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27 November 1961

WEEKLY CHRONOLOGY OF REPORTS CONCERNING THE BERLIN SITUATION  
RECEIVED DURING WEEK OF 21 NOV - 27 NOV

11 Nov

The US Mission reported that there had been a healthy increase in West Berlin's private sight deposits, a smaller increase in private time deposits, and a small decline in savings deposits during the second half of October. Generally, the modest recovery of bank accounts and stock prices seemed to indicate that whatever tendency there had been for a flight of capital from Berlin probably had disappeared. The September index of industrial orders increased over August. (OUO)

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17 Nov

A two-man USMLM tour, covering Soviet exercise activity in the Hohenseeden area west of Brandenburg, was detained for 4 1/2 hours by Soviet authorities. The attitude of the Soviet sentries who originally detained the tour was proper at all times, but an officer summoned by the sentries was curt, inconsiderate and impolite. ~~(CONF)~~

ADN's Stockholm correspondent commented that "West Germany's provocative activities in the Baltic area and in the littoral NATO states during the last few days fully confirm the Soviet Government's warnings in its notes to Finland. Naval 'Waterproof' maneuvers in the southern Baltic ended today in the course of which land and naval units of West Germany, Denmark and Great Britain practiced landings under West German NATO command under warlike conditions with six West German landing craft." ~~(CONF)~~

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18 Nov

ADN announced that Berliner Zeitung was preparing to publish a series of articles on armaments production in West Berlin, promising that "it will at the same time be made clear that the western powers not only permit the misuse of the territory in the middle of the GDR, which is occupied by them, for war preparations, but also promote this within the framework of NATO." ~~(CONF)~~

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19 Nov

At approximately 1900 hours a USCOB patrol in East Berlin evaded attempts by two civilian vehicles occupied by uniformed East Germans to box it in. The East Germans attempted to tear off the patrol's radio antenna. At 1930 hours US military police detained a speeding Soviet military vehicle in the US Sector. One of the occupants, the Soviet POLAD, Lt. Col. Alekseev, denied speeding, claimed that the Soviets never detained US vehicles and sought to prevent incidents, demanded that a US interpreter deliver a strong protest to the US POLAD and threatened to have all US vehicles in East Berlin stopped. The Soviet car was released at 2100. Twenty minutes later it was stopped a second time for speeding--this time in the vicinity of US Headquarters--and detained until 2200. In the meantime, the USCOB patrol molested earlier re-entered East Berlin, where two East German vehicles with uniformed occupants, driving recklessly, maneuvered it into a dead-end street, boxed it in and ripped off the antenna with a tool evidently provided for the purpose. The East Germans withdrew after an hour and a half. At 0300 on 20 November a Military police stopped a speeding Soviet jeep, detaining it for about two hours. One of its occupants, an interpreter-aide of the Soviet Berlin Commandant, remarked during the detention "We are not children; we understand what is involved." At 0800 MP's halted a speeding Soviet military sedan carrying Soviet Deputy Commandant Colonel Pokrovski, who refused to speak with a US interpreter and MP captain on the scene and expressed his intention of protesting to "one of the US generals in Berlin." When the sedan was released at 0830, Pokrovski went to USCOB. Pokrovski rejected the interpreter's offer to arrange an appointment, claiming the matter was urgent and normal procedures did not apply. He alleged--mistakenly--that in the past US officials had been received at Karlshorst with or without appointment. He also protested an 8-minute wait for an interpreter and the guard's refusal to admit him to the USCOB compound. Later in the morning East Germans in civilian clothing tore a windshield wiper from a US vehicle in East Berlin. That afternoon East Germans in mufti ripped the antenna off another US vehicle. A letter of protest from the US commander was delivered to Karlshorst at 1740 hours. -(CONF)

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19 Nov  
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USCINCEUR reported that USCOB had been unable to confirm a "vague rumor circulating in West Berlin that East German construction workers had been seen near the Helmstedt-Berlin autobahn in the vicinity of the Babelsberg checkpoint." ~~(CONF)~~

In a nationwide radio-television address, Johannes Dieckmann, President of the GDR People's Chamber and Deputy Chairman of the State Council, warned that "the situation in the Baltic area has become further aggravated. During the past few weeks and months the West German militarists have made special efforts to include their NATO allies in Denmark and Norway in their adventurous policy...." ~~(CONF)~~

Federal Republic economic ministry officials agreed in principle to a US proposal that Bonn's IZT negotiator be authorized to meet regularly with his East German counterpart in East and West Berlin, but were anxious to find a face-saving method of ending the ban on Leopold's entry into East Berlin. One possibility might be to have the GDR pledge de facto revocation of the 23 August ordinance requiring permits for West Berliners entering East Berlin, as was done in the case of the 29 December 1960 agreement concerning the 8 September 1960 decree on entry of West Germans. The problem is complicated, however, by the controversy in the Federal Republic over the reliability of Leopold, who "tends to exceed or ignore instructions" and "talks too much." ~~(CONF S/S)~~

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20 Nov

The US element at Marienfelde processed 44 refugees--28 of whom claimed to have crossed after 13 August. ~~(CONF)~~

East Berlin ADN in German to East Germany announced that "in the evening hours Sunday three young West Berliners succeeded in escaping to the GDR capital. Like many West Germans and West Berliners in recent weeks, these three youths managed to get through the barriers set up by Bonn authorities...." ~~(CONF)~~

US and French officials of the Allied Travel Office in West Berlin favored rejection of an application for Temporary Travel Documents (TTD) for Egon Kleuckling, assigned to the staff of the East German trade office in Copenhagen. The British representative favored issuance of the documents. The US Mission proposed that the USRO and Embassy in Copenhagen discuss the matter with the Danish Government with a view to having them withdraw their approval of the visa application. ~~(CONF)~~

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21 Nov

Bonn's recently-appointed Minister of Interior Hermann Hoehcherl said he would support any move to make West Berlin the Federal Republic's 11th state. "I favor anything which will strengthen ties between this city and the Federal Republic," he told a press conference in West Berlin. Hoehcherl disclosed that he hopes to increase West German border guards on the interzonal border from 13,000 to 20,000 in 1962. (CONF)

ADN claimed that "a spokesman of the US Military Mission in West Berlin on Monday" confirmed that "in traveling to the GDR capital all Americans in West Berlin are to show their passes in the proper manner to the GDR authorities unless they pass the Friedrichstrasse crossing point for foreigners in official cars." (CONF)

Neues Deutschland reported that "The Press Office of the Ministry of Interior announces that between 19 and 21 November 1961 a number of measures to increase security have been taken along the state border between the GDR capital and West Berlin. It is hoped that the solid wall will convince all those people who wish to accuse the GDR of aggressive plans against West Berlin that the GDR has not the slightest intention of intervening in the internal affairs of West Berlin....." Commenting editorially, Neues Deutschland said that GDR authorities had strengthened the wall in order to prevent General Clay and other US military leaders from using West Berlin as a base for "provocations" against East Germany. The SED paper said that Clay "showed his love of force" by sending tanks to Friedrichstrasse and that nuclear war could begin with "a tank thrust." Neues Deutschland said that East-West negotiations must make West Berlin "a city in the middle of the German Democratic Republic." (CONF)

West Berlin police announced that 6 refugees had fled to the West during the preceding 24 hours. (CONF)

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Following a torchlight rally at Reichskanzler Platz thousands of West Berlin students sought to storm the barricades at the sector border, but were driven back by truncheon-wielding West Berlin riot police. More than 6,000 students, marching on Kaiserstrasse, toward the Brandenburg Gate were stopped about a mile inside West Berlin; another 1,000 reached Zimmerstrasse and threw their torches over into East Berlin, shouting "Down with the Communist Wall!" East German VOPOS used a water cannon and tear gas grenades in an effort to disperse the mob. West Berlin motorists tooted their auto horns. ~~(CONF)~~

West Berlin police announced that one VOPO and five East German civilians fled to the west during the preceding twenty four hours. ~~(CONF)~~

The US element at Marienfelde processed 23 refugees--19 of whom claimed to have crossed after 13 August. ~~(CONF)~~

British Foreign office officials engaged in preparing briefing papers for the Prime Minister's meeting with DeGaulle told US Embassy officers in London that insofar as Berlin was concerned MacMillan's principle "tactical" objective would be to persuade the French President to agree to western four power-initiative for negotiations with the USSR. ~~(SECRET S/S)~~

East German construction crews placed steel "I" beams in a zigzag, baffle, pattern across the right inbound lane of the autobahn about 150-200 yards north of the Babelsberg checkpoint. A temporary wooden barrier was raised across the left lane, forcing vehicles from the right into the left and then back into the right lane. British observers felt that the construction was intended to prevent further "crashing" escape attempts into West Berlin. The US Mission commented that "it may be more difficult for Allied traffic to insist on preferential passage through the barrier. In the past, Allied vehicles would bypass German traffic; on arrival at the checkpoint barrier they would usually be waved on to the Soviet control shack or received and conducted to the Soviet shack by a Soviet soldier.

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If all traffic is funneled through the new baffle, Allied traffic may have difficulty keeping separated from German traffic in approaching and entering the checkpoint." (CONF)

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22 Nov

West Berlin police dispersed a group of 20 youths attempting to dislodge heavy concrete blocks from the "wall" at the US Sector district of Kreuzberg. ~~(CONF)~~

East Berlin workers strung a 120-yard barbed wire fence along the east bank of the Spree, where the river forms the border with the US Sector of West Berlin. ~~(CONF)~~

The US Berlin Mission reported that two weeks earlier USCOB had undertaken two-car surveillance of all Soviet vehicles entering the US Sector. Vehicles were picked up at Friedrichstrasse by one marked military police car with uniformed personnel, and one unmarked civilian car with a West Berlin plate and a CID driver in mufti. Both tailed the Soviet vehicle for a short distance, after which the MP car dropped out if no traffic violation was noted. All MP patrols were ordered to stop speeding Soviet vehicles and instruct their occupants on traffic regulations. The CID vehicles played no part in such detentions. During the weekend of 18-19 November, all Allied vehicles entering East Berlin were tailed-- though only US cars were harassed. Tailing and harassment ceased abruptly late on the night of 21 November, and the East German tail-vehicle motor pool near Friedrichstrasse was disbanded. USCOB, therefore, suspended tailing and detention of Soviet vehicles in West Berlin, except for increased surveillance by MP vehicles in the area of US installations. ~~(CONF)~~

The US Berlin Mission commented that the nature of the reinforcements added to the Berlin wall on 19-21 November, coupled with East German press treatment, tended to confirm its impression of the Ulbricht regime's acute nervousness over the possibly explosive impact of even a symbolic penetration of the area immediately adjacent to Friedrichstrasse by US military vehicles. The Mission pointed out that the small area bounded by the renewed construction, contains government and party offices which would be especially vulnerable to "surprise incursions" from the US Sector. Since the principal S-Bahn and U-Bahn lines and main arterial roads in East Berlin converge on it, the regime may have been alarmed by the

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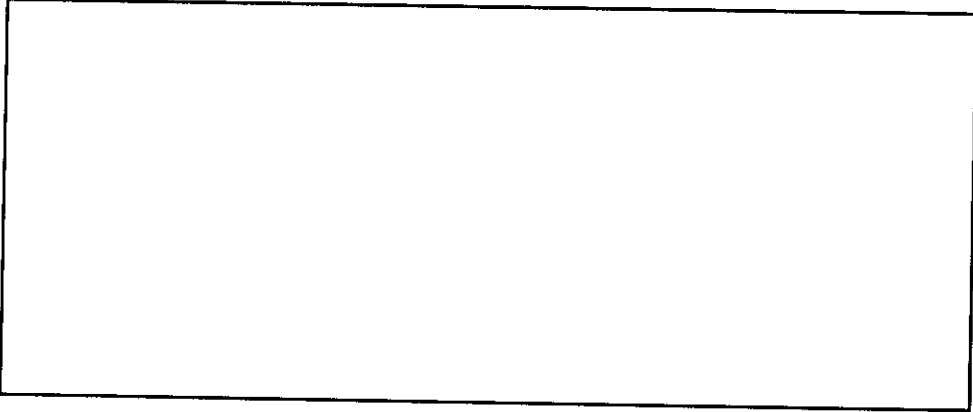
22 Nov  
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prospect that incidents at Friedrichstrasse, or a symbolic demolition of part of the wall by US forces, could lead to the massing of potential refugees willing to attack security forces stationed at party and government offices. (CONF)

West Berlin police posted signs advertising a reward for the capture of GDR Minister of State Security Erich Mielke for questioning in connection with the murder of three Berlin policemen on 9 August 1931. (CONF)

A communique issued at the conclusion of the Kennedy-Adenauer meeting said in part: "The President and the Chancellor reaffirmed their clear determination to insure the continuance of a free and vigorous life for the population of Berlin. They are in accord on the basic elements which will permit a peaceful resolution of this crisis through negotiations if there is reasonableness on the part of the Soviet Union. They agreed on the measures which should be taken in pursuing this objective in a manner consistent with the legitimate interests of all parties concerned....They reaffirmed the ultimate goal of their governments of achieving by peaceful means the reunification of Germany on the basis of self-determination."

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At 1940 hours an inbound PanAm corridor flight 13 miles from Tempelhof at an altitude of 1500 feet saw tracer firing approximately one mile off the left wingtip. The firing emanated from an area known to be a Soviet tank testing ground. The US element at the Berlin Air Safety Center asked the Soviet representatives to investigate the incident and prevent its recurrence. (CONF)

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22-23  
Nov

A US Army duty train, outbound from Berlin to Frankfurt with 74 military and civilian passengers, was stranded for 13 hours at the Soviet checkpoint at Marienborn with an East German stowaway aboard. The stowaway smashed a coach window and entered the train as it slowed or was stopped near Magdeburg. When the train arrived at Marienborn, the first scheduled stop before proceeding to the US checkpoint at Helmstedt on the East-West German frontier, the Soviet controller--alerted by the East German conductor--demanded that the would-be refugee be turned over to local authorities. The train commander, without acknowledging the stowaway's presence, insisted that the train be allowed to pass through the checkpoint. The Soviet controller replied that he was not competent to deal with the matter and that nothing more could be done until daylight, when a "more senior" Soviet officer would arrive. Subsequently a Soviet Lieutenant Colonel demanded that the train commander surrender the "criminal" hiding on the train. The engine, supplied by the East German railroad directorate, was removed; it later was returned to provide power for the train's heating system.

Acting on instructions from CINCUSAREUR, the Chief of the US Military Liaison Mission arrived at Marienborn and promised the Soviets that he would surrender the East German to them if a search of the train disclosed a stowaway. This he did, and the train was allowed to proceed through the checkpoint to West Germany. ~~(CONF)~~

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23 Nov

Aerial and ground observation disclosed that permanent steel pipe barriers mounted on 3-foot uprights set in concrete had been installed on both sides of the autobahn between Berlin and the Soviet/GDR checkpoint at Babelsberg. Berlin traffic bound for Babelsberg is diverted into the right and then into the left lane; while Berlin-bound traffic, after leaving the checkpoint, is forced first into the left and then into the right hand lane. The US Mission reported that work blocking the right--Berlin-bound--lane of the autobahn was in progress at Helmstedt. (CONF)

At 2300 hours East Berlin's domestic service charged that the incident of the US Army duty train at Marienborn was "the newest misuse of the corridors between West Germany and West Berlin by the US military authorities...obviously another provocation against the GDR. It is significant enough that the incident occurred after the return of General Clay from the United States; as is known, Clay also was responsible for the provocations at the GDR state border at the Berlin Friedrichstrasse." (CONF)

East and West Berlin police exchanged about 60 tear gas grenades on the border of the French sector district of Reinickendorf, after the East Germans lobbed grenades over the wall at a West Berlin municipal government loudspeaker truck broadcasting news bulletins. (CONF)

Steel-helmeted EGA personnel removed a 10-foot high wooden screen from in front of the Brandenburg Gate, disclosing a solid, 9-foot high and 10-foot thick tankproof concrete barricade with a 3-foot gap at one side of the semi-circular wall. (CONF)

The US element at Marienfelde processed 29 refugees--14 of whom claimed to have crossed into West Berlin after 13 August. (CONF)

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USCINCEUR reported the following schedule for US Army Duty Trains:

<u>Departure</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Arrival</u>	<u>Time</u>
Bremerhaven	1948Z	Berlin	0512Z
Frankfurt	2014	Berlin	0652
Berlin	2040	Bremerhaven	0540
Berlin	1807	Frankfurt	0536

~~(CONF)~~

23-26  
Nov

At the SED central committee's fourteenth plenum, Ulbricht strongly emphasized the necessity of a German peace treaty but quoted Khrushchev's phrase that the USSR "would not absolutely insist on signing a peace treaty by 31 December 1961." Referring to Berlin, he declared: "It is in the interests of both sides, before the conclusion of a German peace treaty, to arrive at special agreements on a peaceful solution of the West Berlin question and to agree on corresponding guarantee declarations; such agreements must then become an integral part of the peace treaty and thus achieve international legal validity." He set forth an extreme bargaining position for the GDR to use in possible negotiations, denying the existence of any special or original Western rights in Berlin, calling for gradual reduction of Western forces in West Berlin, elimination of Western "subversive" activities against the GDR originating in West Berlin and use of access routes only by agreement with the GDR. On the subject of Western recognition of the GDR, however, he used the phrase "respect of sovereignty of the GDR" but did not refer to "recognition" as such. Concerning the GDR's claim to sovereignty over East Berlin, he was uncompromising. ~~(CONF)~~



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24 Nov

East Berlin's domestic service radio charged that Bonn's Minister of Justice Stammberger had "misused" the Berlin air corridor for a "provocatory visit to West Berlin, which is not part of the territory of the Federal Republic." ~~(CONF)~~

British troops moved building materials into the area of the Brandenburg Gate, preparatory to erecting a watchtower overlooking the wall across Hindenburg Platz. ~~(CONF)~~

The Danish Military Mission in West Berlin notified the US Mission that the GDR trade office in Copenhagen was sending home a staff member who "had a nervous breakdown." Accordingly, the US Mission planned to issue a TTD to Egon Kleuckling to replace the ailing functionary in Copenhagen. ~~(CONF)~~

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Commenting on the US Mission's press release concerning the train incident, East Berlin's domestic service chortled that "Thus Clay confirmed at the same time that the transport of civilians through the air over GDR territory is illegal. Yesterday the Americans had to extradite a German who was on a US military train; US authorities had thus to respect the sovereignty of the GDR. For the West Berlin administration chief and the frontline city newspapers, the statement of US General Clay was a cold shower. They clearly hinted today that the Marienborn incident will be the basis for new provocations." (CONF)

Hamburg DPA reported "considerable ill-feeling among refugees at the Marienfelde refugee camp over the handling of the refugee at Marienborn. Many refugees show no understanding for the arguments of the Americans." (CONF)

By appointment, Colonel Solovyev paid an hour's call on General Watson. The Soviet Berlin Commandant protested US helicopter flights in the vicinity of the Babelsberg checkpoint on 23 November and commented that he "would have another look" at the Berlin flight rules when told such flights were filed in advance with BASC and perfectly in keeping with Four-Power agreements. Solovyev professed no knowledge of new barriers on the autobahn near the Babelsberg checkpoint, attempting to pass them off as an East German affair. When pressed, he agreed to go and inspect the checkpoint. He proceeded to Babelsberg from US Headquarters. Replying to General Watson's 20 November protest over harassment of US vehicles in East Berlin, Solovyev made the usual disclaimer of competence and suggested that such matters be pursued with GDR authorities. He said that Soviet personnel are not concerned with traffic regulations, but said he couldn't say the same for US military police in West Berlin. Referring to the detention of Soviet vehicles on 19-20 November, Solovyev accused the military police of provocative behavior and said that in one instance an MP had threatened a Soviet officer with a weapon. He protested and warned of unpleasant consequences which would ensue should there be a recurrence. Later, Solovyev said that the Soviets could

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detain an American vehicle in East Berlin whenever US military police detained a Soviet car in West Berlin. He supposed that neither he nor General Watson were interested in creating such incidents, which lead to bad relations, and agreed with the USCOB's observation that neither side could win by such exchanges. Solovyev resisted General Watson's efforts to clarify the issue of US autobahn "assistance patrols," maintaining that the question raised by such patrols did not involve the right of free passage but rather of control of the autobahn. He said that the Soviets had sent a number of their own patrols to the autobahn as a result of Watson's protests and had concluded that there was no necessity for either side to use assistance vehicles. Finally, Solovyev-- after denying competence in the matter--agreed that it might be "possible" for West Berlin municipal authorities to deal directly with their eastern counterparts on the question of passes for inter-sector visits. (CONF)

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25 Nov

The US Berlin Mission reported that construction of autobahn barriers north of the Soviet/GDR checkpoint at Babelsberg had been completed with the addition of metal lift gates on the center strip opposite the new barriers in the outside lanes. The mission commented that the autobahn now can be closed by lowering the gates to block the inside lanes, whereas previously it could be closed only by use of lift gates at either end of the checkpoint. (CONF)

400 VOPOS and EGA troops raised from 5 to 8 feet a 35-yard long section of the wall at Klemckestrasse opposite the French sector and reinforced the barricade with steel girders. (CONF)

West Berlin police announced that 19 refugees had fled to the west during the preceding twenty four hours. (CONF)

Reuters reported that during the preceding 20 days continual, but unconfirmed, reports of drastic food shortages in the provinces had swept East Berlin--where the food situation is comparatively normal and where no trials for hoarding of food-stuffs have been reported. (CONF)

West Berlin police reported that 11 East German youths, 17-22, had fled to the west during the preceding twenty four hours. (CONF)

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27 Nov West Berlin police reported that 22 refugees had fled to the west during the preceding twenty four hours. (CONF)

Neues Deutschland revived four-year old proposals for making the Baltic a "sea of Peace." (CONF)

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