

7052: GDS
 CS: PCOV
 SUBJECT: [unclear]
 ACTION: [unclear]
 INFO: [unclear]

and three cars
 in East Berlin
 telephoned to Soviet
 vehicle and
 seriousness of incident
 and protest statement in part
 SUMMARY.

1100 Local May 21 US patrol vehicle
 with UJ 978 114 was
 (ABC) patrol car.

DRAFTING DATE	TEL
5/21/77	

DR.
 P.
 CLI

asked by BBC guard for ID card and, upon refusal to produce it, was ordered to dismount. Driver rejected demand and handed over card requesting Soviet officer, at which point BBC guard retrieved AK-47 from car, chambered ~~inserted~~ round ~~in chamber~~ and reiterated order to dismount. Driver complied, was marched to a brick wall some 30 meters away, and was detained there at gunpoint. At 1030 the two other occupants of US patrol vehicle, who had been on photographic reconnaissance mission, returned to scene and were apprehended by second BBC guard and escorted at gunpoint to location near brick wall. At this point second demand was made to speak to Soviet officer. BBC guards then attempted to confiscate camera and film from personnel who had returned from reconnaissance mission. Again at gunpoint, and with one additional guard having chambered round, US personnel were forced to allow BBC guards to remove film from their pockets, which they had succeeded in exposing. (This was verified when film was subsequently returned.)

3. At approximately 1036 a Vopo sedan with three occupants arrived on scene; second sedan arrived at 1040. BBC guards were directed by Vopos to lower their weapons. At 1105 US personnel were allowed to return to their vehicle, at which point they radioed headquarters. At

1150 five BBC officers--including 2 LTC's-- arrived on scene, as did other vehicles and personnel on foot.

4. Upon receiving word of incident, Acting Mission Protocol Officer telephoned Soviet Embassy Protocol Officer Romanovskiy with request for immediate release of vehicle and occupants. Romanovskiy initially denied any Soviet competence in matter, and as second tactic suggested that it could be handled through personal visit to Soviet Embassy in East Berlin rather than over telephone. However, after request for immediate release of US personnel ^{was} ~~XXXX~~ repeated, he agreed to take down details of incident. Romanovskiy also tried ploy of pretending not to understand ~~XXXXXX~~ request in English, which for his benefit was repeated in Russian by EAS section chief. At 1200 local, Romanovskiy came back on line and informed Acting Mission Protocol Officer that he had contacted "responsible GDR authorities" but had been unable to obtain from them any news of ~~XXXXXX~~ incident. He stated he would make further efforts to obtain information and would call back later. Acting Mission Protocol Officer said he relied on Romanovskiy to continue his inquiries on urgent basis, and reiterated expectation that vehicle and occupants would be immediately released.

5. At 1216 one of BBC LTC's informed patrol that it could depart from scene. Patrol commander radioed information to headquarters. Patrol vehicle and occupants were photographed leaving scene.

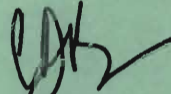
6. Soviet Deputy Protocol Officer Adomaitis called EAS section chief at 1310 to report that only information Soviets had available on incident was that vehicle had now left the area.

7. In view of seriousness of incident, involving not only detention of personnel but also pointing of weapons, chambering of rounds, and forcible dismounting from vehicle, Mission intends unless otherwise instructed to make following oral protest to Soviets in protocol channel on May 22:

BEGIN TEXT: At 1030 hours on May 21 the occupants of a US military vehicle while in East Berlin were physically threatened by East Berlin border guards and one was forced at gunpoint to dismount from the vehicle. Despite repeated insistence on their right to free circulation in East Berlin and repeated requests to speak to Soviet officer, they were detained for ~~two~~^{two} hours, ~~for~~^{for} part of the time at gunpoint. The United States authorities strongly protest this illegal and unprovoked detention of US personnel as well as the dangerous and impermissible

brandishing of loaded weapons by East Berlin guards.
The United States authorities wish in this connection
to reiterate most strongly that they hold the Soviet
authorities responsible for the safety and free and
unhindered circulation of Allied vehicles and personnel
in East Berlin. END TEXT.

8. USCOB concurs.


BORG

TELEGRAM

Foreign Service of the
United States of America

INCOMING

USMISSION BERLIN

~~IMMEDIATE~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

POL 38

IMMEDIATE

TOR: MAY 23, 1120L

ACTION: POL-3 INFO: MIN-2 CHRON

O 230930Z MAY 73
FM US ELEMENT LIVE OAK SHAPE BEL
TO US MISSION BERLIN
BT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ USELMLO 035

SUB: INCIDENT INVOLVING DETENTION OF U.S. PATROL VEHICLE IN
EAST BERLIN ON 21 MAY

REFERENCE: YOUR 211645Z MAY 73, BERLIN 0880

1# AS REPORTED IN PARA TWO OF REFERENCE, LOCATION OF INCIDENT
(RECEIVED AS UU 978) IS UNPLOTTABLE. REQUEST CLARIFICATION OF
POSITION INCIDENT TOOK PLACE.

2. IN ADDITION, REQUEST YOU PROVIDE PERTINENT DETAILS CONCERNING
22 MAY PROTEST MEETING WITH SOVIETS IN PROTOCOL CHANNEL.

GDS - DEEEECALASIFY AFTER 31 MAY 1976

BT

#0009

ACTION TAKEN:

NO ACTION
REQUIRED

DATE

INITIALS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 67230
By BKT/NC on 26 March 2013



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification

Department of State

TELEGRAM

pot 38

23 MAY 73
1453L

INDICATE:

- COLLECT
- CHARGE TO

CONTROL 897

USMISSION BERLIN

DISTRIBUTION

~~XXXXXX~~

E.O. 11652:

GDS

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TAGS:

PGOV, MOPS, WB, GE

SUBJECT:

Detention of U.S. Patrol Vehicle in East Berlin

ACTION:

SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO :

AMEMBASSY BONN
 CINCEUR FOR POLAD & OPS
 CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD, OPS & AEAGG-OCO
 CINCUSAFE FOR POLAD & OPS
 USELMLO
 AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
 USMISSION NATO

BERLIN 897

- POL-5
- MIN-2
- USCOB
- EAS
- ECON
- USIS
- ASAC-2
- DCSI-2
- CHRON
- G-2
- 17

REF: BERLIN 880

1. Mission Protocol Officer made oral protest May 22. Soviet Protocol Officer accepted statement "for information" and retained copy of text (reftel), adding only that U.S. position "clear and well known to us."
2. USCOB concurs.

KLEIN *CK*
u

DRAFTED BY:

EAS:TJMills, Jr:rf

DRAFTING DATE

5/23/73

TEL. EXT.

APPROVED BY:

EAS:AAkalovsky

CLEARANCES:

POL:ALSeighann
 POL:HRPhelps
 USCOB:Col. Renick *JTM for RDR*

Classified by: *AAkalovsky*
 Subject to GDS of EO 11652
 Automatically downgraded at 2-year intervals.
 Declassified on 31 December 19 *79*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification