



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
Classification

# Department of State TELEGRAM

POL 38-10

CONTROL 1347

7 AUG 73

1241

INDICATE:  
 COLLECT  
 CHARGE TO

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~~ACTION~~  
~~XXXXXX~~

EO 11652:

GDS

TAGS:

PGOV, PFOR, WB, GE

SUBJECT:

East German Attempts to Control Allied Autobahn Traffic

ACTION:

SecState WASHDC

INFO:

Amembassy BONN  
Amembassy LONDON  
Amembassy PARIS  
Amembassy MOSCOW

POL-3

USMission NATO

MIN-2

CINCEUR FOR POLAD AND OPS

USCOB

CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD, OPS, & AEAGC-OCO

EAS

BERLIN 1347

ECON

USIS

ASAG-2

DCSI-2

CHRON

USMLM

1. On August 4, French officer travelling ~~to~~ from Berlin to Helmstedt in private vehicle was detained for approximately 15 minutes by two Vopos at East German checkpoint at E Drewitz. Vopos demanded carton of cigarettes from officer, on grounds he had no right to transport such item. Latter refused, and after request to speak to Soviet officer was denied, returned to Soviet barrier. A few moments later East German guards motioned him forward and allowed him to proceed unhindered,

DRAFTED BY:

*GW*

DRAFTING DATE

TEL. EXT.

APPROVED BY:

POL: GWChapman

8-7-73

7644

POL: ALS *W*igmann

CLEARANCES:

USCOB: LTC Wood *Schittewald*

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although Vopos did not pick up Laufzettel. Incident was brought to immediately ~~brought to~~ attention of Soviet authorities by French, with request that they investigate.

- 2. This incident follows two/earlier attempts by East German guards at Marienborn to hold up French official travellers on grounds they ~~needed~~ needed to buy special automobile insurance for autobahn. In one instance, 29 June, ~~poorly-informed~~ inexperienced traveller accepted explanation and bought insurance; in other, in late July, traveller refused and was permitted to proceed. Both incidents were protested by French to Soviet authorities as unwarranted intrusion by GDR officials on established autobahn procedures.
- 3. USCOB concurs.

KLEIN

*CDRS*

*[Handwritten signature]*