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TO : DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INFO : Amembassy BONN, LONDON, PARIS, MOSCOW, USAREUR

This document consists of two pages. Number 33 of 33 copies, Series A.

FROM : U. S. MISSION BERLIN

May 2, 1963

SUBJECT : Contacts Between East German Border Guards and West Berlin Police

REF : Berlin's A-519, dated January 18, 1963, to Department

Border contacts between East German border guards (GREPOS) and West Berlin police in the area of Police Revier 106 (near Heinrich Heine Strasse crossing point), as reported in the referenced Airgram, have ceased and it is believed the GREPO unit formerly assigned to this area has been transferred. Police have reported that in early March an official of Revier 106 talked briefly with a GREPO at the border who stated that the unit had been transferred after GREPO officers became aware of border conversations with West Berlin police and the passing of food and cigarettes to the GREPOs. Police sources are convinced that this information is correct, since none of the known contacts have been seen since early March 1963, and GREPOs presently on duty in the area no longer approach the border wall.

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WEST BERLIN POLICE

On March 11, 1963, two GREPOs contacted two West Berlin policemen at the zonal border in the area of Lichterfelde-South. Following is a summary of this encounter reported by one of the police officials involved:

"On March 11, 1963, between 1100 and 1200 hours, I was on duty at Police Base A-11. On an observation tower opposite the Police Base were two GREPOs. One of them addressed me, and in the course of conversation I asked whether he would like something to smoke. The GREPO answered that he would like to have some cigarettes. We then placed a package of cigarettes and a stone in a tin box and tossed it over the border. Then we discussed food. The GREPO stated that his sandwiches were so bad that he would not dare to offer them to a dog. We then tossed over a bag containing oranges, chocolate, and sausages, for which he thanked us. He shared the food with his colleague. The GREPO stated that if he were caught in contact with West Berlin police officials,

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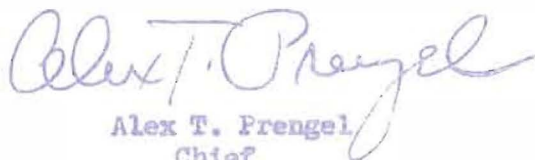
he would be sentenced to at least 18 months of hard labor. He added that he was thinking of escaping to the West."

During March, 1963, a second contact with GREPOs was reported by the West Berlin police. Following is a summary of a report submitted by one of two police officials involved in this encounter:

"I wish to report that I and my colleague contacted two GREPOs on March 14, 1963, at about 1400 hours, at the zonal border near Schwelmer Strasse, Lichterfelde-South. The GREPOs asked us for cigarettes and oranges and we went to Police Base A-12 to obtain these items. On our return, we saw two border policemen lying on the ground and a GREPO officer standing beside them. Our GREPO contacts had withdrawn to a house near a railroad embankment. When we approached the agreed upon meeting place, one of the GREPOs met us at the barbed wire fence while the other kept the officer under observation with his binoculars. We threw cigarettes, chocolate, and oranges over the fence and both GREPOs thanked us profusely. We asked whether it would be possible to contact other members of their unit, but the GREPOs cautioned us not to attempt this. They said they would somehow attract our attention if they needed anything in the future."

Comment: Since March 14, 1963, no additional contacts with GREPOs at sector or zonal borders have been reported by the West Berlin police.

For the Acting Assistant Chief of Mission:



Alex T. Prengel  
Chief  
Public Safety Section