



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Classification

Department of State TELEGRAM

POL 38-10
MARCH 15, 1973
1820L

INDICATE:
 COLLECT
 CHARGE TO

USMISSION BERLIN

CONTROL 0458

DISTRIBUTION

~~ACX~~

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, MOPS, WB, UR, GE
SUBJECT: Autobahn Incident

ACTION: SecState WASHDC

INFO: Amembassy BONN
CINCEUR FOR POLAD & OPS
CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD, OPS AND AEAGG-OCO
CINCUSAFE FOR POLAD & OPS
USELMLO

POL-3
MIN-2
USCOB
EAS
ECON
USIS
ASAG-2
DCSI-2
PMO
BBG-3
CHRON
/16

BERLIN 458

1. Upon returning to Berlin March 14, MP team which escorted incoming convoy reported incident which had occurred during trip to Helmstedt previous day. At 1645 hours, March 13, Vopos attempted to stop MP jeep which was passing another vehicle in free passing zone with no posted speed limit. US vehicle slowed to 10 mph and continued. Vopos then got into their vehicle, overtook jeep repeatedly attempting to force it off road. When these efforts failed, East German vehicle proceeded to point some 1000 meters ahead where the policemen dismounted and attempted to block US vehicle by standing in roadway. US vehicle was forced to

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CLEARANCES:
USCOB: Col. *R* *Rehick*
PMO: Lt. Col. Rathnow (subs)
G-3: Lt. Col. Davison *D* *15 Mar*

Classified by: *HRP/ML/PS*
Subject to GDS of EO 11652
Automatically downgraded at 2-year intervals.
Declassified on 31 December 1979

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Classification

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 67230
By BKT/NC on 26 March 2013

take to right shoulder of the road, in order to bypass Vopos. As it did so, one Vopo struck jeep with his baton (no damage). East German vehicle then followed jeep at distance of 25 meters with blue light flashing for ten kilometers.

2. March 15, US Provost Marshal met with Lt.Col. Zhukovets, Commander, Soviet Checkpoint Drewitz, and informed him of incident requesting that Soviet authorities investigate and take measures to prevent reoccurrence of such impermissible behavior by Vopos. Soviet Commander replied that he would report the matter to his superiors and that it would be thoroughly investigated. As has been case in past, Colonel Zhukovets was responsive to Provost Marshal's statement that Soviets were responsible for free movement of Allied traffic.

3. USCOB concurs.

KLEIN

