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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

17 October 1963

DAILY BRIEF

***USSR-Berlin: Soviet detention of a British convoy at both ends of the Berlin autobahn on 16 October apparently reflects an intention to continue the harassment of Western access as a means of building pressure for early negotiations**

Soviet authorities are now seeking to impose new procedures for checking Allied convoys. They almost certainly expect the US to reject these demands. They may have calculated, however, that British convoys might grant minor concessions which would strengthen Moscow's bargaining position vis-à-vis the US. In any event, the USSR probably believes that disclosure of differences between US and British convoy procedures will tend to underscore the need for negotiations to remove "misunderstandings."

Moscow presumably intends to maintain close control over these harassments in order to avoid irreparable damage to the detente atmosphere. The Soviet leaders, however, appear to be operating on the assumption that the US and Britain also have an interest in preserving this atmosphere and that this situation affords the USSR greater latitude for maneuvers to draw the West into a new round of Berlin talks

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