



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification

Pol 38-10

2016

24 NOV 73 0140

Department of State TELEGRAM

INDICATE:

COLLECT

CHARGE TO

U. S. MISSION BERLIN

DISTRIBUTION

E.O. 11652:

~~XXXXXX~~
GDS

TAGS:

PGOV, PFOR, WB, GE, UR

SUBJECT:

Harrassment of U. S. Personnel at Checkpoint Charlie

ACTION:

SEC STATE WASH DC

INFO:

AMEMBASSY BONN

US MISSION NATO

POL3

CINCEUR FOR POLAD AND OPS

MIN2

CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD, OPS, AND AEGG-OCO

USCOB

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

EAS

CINCUSAFE FOR POLAD AND OPS

ECON

USELMLO

USIS

ASAG2

DCSI2

CHRON15

BERLIN 2016

1. At 1115 hours November 23 an enlisted man of Berlin Brigade driving USAREUR-registered vehicle and accompanied by four members of his family entered East Berlin Friedrichstrasse checkpoint with intent of making tour of East Berlin. In accordance with established procedures, serviceman displayed in window of his car the U.S. FORCES BERLIN cards identifying the members of his family. However, rather than allowing vehicle and occupants to pass, East Berlin guard

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DRAFTING DATE

11/24/73

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CLEARANCES:

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USCOB:Col. Ray

Classified by: *g.w. Chapman*
Subject to GDS of EO 11652
Automatically downgraded at _____ intervals.
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Classification

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 67230

By BKT/NC on 26 March 2013

insisted that serviceman hand over identification cards. When latter quite correctly refused to comply, he was informed that he would have to return to West Berlin.

2. After explaining problem to MPs at Checkpoint Charlie, serviceman sought once again to proceed through East Berlin checkpoint. Again East Berlin guard signalled for U.S. Forces Berlin cards to be handed over, which serviceman again refused. Vehicle was thereupon blocked by other guards, and approximately seven photographs were taken of occupants. Subsequently serviceman was given to understand that he could proceed into East Berlin, but, in view of circumstances, he chose to return to West Berlin.

3. Mission Protocol Officer delivered statement in protest to Soviet Protocol Officer Romanovski after noon November 23, recounting facts of incident and pointing out that behavior of East Berlin guards constituted unwarranted and impermissible harrassment of U. S. personnel and a departure from accepted and established procedures governing free movement of Allied personnel throughout Berlin. Following the customary Soviet practice in such case, Romanovski said that he could not accept protest but would take it for informational purposes.

4. Mission suspects that reason for harrassment may have been faulty (very faint) impression seal on each of four U. S. Forces Berlin cards in question. Other U. S. personnel have experienced similar difficulties in past for just this reason.
5. USCOB concurs.

DK
KLEIN (CK)