

expressed understanding for the idealistically motivated acts of the accused and stated that, nevertheless, such acts were legally inadmissible.

Comment: A much larger explosion occurred near Checkpoint Charlie in late December 1962, bringing the number of Wall bombings for that month to three. In that incident (reported by the Mission in A-465 of December 31, 1962) an estimated 1500 window panes were destroyed in West Berlin. Since that time there has been a notable decline in such incidents. The Mission believes that this decline can be attributed to growing awareness among the students and other young people involved of the futility of such acts and to their realization that they can expect little public support or admiration for demonstrations which generally have caused far more damage to West Berlin property than to the Wall itself.

Another factor, difficult to evaluate, is that the blank frustration of the 1961 - 1962 period has been superseded by an atmosphere of some movement in the Berlin situation, giving rise to an imprecise but probably fairly widespread hope for improvement.

For the Minister:

James L. Curson
Acting Chief

Political Affairs Section

LYHS
CUBB
BCVOS
021
2WEO
00
10
0212
ECON
A
02008
MIN
0213

WIRELESS : [illegible]

WIRE : [illegible]

OCT 53 10 4

WIRE : [illegible]

TO : [illegible]

A-540

CONFIDENTIAL

THE BOOK CLUB

11/5 44

A 11 0 3 0 0