acting Chairman of the CDU/CSU
Fraktion
Mr. Warren P. Blumberg, Embassy Bonn
Mr. Grant E. Mouser, Embassy Bonn

Subject: The Christmas Pass Issue

Dr. Barzel opened the conversation with the comment (which he requested be kept confidential) that Dr. von Brentano was convalescing from his recent operation (on the throat) faster than anticipated and might, after extensive rest, resume his responsibilities as Chairman of the CDU/CSU Parliamentary group around Easter. Barzel added that the party could not spare Brentano and that this was the best possible news.

Barzel then reviewed the background to the recent agreement with the Soviet Zone regime to permit West Berliners to be reunited with their relatives in East Berlin over the Christmas and New Year's holidays. He referred to his own deep misgivings over the consequences of this inevitable enhancement of Ulbricht's prestige. He denied, however, that he had said, as has been widely quoted, that the Berliners take "their security from the Americans, money from Bonn and Christmas passes from Ulbricht". What he did say, Barzel claimed, was that if Berlin were to take its security from America, money from Bonn and passes from Ulbricht, this policy could only lead to grave dangers. Barzel said that he had been misquoted badly by the mass tabloid BILD ZEITUNG. He added, however, that the foregoing would be the situation if Ulbricht and company were permitted to exploit this issue.

Barzel claimed that there are serious differences of opinion in the SPD on this issue. He pointed to the fact that Herbert Wehner in a speech in Berlin in late November had, in effect, ridiculed any possibility of such an arrangement with the Soviet Zone on the grounds that the political price would be too high. Brandt and the Berlin SPD had nonetheless gone ahead and he suspected that Wehner is embarrassed by Brandt's impetuosity in this case. Barzel said that he

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Enclosure
Bonn's A-1087
Page 2

respected and could work with people like Wehner, but he found the Berlin SPD well to the left of the national party; not only on Passierscheine, but also on all other issues. Barzel said that he meant no implication that they were Communist-tainted; they were simply radical and out of touch with public opinion in the Federal Republic.

Mr. Blumberg referred to reports that the mood of most West Berliners had "softened" regarding relations with the East German authorities. Barzel quickly and emphatically agreed. He said that a significant change had taken place and that West Berliners were now prepared to accept things which would have been totally unacceptable a few years ago. This was not, however, the mood of West Germans. Barzel said that the German desire for reunification is as strong as ever and could only be ignored at gravest type of risk to the Western alliance. This desire would not go away and the only manner in which the West Germans could be driven into the arms of the Russians would be a general Western "softening" on reunification. He also thought that in three or four years, the youth of the country might well reproach the United States, Britain and France with not having done anything to achieve reunification. This would be a dangerous development with adverse effects on Germany's ties with the West.

Barzel mentioned that recently Labor Party spokesmen in England had been more positive and realistic in their approach to the German problem. He said that in talks with Patrick Gordon Walker, a few months ago, he had responded to the idea that all that was needed was for the Germans to get together by saying that the Federal Republic did not need the Allies if this was all that had to be done. Walker appeared shocked at this idea and Barzel implied that his talk contributed to a more realistic attitude on the part of Labor Party leaders. Mr. Mouser mentioned that the Paris edition of the New York Herald Tribune for December 30 carried a headline to this effect.* Barzel stated that a policy of this nature would have the gravest consequences for NATO and German ties with its friends and allies.

Returning to the question of Passierscheine, Mr. Mouser asked about public opinion in the Federal Republic. Barzel agreed that this is the crucial point. He said he simply did not know how the public would react in the long run if further steps were taken to enhance the prestige of the Zone through increased contacts. He hoped that the German public would share his own apprehensions, but he was

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*i. e., that the Allies were preparing a "Three Germanies" policy.

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Page 3

not prepared to prognosticate at this point. January 5 would be the last day for passes and this issue might be shelved thereafter. He sincerely hoped so. Mr. Mouser commented that Willy Brandt seemed to have public sentiment in West Berlin on his side, for the moment at least. Barzel agreed, but added that this is not necessarily the case in the Federal Republic. He also agreed that this entire question is one of the most difficult to evaluate in domestic political terms that he had experienced.

In the political parties, Barzel said, there is some sentiment for further contacts, etc. This is particularly strong in the FDP, has a substantial following in the SPD, and includes a minority group in the CDU/CSU. He thought, however, that the majority CDU/CSU opinion was against further steps which would inevitably build up Ulbricht and strengthen the current division of Germany.

Barzel continued by saying that the press and political parties could mould opinion in this regard. He said that had Brandt wanted to, he could have told the Berliners that the political price demanded by the East for Christmas passes was too high, and the people would have accepted this judgment. Similarly, if politicians have the courage to tell the Germans that the price for additional Eastern concessions is too high, they will probably accept this too. He also believed that the national television coverage of the return of the body of Paul Schultz, the young East German killed at the Wall on Christmas day, would have a profound emotional impact. He thought that the Germans would have more serious doubts about any agreement with the East Zone regime, as a result.

Barzel mentioned that he had been at the airport that morning to meet Chancellor Erhard upon his return from the United States. Barzel said that it is clear that the meeting with the President had been very successful. Dr. Ackermann, the CDU/CSU press spokesman who had accompanied Erhard to Texas, came in at that juncture and agreed completely with Barzel that the visit had gone very well. They stressed the German satisfaction at the good personal relationship between Erhard and the President which was much in evidence during the visit.

POL:GEMouser:WPBlumberg

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U.S. Mission BERLIN

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POL 36

Charge: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Control: 171

ACTION: SecState WASH 879
 INFO: Amembassy BONN 804
 Amembassy LONDON 540
 Amembassy PARIS 553
 Amembassy MOSCOW 482
 USAREUR FOR POLAD
 CINCEUR FOR POLAD
 USNMR SHAPE FOR BURNS

Date: Dec 31, 1963
7PM

MIN3
 USCOB
 POL 32
 EA 2
 ECON
 USIS
 ASG
 IC/U
 PS
 F&R2

Paris also for USRO

SUBJECT: Christmas Passes.

GDR publicity over weekend and since has continued stress political significance of pass agreement. Through careful selection of materials from "international press," distortions and exaggerations of Western views, use of rhetorical questions and innuendo, East German newspapers, radio and TV have elaborated and advanced following arguments contained explicitly or implicitly in GDR treatment since Dec. 17:

1. Only path of negotiations (as employed for pass agreement) offers solution for Berlin and German problems. Nothing can be achieved through force. Continuation of unsuccessful and discredited cold war policy would, inter alia, render ever more difficult relationships of all kinds between citizens of GDR, FRG and West Berlin. ("Neues Deutschland" Dec. 29). Negotiations on these issues are per se political (ie. not "technical"). "Grave human troubles of our time can be solved only politically," according Abusch. Implicit in all GDR coverage is view that, Dec. 17 agreement being

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Control: 171

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Date:

limited to Christmas holiday period, further negotiations are necessary "after Jan. 5, 1964" on question of visits to East Berlin. GDR also ready negotiate all other issues for normalizing relations with West Berlin. To make further negotiations appear both reasonable and attractive, "ND" editorial Dec. 29 stated "we are ready to make concessions, but we also have our demands on the other side. Compromises are necessary. One must negotiate about this."

2. Majority West Berliners very pleased at success of pass agreement which due to GDR initiative, generosity and perseverance in face of ultra opposition. Peace-loving West Berliners and West Germans now bear great responsibility to ensure continued use of course of negotiations. This will prevent ultras from "halting progress and even destroying utterly what has been achieved."

3. Recognition of GDR is implicit in any negotiations and indeed in Dec. 17 agreement. According "ND" Dec. 29, "West Berlin intriguers oppose negotiations because they cling to fixed idea of not recognizing GDR." Paper suggests West Berliners' acceptance of passes from "GDR organs" in order visit East Berlin and West Germans' submitting their papers to GDR organs in travelling to West Berlin both constitute recognition. "ND" Dec. 29 also published extracts from international press in which "GDR pass offices" West Berlin described as de facto "consulates" and passes likened to visas.

4. Dec. 17 agreement, which certain Western circles view as bilateral, direct understanding between GDR and Senat, also constitutes first step on new political path

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Control: 171

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Date:

toward acceptance of GDR thesis re status of West Berlin, with resultant erosion of FRG-Berlin ties. Paraphrased Bonn government as insisting that pass agreement signifies no reduction of its position that West Berlin is part of West Germany and that no one should believe it has "entered new political path." Bonn government, "ND" contended, does not want to concede "that on this path over the pass agreement a bilateral tie between Soviet Zone and West Berlin Senat will be established."

5. FRG effort to play role in GDR-Senat relations is "illegal." Full text Abusch interview published "Sonntag" Dec. 29 contains no explicit statement re FedRep participation in new talks. "ND" Dec. 30, however, quoted approvingly statement (attributed to Senat spokesman during commentary on Abusch interview) that "both sides now ready for new discussions." Then described Bonn press chief von Hase as "illegally interfering in relations between GDR and West Berlin" at Austin press conference where according "ND" he said that beyond Christmas passes, no negotiations with GDR would take place.

6. Pass agreement already beginning undermine Allied position West Berlin, as certain Western quarters suggest. "ND" Dec. 29 published "Le Monde" excerpt: "Is it not ~~unavoidable~~ unavoidable that unfortunate Berlin statute will gradually disappear? And if this statute once disappears, what will Allies then do in West Berlin? Would their presence still have any purpose?"

Comment: ~~Ulbricht~~ Ulbricht speeches scheduled for Dec. 31 and Jan. 3--his first public statements since Dec. 17 agreement became operative--may throw further light

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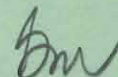
Control: 171

- 4 -

Date:

on Sov/GDR intentions.

CALHOUN (in draft)



AUTH:RGMays

EAS:RGMays:nb 31/1745

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Control: 169

Date: December 31, 1963
5PM

ACTION: SecState WASH 877
 INFO: AmEmbassy BONN 802
 AmEmbassy PARIS 551
 AmEmbassy LONDON 538
 AmEmbassy MOSCOW 481
 USAREUR FOR POLAD
 CINCEUR FOR POLAD
 USNMR SHAPE FOR BURNS
 USELMLO

MIN3
 USCOB
 POL2
 EA2
 ECON
 USIS
 PS
 IO/U
 ASG
 F&R2

Paris also for USRO

SUBJECT: Christmas Passes

On Dec. 30 Senat announced that number of individual visits to East Berlin approved by GDR had topped million mark (including multiple visits by individual WestBerliners). Although it difficult determine exact number West Berliners who have so far entered at crossing points, including Friedrichstrasse Bahnhof (S- and U-Bahnen), East press states that as of Dec. 30 (4 p.m.) this number equaled 440,334. This figure was used by West Berlin press and while it considerably exceeds West Berlin police estimates of 356,802, which exclude S and U-Bahn traffic, Mission inclined believe East estimates represent closer approximation of actual count.

Largest number reported crossing on single day was 154,621 on Dec. 29. Traveling by foot, S and U-Bahn and in over 17,000

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-2- Date:

vehicles, West Berliners poured through crossing points into East Berlin. East Germans seemed to make special effort to reduce processing time. At one time on Dec. 29, vehicles were backed up several kilometers on West side of Sonnenallee crossing point through which they processed at surprising speed of 20 vehicles per minute.

Situation at permit issuing offices in West Berlin has continued improve due further organizational refinements and increased number (as many as 284) of East German postal employees.

Comment: Although returning border crossers have reported several probable arrests of West Berliners, there have been small known number such actions to date. Examination of visitors' documents has been polite, speedy and often only cursory. East Germans appear to have accepted risk of occasional escapes in effort avoid charges of impeding smooth operation of Christmas pass arrangements and to reap maximum political advantages from them. Reaction of Senat and visitors to East German handling of crossing point situation has been generally positive, and East German press has advertised this. West press articles point out ^{however} that GDR border officials who for own reasons are facilitating visitor crossing still have and execute shooting orders as demonstrated in Schultz incident.

GP-4.

EAS:RGMays/DGleysteen/jb
31/1630

CALHOUN
AUTH:ARDay

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pages. Copy 1 of 9
Series AURGENT*Central Files*
POL 23-10
PASSES

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

December 18, 1963

SUBJECT: Christmas Passes for Certain Allied and West
Berlin Official Personnel

In the course of Mayor Brandt's birthday reception, there was an opportunity for the three Ministers and Mayor Albertz to discuss policies being followed by the four elements represented in Berlin.

In general, there seemed to be agreement that a non-restrictive policy should be followed for official personnel. Within this policy, however, specific measures should be taken to assure that persons filling highly sensitive positions did not go to East Berlin. There was general agreement that this should be handled discreetly, perhaps through personal conversations between appropriate section chiefs and such personnel in their sections. The British Military Government has put the questions in the hands of their "Security Committee," and it may be useful for us to establish informally such a committee to handle coordination of this matter as between USCOB/USBER/Brigade.

Mayor Albertz commented that in addition to the restrictions placed on sensitive personnel within the City Administration, no members of Force B would be permitted to go to East Berlin. Other police personnel will be allowed to do so.

I believe that these conversations represent sufficient coordination among the four elements and that we should now proceed to implement our own policy within the US elements concerned. Within USBER the Administrative Office will have responsibility for coordinating the policy among the various sections.

cc: USCOB
BBde
M - Mr. Hulick
POL
PS
ADMIN
ASAG


JOHN A. CALHOUN

GROUP 3

Downgraded at 12-year intervals,
not automatically declassified.

JACalhoun:mmh

~~SECRET~~

*Central Files***Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT**~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

TO : POL - Mr. Day

FROM : POL - Marten H. A. van Heuven *M.H.*

SUBJECT: Passierscheine

DATE: December 13, 1963

DECLASSIFIED
 Authority NND 67230
 By BKT/NC on 2 May 2013

Mr. Hulick told me this morning that the British have proposed that the 1961 BK/O presently prohibiting certain activities on S-Bahn stations, rather than amended, should be suspended for a given period of time. He asked for my thoughts.

The British suggestion could be carried out without difficulty. It must be pointed out, however, that a BK/O, being in the nature of an Allied order to the Berlin Senat carrying the force of law (in the sense that it is enforceable in the courts) can be suspended only by a similar action. Thus another BK/O would be required which would need to state merely that the 1961 BK/O was suspended for a stated period of time. I should like to suggest also that, the Senat having specifically requested the issuance of the 1961 BK/O, it would be appropriate if Allied action suspending its operation could also be made pursuant to a request of the Senat.

GROUP 4

Downgraded at 3-year intervals.
 Declassified after 12 years.

POL:MHA van Heuven/dhc

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM OF SECURE TELECON BETWEEN
MR. SUTTERLIN AND MR. HEICHLER

December 7, 1963

SUBJECT: Passes for West Berliners to Visit East Berlin
Over Christmas Holidays

Mr. Sutterlin called to provide the following information:

At a meeting between Embassy officers and Messrs. Krapf and Oncken in the Foreign Office, the Germans referred to the Abusch letter to the Governing Mayor as "bait", but said that they appreciated the difficulties it created for the Senat in view of humanitarian considerations, particularly during Christmas season. The Foreign Office was aware of the August 1961 Allied order forbidding the establishment of permit-issuing offices in West Berlin, but thought that the Berliners' feeling on this issue was less hard than two years ago; in view of the public pressures generated by the Christmas season, efforts might have to be made to achieve a face-saving modus operandi. Minister Hillenbrand endeavored to pin down the Germans on the question of location of permit-issuing points, but the Germans evaded the issue. Mr. Hillenbrand then told Mr. Krapf that in our view such permit-issuing facilities could be located only in East Berlin or along the Sector Border.

POL/IHeichler:man

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Central Files

Translation

CONCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

DECLASSIFIED

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

Authority NND 67230

By BKT/NC on 2 May 2013

Berlin, December 5, 1963

To
Governing Mayor
Willy Brandt

Berlin-Schoeneberg
Rathaus

Dear Mr. Governing Mayor:

The Government of the German Democratic Republic has made several proposals to you and the Senate of West Berlin regarding ways to resolve a number of outstanding questions between the German Democratic Republic and West Berlin, such as the issuance of permits for West Berlin citizens to visit the capital of the German Democratic Republic. You, Mr. Mayor, and other representatives of the Senate of West Berlin have repeatedly mentioned recently the desirability of arrangements which would enable West Berlin citizens to visit their relatives in the capital of the German Democratic Republic during the coming Christmas and New Year season.

Guided by the wish to establish the prerequisites for the visit of West Berlin citizens in the capital of the German Democratic Republic during the coming holidays, the Government of the German Democratic Republic has authorized me to inform you that it also considers such a temporary arrangement possible.

The need for broader regulation of relations between the German Democratic Republic and West Berlin notwithstanding, the Government of the German Democratic Republic is prepared to establish, for the period December 15, 1963 to January 5, 1964, issuing facilities in West Berlin where West Berlin citizens could obtain permits for visits to the capital of the German Democratic.

We hope that you will agree to this constructive proposal which would make possible the visit of West Berlin citizens in the capital of the German Democratic Republic during the period stated. Should you deem it necessary to discuss the implementation of this measure with me, I would be prepared to meet with you in the capital of the German Democratic Republic or in West Berlin. Should you not desire such a meeting, I will also be agreeable if you would appoint a representative for such a discussion.

GROUP 3

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not automatically declassified.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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In the hope that you will respond with understanding to the endeavor of the Government of the German Democratic Republic to facilitate Christmas and New Year's travel for the citizens of West Berlin, I expect your reply in the near future.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Alexander Abusch

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Central Files

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Translation of letters from International Red Cross Committee Representative to Federal Chancellor Erhard, Governing Mayor Brandt and General Toulouse.

10/9/63

Dear Mr. Chancellor (Governing Mayor):

The National Committee of the Red Cross repeatedly has approached responsible official agencies to press emphatically for a solution of the humanitarian problems resulting from the division of Berlin, particularly also for measures to make possible family visits between East and West Berliners. On November 9, 1962 the International Committee of the Red Cross directed an appeal to the world public concerning the separation of thousands of families by a border which in the absence of official permits they cannot cross and also proposed the establishment of zones for family meetings.

Deputy Minister President Abusch's letter to the Governing Mayor of Berlin indicates that now discussions in principle could be conducted concerning holiday passes, as already suggested repeatedly by the National Committee.

In the course of the past two years the International Committee of the Red Cross became aware of countless, deeply moving instances of human distress created by the division of Berlin, which could be alleviated to a major extent by the issuance of permits. Therefore, the Committee asks you, dear Mr. Chancellor (Governing Mayor) to support in any way possible the realization of such an arrangement. Of course, the International Committee continues to offer its good offices in arranging talks and -- if necessary with participation of the two national Red Cross societies -- in working out a practical solution.

Similar letters were sent to General Toulouse, at present Chairman of the Allied Kommandatura, and to Governing Mayor Brandt.

For the National Committee of the Red Cross,

Sincerely,

H. G. Beckh

cc: General Polk
Mr. Calhoun
Mr. Hulick
Mr. Day
Mr. Heichler

GROUP 3
Downgraded at 12-year intervals,
not automatically declassified.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Mr. Sutterlin - Bonn

POL:LHeichler/dhc
12/10/63

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~*Mr. Calhoun*
*Central Files**Office Memorandum* • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Minister Calhoun
Mr. Hulick

FROM : POL - Mr. Heichler *HH*

SUBJECT: Status of Talks on Permits Question

DATE: December 13, 1963
1400 hours

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 67230
By BKT/NC on 2 May 2013

The French called to report that the Korber-Wendt discussion had been interrupted and would be resumed at 1400 hours today in East Berlin. Korber is expected to return to the Rathaus at 1630 to report. Brandt and Albertz will arrive at the AK at 1730. The Senat will meet at 1830. The next meeting with the East Germans is scheduled for 2000 hours tonight at the West Berlin Rathaus and is expected to be the final meeting.

USCOB has been informed that the time for the AK meeting has been changed from 1500 to 1730.

The French propose that in addition to Commandants and Deputies, the Liaison Officers should be present.

11 OK
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LHeichler:eo

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~Confidential~~

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 67230

By BKT/NC on 2 May 2013

I regret that during this holiday season I must draw your attention to a tragic and dangerous event which took place on Christmas Day on the border between the Soviet Sector and the American Sector of Berlin. On that day, Paul Schultz, a young resident of East Germany, was mortally wounded by police of the East German regime as he was seeking to enter the American Sector. He died a few hours later in a West Berlin hospital. The shots that killed him endangered the lives of West Berlin residents as well and could lead to repercussions which would involve our joint responsibilities in Berlin. I must call on you most earnestly to insure that such wanton acts on the part of the East German police do not recur.

Paul Schultz was not the first to die in an effort to overcome the barrier between the Soviet Sector and the Western sectors of the city. This year arrangements were made to permit many residents of West Berlin to pass through this barrier and visit relatives on the other side after long and bitter separations. This development was welcomed. The death of this young man is a testimony, however, that as long as the wall stands in the way of the free exercise of the elementary right of freedom of movement within the City of Berlin it will remain a source of tension and an invitation to tragedy. I earnestly hope that the responsible authorities will take the necessary action to remedy this unnatural situation.

12/63

~~Confidential~~

~~JAC~~
M-File

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 67230
By BKT/NC on 2 May 2013

170 Clayallee,
Berlin, Dahlem,
December 27, 1963.

Dear Mr. Panin:

I have been instructed to convey the following message from The Honorable Martin J. Hillenbrand, Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of the American Embassy in Bonn, to His Excellency Mr. P. A. Abrasimov, Ambassador of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics:

"December 27, 1963

"I regret that during this holiday season I must draw your attention to a tragic and dangerous event which took place on Christmas Day on the border between the Soviet Sector and the American Sector of Berlin. On that day, Paul Schultz, a young resident of East Germany, was mortally wounded by police of the East German regime as he was seeking to enter the American Sector. He died a few hours later in a West Berlin hospital. The shots that killed him endangered the lives of West Berlin residents as well and could lead to repercussions which would involve our joint responsibilities in Berlin. I must call on you most earnestly to insure that such wanton acts on the part of the East German police do not recur.

"Paul Schultz was not the first to die in an effort to overcome the barrier between the Soviet Sector and the Western sectors of the city. This year arrangements were made to permit many residents of West Berlin to pass through this barrier and visit relatives on the other side after long and bitter separations. This development was welcomed. The death of this young man is a testimony, however, that as long as the wall stands in the way of the free exercise of the elementary right of freedom of movement within the City of Berlin it will remain a source of tension and an invitation to tragedy. I earnestly hope that the responsible authorities will take the necessary action to remedy this unnatural situation."

O. S. Panin, Esquire,
Chief, Protocol Section,
Allied Liaison and Protocol,
63-65 Unter den Linden,
Berlin.

- 2 -

Would you please bring this message to the attention of
Ambassador Abrasimov as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

Francis J. Meehan
Acting Protocol Officer
U.S. Element