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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE

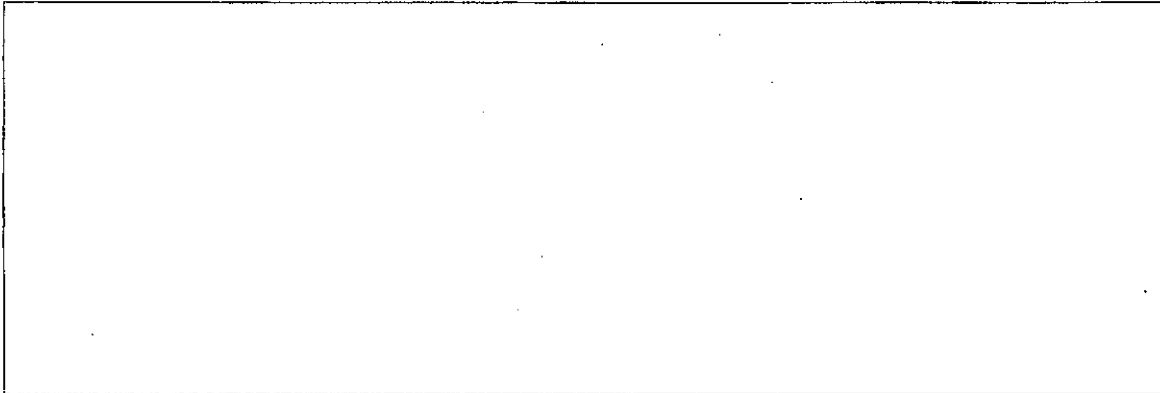
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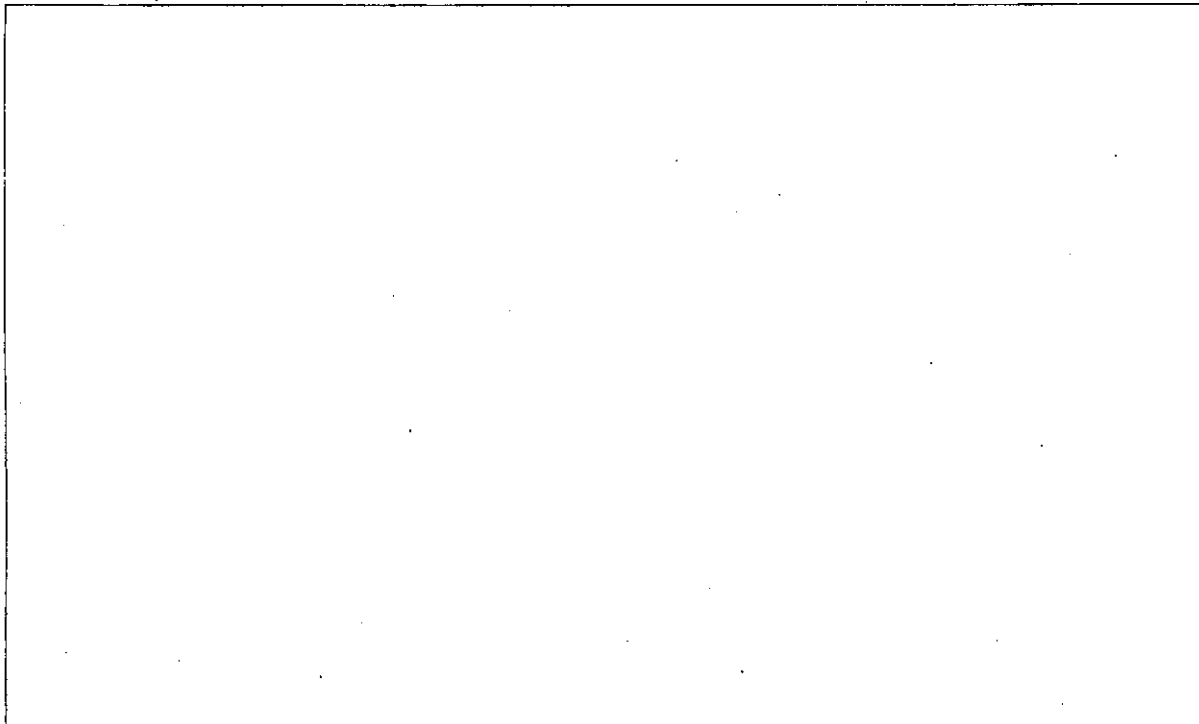
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Warmer weather and the summer vacation season will probably bring an increase in incidents along West Berlin's sector and zonal borders as more and more East Germans, reacting to food shortages and a generally unsatisfactory economic situation, try to escape. West Berlin leaders are already showing concern over the number of escape incidents, the frequency and seriousness of shootings, and efforts to destroy the wall with explosive charges. They believe the wall gains in political significance from acts of desperation on the part of the East German populace, the aggressiveness of the Communist security personnel, and the activities of West Berliners in abetting escape plots. They fear that Moscow may cite this "dangerous problem" as a means of increasing pressure on the West to accept Communist terms for a solution of the Berlin problem. (Secret Noform)



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SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

Berlin

During the past week, the USSR maintained its uncompromising stand on the Berlin and German issues while reaffirming its readiness to resolve these questions through negotiations with the West. Reflecting the somewhat sharper tone apparent lately in the Soviet attitude toward the Berlin problem, Khrushchev in his 24 June speech in Bucharest warned that the "good will and patience" of the USSR in the US-Soviet talks must not be used by the Western powers to avoid a solution of the problem. He acknowledged that the "most clear-sighted" Western leaders understand the necessity of resolving disputes by peaceful means. He again cited the Laos agreement as an example for reaching a solution to the German problem and mentioned the Warsaw Pact declaration of 7 June as evidence of Moscow's desire to work toward reaching a "mutually acceptable solution."

Khrushchev accused Western correspondents of "distorting" an earlier speech by making it appear that the USSR intends to abandon its previous stand and accept the present situation in Germany. He reiterated the standard Soviet demands and concluded that the evacuation of the occupation troops from West Berlin, together with the creation of a free, demilitarized city is the "only road which would make the situation healthy."

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The Soviet leader's warning that a solution of the Berlin question could not be postponed indefinitely was repeated in a Soviet-Rumanian communiqué published on 25 June following his visit to Rumania. The communiqué called attention to "recent provocations" in West Berlin and implied that the West was carrying these out under cover of the bilateral talks. The communiqué restated Moscow's position on all outstanding East-West issues and declared that "if in the future" the Western powers show reluctance to reach an agreed settlement, a separate peace treaty with East Germany will be signed.

Marking the 21st anniversary of the Nazi attack on the Soviet Union, Marshal Malinovsky in the 22 June Pravda accused the Western powers of attempting to pursue the same policies which led to World War II and asserted that they would "like to turn the German problem into a trial of strength." He declared that the peace treaty "must and will be signed," but went on to mention the Warsaw Pact declaration as reflecting Moscow's interest in seeking a negotiated settlement.

Pravda of 21 June published Walter Ulbricht's views on the German problem as set forth in a speech before the East German National Congress, held on 16-17 June. The East German party boss alluded to "certain results" which had been achieved thus far in the US-Soviet talks and claimed that President Kennedy, unlike Chancellor Adenauer, took into consideration a "certain recognition of the status quo." However, Ulbricht reiterated the Communist demand for the withdrawal of NATO

forces from West Berlin and contended that no one takes "seriously" the West's proposal for an international access authority composed of 13 states. He suggested that a small number of "police forces" provided by neutral states or by the three Western powers and the Soviet Union could take the place of NATO forces in West Berlin.

Moscow has played Secretary Rusk's Western European trip in comparatively low key, while claiming that West German leaders, in conversations with the Secretary, have reflected Bonn's intention to prevent "by all means" an early solution of the German problem. Commenting on Rusk's trip to West Berlin, the official East German news service stated that the Secretary was "reserved" in his remarks and particularly singled out his statement regarding the need to continue the bilateral discussions with the USSR. A 21 June Pravda commentary attacked the speeches made by Mayor Brandt and Adenauer in connection with Secretary Rusk's visit to West Berlin as amounting to the adoption of a "policy of provocations."

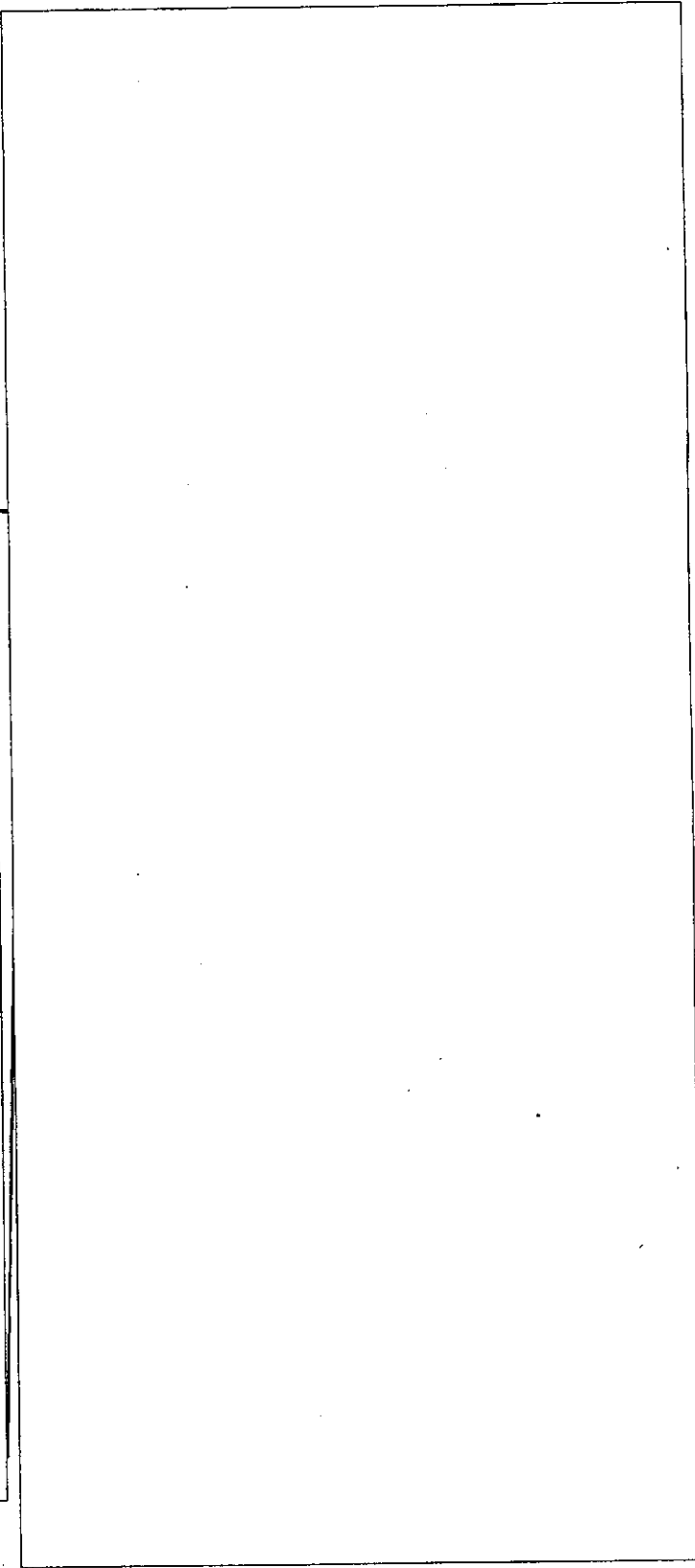
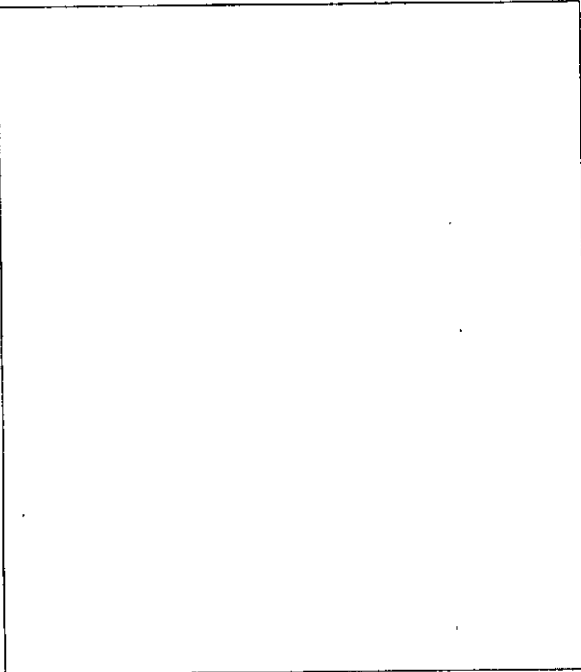
Although the Soviet press has not commented for some time on the US proposal for an international access authority, some Soviet interest was shown during a recent private talk requested by Moscow's ambassador to West Germany with Free Democratic party leader Mende on 4 June. Ambassador Smirnov stated flatly that there will be no access authority if East Germany is not a member. He warned that unless the Bonn government moderates its "unrealistic" position the USSR will sign a separate peace treaty with East Germany and make it necessary for Bonn to deal

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with the Ulbricht regime. The talk was calculated to impress West German leaders with the consequences of a failure or breakoff of the US-Soviet talks. Smirnov warned that Bonn would be "very unwise" if by stiffening its terms it kept the US from carrying on the bilateral discussions.

Smirnov also commented that "it could happen that US-Soviet talks may come to nothing," in which case it would be a "good idea" for Bonn to be represented in Moscow by a man like Ambassador Kroll, who has good relations with the Soviet Government. Mende interpreted this remark as a "veiled reference" to the possibility that Moscow may try to stimulate bilateral talks with West Germany.

According to a reliable source in Social Democratic circles, Soviet representatives are also attempting to arrange official talks between Smirnov and leaders of that party.



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THE BERLIN WALL

Warmer weather and the summer vacation season will probably bring an increase in incidents along West Berlin's sector and zonal borders as more and more East Germans, reacting to food shortages and a generally unsatisfactory economic situation, will try to escape.

West Berlin leaders are already alarmed by the number of escape incidents, the frequency and seriousness of shootings, and efforts to destroy the wall with explosive charges. They believe the wall gains in political significance from acts of desperation on the part of the East German populace, the aggressiveness of the Communist security personnel, and the activities of West Berliners in abetting escape plots. They fear that Moscow may cite this "dangerous problem" as a means of increasing pressure on the West to accept Communist terms for solving the Berlin problem.

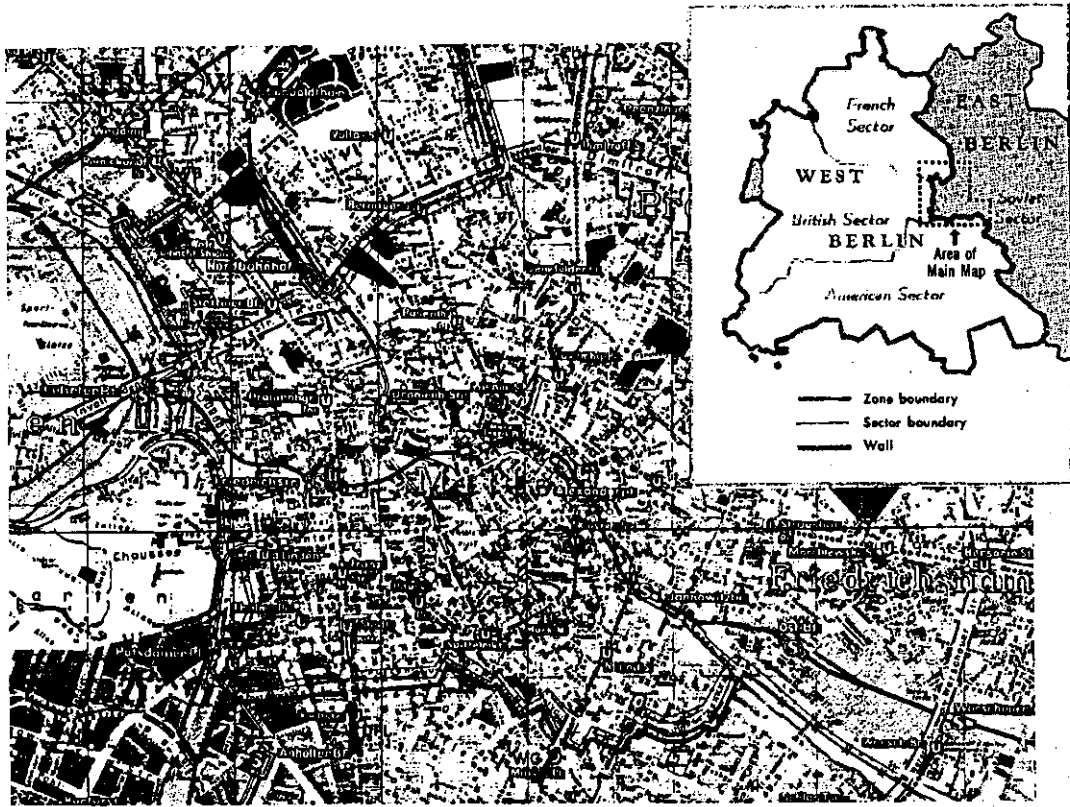
Since 23 May, when West Berlin police killed an East German guard named Goering, who was sitting on a graveyard wall shooting at a wounded 14-year-old escapee, there have been almost daily shootings on the Communist side of the borders and several exchanges between East and West Berlin police. Goering's death sparked a loudspeaker war across the wall, with the Ulbricht regime charging that West Berlin "murderers" and assassins" were endeavoring to sabotage the US-Soviet talks on Berlin. Goering was given a state funeral.

In a radiobroadcast on 27 May, Mayor Brandt pledged that West Berlin police would use small-arms fire if necessary to assist anyone seeking to flee. The Ulbricht regime increased the size of its security patrols, particularly in the central and more heavily populated part of the city, and began building concrete bunkers and reinforcing barriers at strategic points along the sector border. Trenches were dug behind the zonal border, and new observation posts were built opposite the British and French sectors. By 30 May the size of the East German security patrols had returned to normal, but shootings continued. Several East Germans--one attempting to swim the Spree River--were killed on 5 June.

The West Berlin police countered on 18 June by building shelters and watchtowers reinforced with sheet steel and digging trenches on their side of the wall. They were issued steel helmets and their radio cars were equipped with M-2 carbines.

In recent months, fifty to sixty refugees have been registering weekly at Marienfelde reception center in West Berlin. Perhaps half as many flee across the interzonal border directly to West Germany. In Berlin, there are some group escapes (through tunnels or such means as the recently commandeered river excursion boat), but most refugees seek to flee alone or with a single companion--usually by

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- Barbed wire fence (s)
- Chain link fence topped with two strands of barbed wire
- Masonry wall
- Cleared strip and (or) ditches
- Walled up building
- ⊙ Bunker
- Tank barrier
- ⊙ Observation tower
- WE Crossing point for West Berliners
- WG Crossing point for West Germans
- DPL Crossing point for occupation forces and diplomatic corps

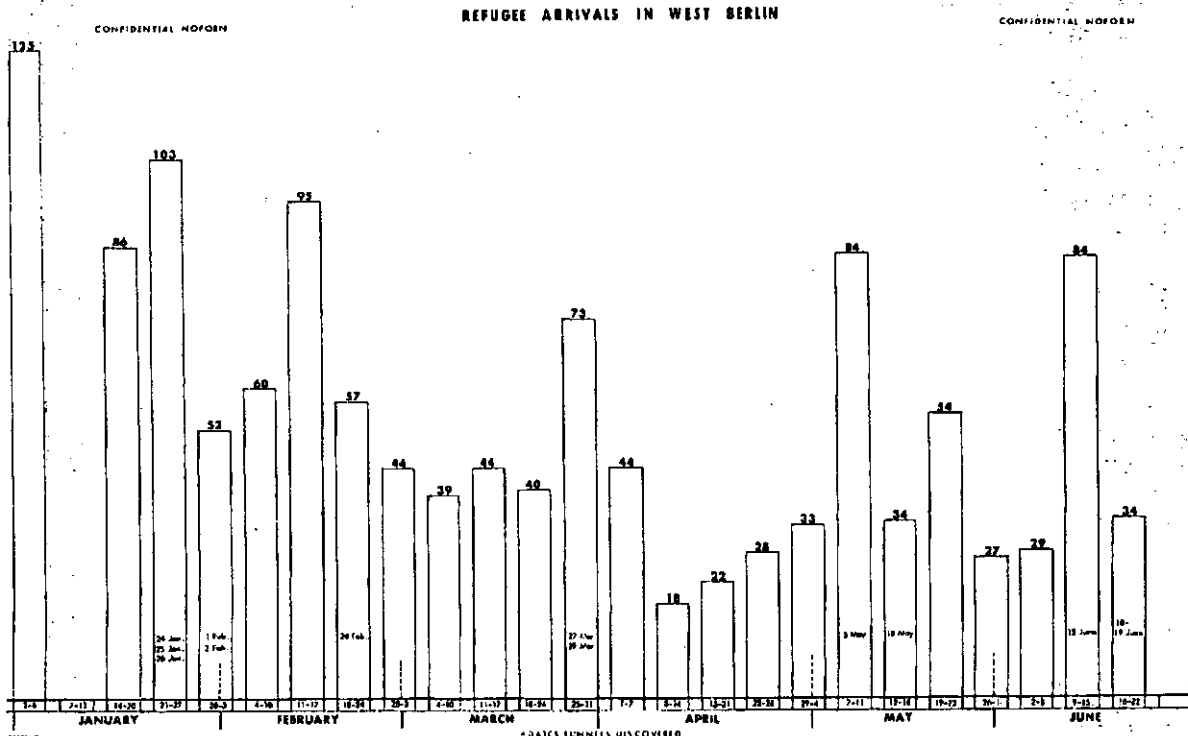
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crossing where the border runs through sparsely populated or wooded areas or by swimming one of the canals which form part of the border. To prevent underwater escapes, East German police last weekend began sinking barbed wire concertinas into the canal beds and installed heavy wooden gates, strung with wire, at midchannel.

There is no way of estimating how many would-be refugees have been apprehended or killed. West Berlin authorities have reported that at least 30 have died in sight of the border--six in the past month--and gunshots are heard almost daily from somewhere behind the border surrounding West Berlin.

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Many East Germans and East Berliners flee with the direct assistance of the West Berliners, chiefly university students. When alerted in advance, West Berlin police hide near the border to help if needed. On 18 June, during such an escape, an East German guard was shot and killed, apparently by one of his comrades. The Ulbricht regime hailed the dead guard as a "martyr" and buried him with great ceremony, as in the case of Goering.

Tunnels have become a common means of escape. West Berlin students, many from the technical and mining faculties of the Free University, apparently have made use of city planning maps and first-

hand knowledge of the city's streets, elevated train lines, and sewer systems to plot excavations from buildings immediately adjacent to the border into nearby East Berlin buildings. They succeed in contacting prospective refugees--many of whom are former students or relatives--and sometimes send one of their number into East Berlin to guide the escapees. Aware of the students' complicity, the East German regime evidently is preparing a show trial of several--including Robert Mann, an American--who have been apprehended since August 1961. The prosecutor can be expected to "prove" that the students are willing agents of "espionage centers" in West Berlin and have the active support of Allied authorities. ~~(SECRET NOFORN)~~