



GENERALLY SPEAKING, THE FONOFF CONCERN IS CONFINED TO THE HELICOPTER PROBLEM. SOME OF THE PRESS OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS HAVE CARRIED ACCURATE, FONOFF-INSPIRED, ACCOUNTS ON GDR BACKDOWNS ON RAIL TARIFFS, AND ON OTHER ACCESS DEMANDS. THESE FACTUAL AND MORE SOBER REPORTS TEND TO GO UNOBSERVED IN THE BROADER TENDENCY TO SPECULATE ON A SERIOUS GDR CHALLENGE TO THE WEST.

ALL THREE EMBASSIES TEND TO SHARE THE FONOFF ESTIMATE, AND WE ARE TRYING TO DOWNPLAY MATTERS WITH THE PRESS. THE FRENCH ARE PARTICULARLY WORRIED ABOUT VON HASE'S TALK OF A "THREAT TO PEACE", SINCE THEY NOTE THAT MUCH OF THE CRISIS TALK DERIVES FROM GDR PROPAGANDA CLAIMS OF THE LAST FEW DAYS THAT THE FRG IS PREPARING AGGRESSION. A FRENCH COLLEAGUE (BOISDEVAIX) COMMENTED THAT IRRESPONSIBLE LANGUAGE ON THIS SIDE WOULD BE SEIZED UPON BY ULBRICHT AND PRESENTED TO THE SOVIETS, IN ORDER TO EXIORT A LARGER WRIT FOR AGGRESSIVE MOVES.

OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE OUTBREAK OF PRESS SPECULATION IS THAT IT DERIVES FROM A COMBINATION OF FACTORS, INCLUDING INFLAMMATORY GDR RADIO/PRESS/TV PROPAGANDA, PRESS MISUNDERSTANDINGS OF THE RATHER ROUTINE NATURE OF THE GDR DEMANDS ON ACCESS AND PASS QUESTIONS, THE HELICOPTER FLIGHTS, AND A TENDENCY ON THE PART OF VON HASE AND THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE TO LUMP ALL THE DEVELOPMENTS INTO ONE COMPLEX. THIS, IN TURN, SEEMS TO DERIVE FROM A MUCH BROADER INTERPRETATION OF EVENTS ON THE CHANCELLOR'S PART, THEN PREVAILS IN THE FONOFF, AT ANY RATE AT THE WORKING LEVEL.

WE DO NOT THINK THAT THE CHANCELLOR'S ENERGY ON THIS ISSUE IS INSPIRED MAINLY BY PARTISAN POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS, EXCEPT IN THE SENSE THAT HE WANTS TO PROTECT HIMSELF BY LIMITING FURTHER GDR ACTIONS. HIS CONCERN SEEMS INSTEAD TO REFLECT GENUINE WORRY ABOUT THE HELICOPTER ACTIVITY, AND AN EXAGGERATED BY HONEST FEAR THAT THE EAST GERMANS MAY MOVE AGAINST ACCESS. HIS ATTITUDE ON HELICOPTERS IS FULLY SHARED BY THE SENAT. INDEED, WE ARE INCLINED TO RELATE HIS RECENT VIGOROUS ACTIVITY TO THE RECEIPT OF MAYOR BRANDT'S LETTER OF JUNE 22, WHICH ASKED THE CHANCELLOR TO INTERVENE WITH THE ALLIES TO TAKE MORE FORCEFUL MEASURES AGAINST THE HELICOPTERS.  
CP-4. HILLENBRAND  
BT

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<b>ACTION TAKEN:</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO ACTION REQUIRED
DATE	<u>                    </u>
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