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Authority NND 67230
By BKT/NC on 26 March 2013

TELEGRAM

Foreign Service of the United States of America

14/2 **OUTGOING** U.S. MISSION BERLIN

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POL 3
USCOB
M 3
EA
ECON
USIS
ASAG
IO/U
PS
F&R2

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Classification

Charge:

Control: 139

Date: December 26, 1963
5:30p.m.

ACTION: SecState WASH 852 PRIORITY

INFO: Amembassy BONN 780 PRIORITY
Amembassy LONDON 520
Amembassy PARIS 532
Amembassy MOSCOW 463
USAREUR FOR POLAD
USNMR SHAPE FOR BURNS
CINCEUR FOR POLAD (James)
USELMLO

PARIS also for USRO

Young East German refugee, Peter SCHULZ, wounded by SovZone fire while climbing over Wall to West Berlin shortly after 1600 hours X-mas day at location opposite US Sector near Mariannenplatz, district Kreuzberg. Schulz died in West Berlin hospital at 2245 hours later in day. Schulz's male companion, who followed Schulz over Wall, unwounded but in state of schock. Both said to be 18-20 years old. Witnesses report ten separate shots fired at fleeing pair. Although witnesses, including West Berlin police, insist shots entered West Berlin territory, definitive proof lacking.

Prior knowledge Schulz's death, US Mission in response press inquiries limited itself to saying "East German action speaks for itself," not wishing to prejudice position of Senat re pass arrangements. Statement issued by Mayor Albertz, also made prior Schulz death, said shooting is blow to good-will image of other side, narrowing newly opened way for humanity in Berlin. Statement

139rtg

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Charge: Control:

Date:

expressed contempt for shooters and their superiors, and said West Berlin will continue efforts in behalf mankind and humaneness. USCOB in response press queries subsequently said he fully associated himself with Albertz statement. Senat, according Mayor Albertz, has no current plans for further statement on matter.

Senat has learned address Schulz parents, and sent telegram to them inquiring whether they wish Schulz remains returned for burial. Senat official Korber, according to Albertz, will lodge Senat protest with his opposite number, Wendt, when resuming conversation tomorrow re passes for West Berlin visits to East Berlin.

Subject Embassy concurrence, we planning make written protest over shooting tomorrow to Sov Ambassador Abrasimov.

Complete lack West Berlin newspapers over X-mas holidays limits local publicity to radio and television.

GP-4

CALHOUN

Cleared: USCOB - Col Wardell
IO/USCOB - Maj Maple AUTH: EANagy

POL:EANagy/dhc

26/1725

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TELEGRAM

Foreign Service of the United States of America

OUTGOING U.S.MISSION BERLIN

REF-ESCAPE
FILE ROOM COPY
XR POL 38
Wall

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Classification

Charge:

Control: 145

Date: December 27, 1963
1845 HOURS

MIN 3
USCOB
POL 3
EA
ECON
USIS
ASAG
IO/U
PS
F&R 2

Amembassy BONN PRIORITY 782

ACTION: [redacted]

INFO: [redacted] SecState WASH 855
Amembassy LONDON 522
Amembassy MOSCOW 466
Amembassy PARIS 535
USAREUR FOR POLAD
CINCEUR FOR POLAD
USNMR SHAPE FOR BURNS

Paris also for USRO

REF: Berlintel 780 to Bonn, 852 to Dept; Hulick-Sutterlin telecons.

Mission officer delivered Hillenbrand protest to Abrasimov on Paul Schultz shooting to Sov Emb East Berlin at 1500 hours Dec. 27. Emb officer (First Secretary Beletsky) read protest, said he unable accept it since issue referred to was outside Sov competence, and returned it to Mission officer.

Mission has issued following statement to press:

BEGIN QUOTE

The U.S. Chargé d'Affaires at Bonn today protested in writing to Soviet Ambassador Piotr A. Abrasimov the tragic Christmas Day murder of Paul Schultz. The protest pointed out that the shots which killed him endangered other lives in West Berlin as well and it called on the Soviet Ambassador to ensure that such wanton acts on the part of the East German police do not recur. It further stated that as long as the Wall stands in the way of the free exercise of the elementary right of freedom of movement within Berlin,

135/taf

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Foreign Service of the United States of America

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Charge: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ *Classification* Control: 145

2 Date:

it will remain a source of tension and an invitation to tragedy.

END QUOTE

If queried, Mission will state protest read by responsible Sov Emb officer and returned.

Meanwhile, Senat has released text of protest made by Korber at meeting with Wendt December 27. Protest opens with sentence "GovMayor has authorized me inform you of following" and continues with statement that bullets which killed Schultz hit people in all Berlin and devalued humanitarian spirit of December 17 agreement. Such incidents as Schultz shooting created new obstacles for endeavors to ease situation of Berliners. East German claims to be motivated by humanitarian considerations were deprived of credibility by fact that young man shot merely for trying to go "from Germany to Germany" at same time that more than 100,000 West Berliners able to visit their relatives in East Berlin.

Brandt and Albertz told Allied Commandants and Deputies at December 27 meetings that Wendt categorically rejected protest; ~~however~~, and took line reflected in East Berlin press (Berlintel 854) in press conference Senat Press Chief Bahr said Wendt expressed regrets over incident.

GP-4.

CALHOUN

AUTH: ARDAY

EA:FJMeehan
POL:LHeichler:af
27/1815

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A-409 ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ~~POL 38~~

~~LB~~ REF- ESCAPES

FILE ROOM COPY

XR POL 38

TO : SECSTATE WASH

INFO : BONN, LONDON, PARIS, MOSCOW, USAREUR

DECEMBER 30, 1963

FROM :USBER

SUBJ :U.S. Protests Christmas Day Shooting of East German Refugee

REF :Berlintel 855 to Dept, 782 to Bonn

MIN
USCOB
POL2
EA
ECON
USIS
RIAS
PS
102
ASG3
BBDE
BC/G2
OSI
SMSD
F&R2

PARIS also for USRO, James and Burns; USELMLO, USAREUR for POLAD

Following is the text of the U.S. Protocol Officer's letter to his Soviet counterpart at the Soviet Embassy in East Berlin, conveying a message from Minister Hillenbrand to Ambassador Abrasimov:

BEGIN TEXT:

ALLIED CONTROL AUTHORITY
ALLIED LIAISON AND PROTOCOL
UNITED STATES ELEMENT

170 Clayallee,
Berlin, Dahlem,
December 27, 1963.

Dear Mr. Panin:

I have been instructed to convey the following message from The Honorable Martin J. Hillenbrand, Charge d'Affaires ad interim of the American Embassy in Bonn, to His Excellency Mr. P. A. Abrasimov, Ambassador of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics:

GROUP-4
Downgraded at 3-year intervals
Declassified after 12 years
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

POL:LHeichler/dhc 12/28/63 ARDay

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By BKT/NC 26 March 2013

A-409

"I regret that during this holiday season I must draw your attention to a tragic and dangerous event which took place on Christmas Day on the border between the Soviet Sector and the American Sector of Berlin. On that day, Paul Schultz, a young resident of East Germany, was mortally wounded by police of the East German regime as he was seeking to enter the American Sector. The shots that killed him endangered the lives of West Berlin residents as well and could lead to repercussions which would involve our joint responsibilities in Berlin. I must call on you most earnestly to insure that such wanton acts on the part of the East German police do not recur.

"Paul Schultz was not the first to die in an effort to overcome the barrier between the Soviet Sector and the Western sectors of the city. This year arrangements were made to permit many residents of West Berlin to pass through this barrier and visit relatives on the other side after long and bitter separations. This development was welcomed. The death of this young man is a testimony, however, that as long as the wall stands in the way of the free exercise of the elementary right of freedom of movement within the City of Berlin it will remain a source of tension and an invitation to tragedy. I earnestly hope that the responsible authorities will take the necessary action to remedy this unnatural situation."

Would you please bring this message to the attention of Ambassador Abrasimov as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

Francis J. Meehan
Acting Protocol Officer
U.S. Element

O. S. Panin, Esquire,
Chief, Protocol Section,
Allied Liaison and Protocol,
63-65 Unter den Linden,
Berlin.

For the Assistant Chief of Mission:

Arthur R. Day
Chief, Political Affairs Section

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TELEGRAM

Foreign Service of the United States of America

14/3 **OUTGOING** US MISSION BERLIN

FILE ROOM COPY

~~ESCAPEES~~
XR POL 30
Wall

M 4
USCOB
POL 3
EA
ECON
USIS,,
ASAG
IO/U
F&R2

Charge: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ *Classification*

Control: 160

Date: Dec 30, 1963
1640

ACTION: SecState WASH PRITY 869

INFO: AmEmbassy BONN PRITY 795
AmEmbassy PARIS 546
AmEmbassy LONDON 533
AmEmbassy MOSCOW 477

Ref Berlintel 862 Unclas

Press reports were received in Berlin on afternoon Dec. 28 that US officials were concerned over Senat protest to GDR (morning Dec. 27) re Christmas Day shooting. Cronkite of CBS was quoted as making this allegation, and observing that US reaction was casting shadow on Erhard talks in Texas. Mission received press query and replied it unaware of any such report. Senat Press Chief Bahr then approached me on behalf of Brandt to inquire re truth of report. I said we had received no info about reaction in US, but set forth fol views on personal basis: I pointed out that in current situation it was important to maintain Western Allied position vis-a-vis Sovs on Berlin, and that in past Allies had always held Sovs responsible for actions of East Germans, including making of protests by Amb of appropriate sector Commander in such cases. (I made similar comment

160rtg

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to Sen Schuetz in conversation reported Berlintel 864.) Bahr explained, as he later did to press, that Korber was to meet anyway with Wendt and it was thought impossible for him not to mention shooting as affecting pass question and West Berlin attitudes.

Albertz was subsequently asked at Dec. 30 press conference about reports of US displeasure. He replied that Senat action had been coordinated with US and had latter's full approval.

Comment: Mission had [redacted] not been consulted in advance though Albertz in phone conversation Dec. 26 with Mission officer had mentioned such move was being considered. Fol the protest, US Senat Liaison Officer had discussed with Spangenberg and Korber on night of Dec. 27 risks we saw. There was little press comment on this aspect, however, even from staunchest guardians of Allied rights, though local AP rep was alarmed by Senat move.

We assume Bahr explanation in some degree correct, though Senat motivated principally by desire create proper image in public. Handling of press release on protest by Senat indicated latter hoped the protest

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would close this incident and permit further negotiation with East (Bahr said Wendt had expressed regret, which he apparently had not done). When dangers of action were mentioned to Spangenberg and Korber by Liaison Officer, they reacted as though such thought had never occurred to them, and this may well be the case.

Re Albertz statements reported above, we are planning to handle any press inquiries as follows:

In reply to queries re alleged consultation and US approval, we will say: "A Senat official, in conversation with a US Mission officer prior to the Senat action, mentioned that such an action was under consideration. We did not at the time interpret this as a request for our views, however, and we therefore expressed none." If asked how US views Senat action, we will say for record that we see no useful purpose in commenting at this stage on the Senat action. On background we will add we have always held the Sovs responsible for activities of the East German police and we continue to do so.

GP-4.

CALHOUN

POL:ARDay/M:JACalhoun/jb
30/1430

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