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Classification

Department of State

TELEGRAM

POL 30

CONTROL 1670

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1151

U. S. MISSION BERLIN

INDICATE:

COLLECT

CHARGE TO

DISTRIBUTION

~~ACTION~~
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E.O. 11652:

GDS

TAGS:

PGOV, PFOR, WB, GW, GE

SUBJECT:

Visit Agreement and Exfiltration Arrests

ACTION:

SECSTATE WASH DC

INFO:

Amembassy BONN
Amembassy LONDON
Amembassy MOSCOW
Amembassy PARIS
US Mission Nato

POL-3

MIN-2

USCOB

~~AS~~

ECON

USIS

ASAG-2

DCSI-2

CHRON

14

Berlin 1670

Ref: Berlin 1645

1. In briefing of Berlin House of Representatives Committee September 23 on Senat experience with Visits Arrangement, Senat Chancellery Head Herz said that up to end of August about five million West Berliners had visited East Berlin and GDR. Of these, 22 West Berliners were arrested by GDR (16 for exfiltration, and six for currency, traffic, and narcotics violations). From May through August 1973, 250,000 West Berliners applied for

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visitors' visas. Complaints by West Berliners about
 encountered
 difficulties ~~in obtaining visas~~ at border crossing
 or in obtaining visas
 points/ranged from 100 to 400 per month. Senat believed
 about 12 percent of complaints were legitimate.

2. Herz told Mission Officer that he did not believe
 recent publication by GDR of names of three West
 Berlin-West Germans arrested for exfiltration activities
 signalled
~~signals~~ escalation of GDR campaign against exfiltration.
 He noted this was not first time GDR had published names
 and that, according to West Berlin lawyers who have represented
 GDR
~~requested~~ clients ~~in~~ in East Germany, made certain that
 it had strong case before publishing names.

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