

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

15 November 1963

DAILY BRIEF

USSR-Berlin: The Soviet ambassador in Bonn reportedly said that the recent autobahn incidents were designed to persuade the Western governments that "early negotiations on access routes to West Berlin are necessary."

[REDACTED] Ambassa-
dor Smirnov indicated that there would be further incidents aimed at reminding the Western powers that the question of East German (GDR) recognition "has to be resolved in some form."

He stated that Soviet military authorities in the GDR have orders not to allow themselves to be provoked and to avoid use of firearms. Smirnov also hinted that Moscow intends to manipulate these incidents to gain Western acceptance of East Germany's "sovereign rights."

East German propaganda on the incidents has claimed that the West has no legal right to use the autobahn. The East German first deputy premier asserted on 14 November that the access routes "come under the jurisdiction" of East Germany. He added that the GDR has "temporarily transferred" the control of Allied traffic to the USSR.

Since mid-August, Soviet diplomats have hinted privately that the USSR may be prepared to negotiate new access arrangements with the Allied governments

Gromyko recently indicated that the Soviet Government would issue a formal statement on the whole question of access. A new Soviet démarche may revive the proposal Moscow made last year for the establishment of an international access authority.

