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# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

28 July 1962

## DAILY BRIEF

USSR-Berlin: Since mid-May East German authorities have been fortifying and deepening defenses along the Berlin Wall. The US Mission points out that while these fortifications reduce the possibility of incidents, they may also be aimed at preventing a breakout by the East German population in the event of a crisis.

The Soviets and East Germans appear in addition to be strengthening their positions along the entire 850-mile zonal border with West Germany. The Berlin Mission has a reliable report that all old-age homes, nurseries, and hospitals located in a 5-kilometer security zone adjacent to the border are to be evacuated by 31 August. The ostensible reason given for the move was that a "concentration of manpower" was expected after 1 September.

The mission speculates that the USSR may be preparing gradually to extend GDR sovereignty over the land access routes into West Berlin. A likely period for this would be just before or during the fall military maneuvers in September and October. The mission believes that if the USSR is serious about a separate peace treaty, September-October would be a favorable time to sign it. [redacted] in Moscow agrees with Ambassador Thompson that Khrushchev plans to sign a separate peace treaty with East Germany if there is no movement on Berlin by the end of August.

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Over the past month Soviet leaders have been attempting to convey the impression that they cannot allow the Berlin issue to drag on much longer. In the meantime, it would appear from the Geneva discussions that Moscow will use further high-level talks both to continue probing for any possible Western concessions and to determine the West's reaction to the various procedures by which the Communists could implement a separate peace treaty.

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