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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

13 July 1962

DAILY BRIEF

USSR-Berlin. In discussing Berlin with Austrian leaders during their recent visit to Moscow, Khrushchev adopted a tone calculated to convey the impression that the Soviet position is hardening. He said that although he was prepared to continue the US-Soviet talks and had "tried to help the President" by considering the idea of international control over Berlin access, the present US position did not provide an acceptable basis for a compromise. He again warned that he could not wait forever, but mentioned no deadlines.

As in earlier private talks with Western officials, Khrushchev minimized the danger that the transfer of Berlin access controls to the East Germans might spark a nuclear war, citing the absence of a direct Western response to the Berlin wall. He said the East Germans would assume control step-by-step so as to avoid confronting the West with a clear-cut challenge which could trigger a vigorous reaction. He also indicated that the USSR would reject the 7 June Western proposal for four-power talks on local Berlin problems.

Khrushchev evidently expected his remarks to be passed on and pitched them deliberately to keep the

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West under pressure in negotiations. There are no indications of a Soviet decision to break off the bilateral talks and to attempt to break the Berlin impasse by unilateral action in the near future.

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*The 12 July TASS statement on Germany was designed to direct world attention to Khrushchev's proposal in his 10 June speech that Western forces in West Berlin be replaced by contingents from four of the smaller NATO and Warsaw Pact members under United Nations authority. The statement, apparently prompted by the immediate US public rejection of Khrushchev's proposal, was also intended to emphasize Moscow's unwillingness to perpetuate the status quo in West Berlin. It also reminds the West that the USSR is committed to signing a separate peace treaty with East Germany if no agreement can be negotiated.

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DAILY BRIEF

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