



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification

Department of State

TELEGRAM

POL-38

CONTROL 0127
January 22, 1973
1730

INDICATE:

- COLLECT
- CHARGE TO

DISTRIBUTION

ACTION: SecState WASHDC

INFO: Amembassy BONN
 CINCEUR FOR POLAD & OPS
 CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD, OPS & AEAGG-OCO
 CINCUSAFE FOR POLAD & OPS
 USELMLO/CASTEAU

BERLIN 0127

SUBJECT: New Barrier at Checkpoint Alpha

1. On January 18 a new possible barrier was reported as having been erected on the westbound lanes, approximately 25 meters East of the octagonal main control tower. It consists of a length of one inch steel cable lying across the roadway and attached to steel posts about three feet high on either side of the highway. There is a pulley device on the right hand post which would allow the cable to be tensioned across the road at height of three feet thus creating a barrier to vehicular traffic. To date the cable has not been observed in this latter position.
2. While we have not seen the cable in the barrier position, our best guess is that it is intended to supplement the ~~pressure~~^{pressure} barrier located to the West of

POL-3
 MIN_2
 USCOB
 EAS
 ECON
 USIS
 ASAG
 DCSI
 BEG3
 CHRON

DRAFTED BY:

POL:HRPhelps:mug

DRAFTING DATE

1/22/73

TEL. EXT.

7644

APPROVED BY:

POL:ALSeligmann

CLEARANCES:

G-3: Lt. Col. Davidson
 USCOB: Col. Renick

Classified by: HR PHELPS
 Subject to GDS of EO 11652
 Automatically downgraded at 2-year intervals.
 Declassified on 31 December 1979

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Classification

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 67230

By BKT/NC on 26 March 2013

control tower, perhaps serving as a replacement for the latter should it need repair. It is also conceivable, although we have no evidence for it, that construction of the new East German checkpoint area to the South of the Autobahn will necessitate relocation of the ~~pressure barrier~~ pressure barrier, and the cable barrier is intended to serve as a temporary substitute.

3. USCOB concurs.

GDS

KLEIN *CDK*

