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CUL -16- BAEZ

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Date: 28 APRIL 1966
1750LACTION: SecState WASHINGTON 992
INFO: Amembassy BONN 850
SUBJ: Joan Baez' Appearance in East Berlin

1. The East Berlin press of April 28 reports that folk singer Joan Baez will be visiting East Berlin May 1 to video tape a performance in the East German TV studios. The press notes that she participated this year in an anti-nuclear and pacifist ~~Easter~~ ^{Easter} march in West Germany and is an opponent of US policy in Vietnam.

2. Miss Baez is scheduled to arrive in West Berlin April 28 and to sing at a concert here April 30. The concert, at which West German artists will also appear, is sponsored by the West German Trade Unions (DGB) as part of their May Day celebration. She has contracted with the West Berlin station SFB for this performance.

3. SFB notified the Mission's Cultural Affairs Officer April 27 of Miss Baez' intention to go to East Berlin. SFB said she has been invited to participate in the East Berlin May Day rally (no mention made of this yet in the East Berlin press) and plans to give an

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interview to East TV. West Berlin papers of April 28 also note her intention to visit East Berlin while she is here.

4. SFB requested Mission assistance in persuading Miss Baez not to engage in any "political activity" while in Berlin. Since her visit here is a private commercial one and we also doubt that Miss Baez would be receptive to such an approach, the Mission does not ~~intend~~ intend to meet SFB's request.

Exempted from automatic decontrol.

CALHOUN

EAS:FJMeehan

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