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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY



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OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE

SECRET

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GROUP 1
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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY

Berlin Incidents

Moscow has used the recent series of incidents along the Berlin sector border to warn against any moves to upset US-Soviet talks and to question Western intentions regarding a negotiated settlement. A 10 June Moscow Radio commentary, alleging that the incidents were caused by West Berlin police provocations, pointed out that this rising air of tension was taking place "precisely at the same moment" when the US-Soviet talks were being held. The commentary pointed out that the West's deliberate encouragement of the West Berlin authorities in this regard raised the question of its "real desire" for successful talks.

The increased tension on the sector border has been due in large part to the growing number of escape attempts. This has resulted in more aggressive action by the East German border police and a greater willingness on the part of West Berlin authorities to come to the aid of the refugees. The Ulbricht regime has intensified security measures along both the sector and zonal border surrounding West Berlin and has also begun to build more substantial defenses inside East Berlin.

The USSR gave its formal backing to the East Germans in a note delivered to the three Western occupation powers on 7 June. The note takes the position that provocations during the last week in May were caused by the West Berlin police with the open support of the occupation forces in West Berlin. It stressed that these incidents only serve to demonstrate the urgent need to "normalize" the situation in West Berlin and "eliminate the occupation regime there."

The note concluded on an ominous note, stating that the

Soviet Government "may be forced to take appropriate measures in order to fulfill its obligations toward the German Democratic Republic." The USSR thus attempted to disclaim responsibility for the actions of the East German police, and to induce the Western Allies to bring pressure on West Berlin officials to change their policy which authorizes West Berlin police to shoot back at East Germans.

Moscow used the occasion of West German Defense Minister Strauss' recent trip to the US to attack Bonn's alleged intentions to secure nuclear weapons from the US and described the visit as another step in West Germany's campaign to obstruct progress in the US-Soviet bilateral talks on Berlin. Izvestia on 12 June also bitterly attacked the West German Government for allegedly planning the "provocative" incidents now occurring in West Berlin and concluded that this only serves to complicate solution of the Berlin problem.

The East Germans have protested the scheduled 17 June visit by Adenauer to West Berlin. A note to the US via Prague claimed that the visit disregarded the "legal" position that West Berlin is not part of West Germany and that Adenauer's visit was designed to encourage "acts of aggression" in Berlin at a time when "certain signs suggest a possibility of understanding" on the normalization of conditions in West Berlin. The note pointed out that the West German leader's flight on a military aircraft would violate the air traffic regulations for West Berlin inasmuch as these air routes were "originally established to supply the occupation troops."