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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AMBASSADOR AT LARGE
WASHINGTON

June 23, 1965

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MEMORANDUM FOR

The Honorable McGeorge Bundy
The White House

The Secretary, George Ball, the German boys, and I had a useful discussion yesterday with Dean Acheson and Jack McCloy on the helicopter problem in Berlin. There was no disagreement with the steps we are already taking, such as official representations in Moscow and/or the three capitals. It was also agreed that we should press the Germans to suspend negotiations between Airflot and Lufthansa relating this to the helicopter problem.

The main issue discussed was whether or not we should ourselves resume helicopter flights over East Berlin. The military are in general opposed to doing this at this time as they fear that linking these with the East German flights might end in our losing our right to fly over East Berlin. We probably have little chance of stopping the East German flights over East Berlin unless we take some very strong action, such as paralleling their flights along the sector border with flights of our own inside East Berlin. It is not certain that this would lead to cessation of their flights but if it did, we would probably end up by having to give up our own flights.

The general judgment of Acheson and McCloy was that we should maintain the legal position that all East German flights ^{in the Berlin control zone} are a violation of quadripartite rules but that in fact we only act to prevent the East Germans flying over West ~~East~~ Berlin. They would go quite far in this connection even to the point of using force to bring down an East German helicopter over West Berlin.

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5

State Dept. Guidelines

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By cb, NARA, Date 4-14-99

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The Secretary suggested we should investigate the "dirty tricks" department to see if we could not make the East Germans look ridiculous. The most hopeful idea which we are investigating is to encourage West Berlin youths to fly kites along the sector borders to harass the East German flights.

General Clay was not available but may be able to come down tomorrow.

Tommy

Llewellyn E. Thompson

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