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- HISTORICAL
COLLECTION
DIVISION-HR70-14 DATE:
05-17-2012

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY

15 September 1960

BERLIN SITUATION

The East German Government on 8 September announced that all West German citizens must obtain special permits to enter East Berlin, thereby forcing them to meet the same requirements to go to East Berlin as to East Germany. The move is a further step toward incorporating the Soviet sector of the city into East Germany and gives the sector border the character of an East German frontier. By making an East German law directly applicable to East Berlin, the East German regime not only bypassed the normal procedures under which East Berlin municipal authorities have re-enacted any legislation applying to the Soviet sector of Berlin but it also clearly violated four-power agreements guaranteeing freedom of movement within the city.

On the same day, party boss Ulbricht revealed his plan for a phased disarmament of Germany in a memorandum to the United Nations. This plan is a rehash of previous proposals and contains provisions for signing a peace treaty with the "two German states," withdrawal of Western troops from West Berlin, and the transformation of West Berlin into a demilitarized free city at the expiration of the first phase in 1961.

Ulbricht warned that Khrushchev's pledge not to take unilateral steps to change the status quo in Berlin before

making another attempt at negotiations does not mean that West Germans and West Berliners should be permitted to "aggravate the anomalous situation in West Berlin." He intimated that his government will continue attempts to weaken West Berlin's ties with West Germany.

The regime has sent a letter to Secretary General Hammarskjold requesting permission for East German representatives--presumably including Ulbricht as new head of state--to present their views on the German and Berlin questions to the General Assembly. This request is obviously intended to bolster East German claims to sovereignty and equality with West Germany--which, although not a UN member, maintains observers in New York.

The East German statement of 13 September that the regime will refuse to recognize West German passports issued to West Berliners who intend to travel abroad--i.e., to bloc countries--is designed to emphasize the East German contention that West Berlin is not a part of West Germany but is a separate legal entity. In practice, the new regulation probably will cause few difficulties, since the East Germans are continuing--at least for the time being--to accept West Berlin identity documents issued by West Berlin authorities in lieu of passports. The announcement states that these

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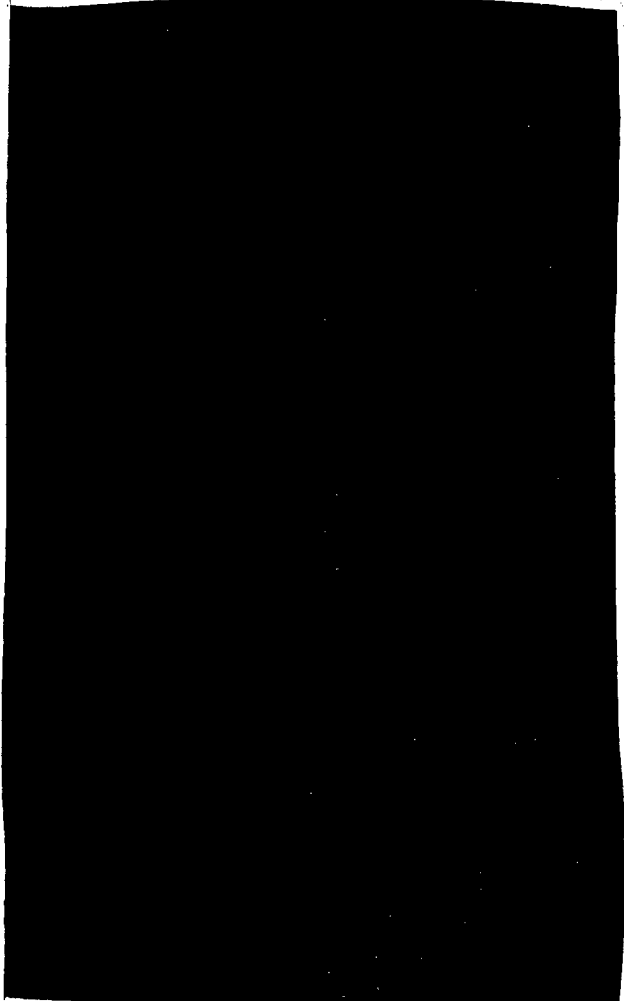
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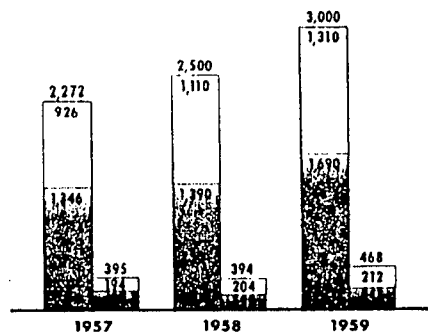
identity cards will also be accepted from West Berliners traveling between the city and West Germany.

The announcement does not state whether West Berliners will be required to obtain East German permits to visit East Berlin, as they are required to do to visit East Germany; the regime's announcement of 9 September imposing restrictions on West German travel to East Berlin expressly excepted West Berliners. It appears that for the time being there will be no attempt to force West Berliners to acknowledge East German "sovereignty" over East Berlin by accepting special documentation.



WEST GERMAN TRADE
(MILLIONS OF DOLLARS)

IMPORTS WITH WEST BERLIN
EXPORTS WITH WEST BERLIN
IMPORTS WITH EAST GERMANY
EXPORTS WITH EAST GERMANY



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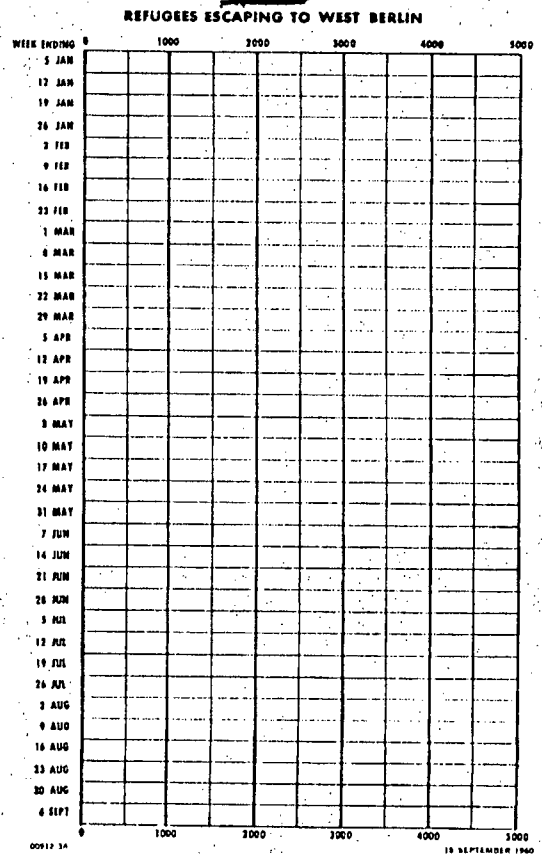
EAST GERMAN REFUGEE FLOW CONTINUES DESPITE CONTROL MEASURES

The East German populace continues to "vote with its feet" against the Ulbricht regime. In the week ending 6 September, more than 3,000 refugees escaped to West Berlin, despite a five-day near-blockade by East German authorities against travel to Berlin, long the principal escape hatch from East Germany. The total for the previous week had been more than 4,500.

Monthly figures have risen steadily, both absolutely and in comparison with last year. Almost 21,500 refugees escaped to the West in August of this year, compared with only 13,610 in August 1959, according to the West German Ministry of Refugees. Of the 21,500, more than 18,000 fled to West Berlin. This exceeds the flow of 16,189 in May in the wake of the forced collectivization and is far above the 10,857 who fled to West Berlin following the uprising in June 1953.

The total of flights to West Germany and West Berlin was almost identical with that of 21,595 in August 1958, when mass flights of intellectuals were at their height. During the first eight months of 1960 more than 126,500 persons applied for refu-

gee status in West Germany and West Berlin, compared with approximately 98,000 during the corresponding period in 1959. The escapees, more than half of whom belong to the labor force, include large numbers of farmers, technicians, and



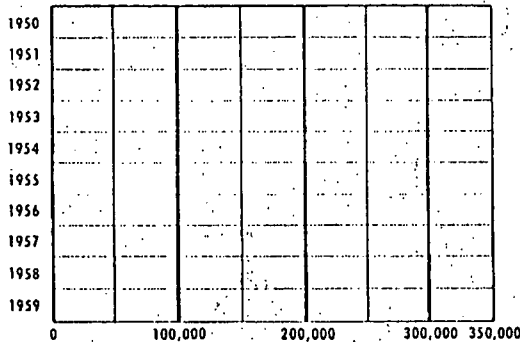
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**NUMBER APPLYING FOR REFUGEE STATUS
TO WEST GERMANY AND WEST BERLIN**



FIGURES ON APPLICANTS WERE FIRST KEPT BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1949.
THE FIGURE FOR THE LAST FOUR MONTHS OF 1949 WAS 99,245

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15 SEPTEMBER 1960

professional men, whose services are badly needed by the Ulbricht regime. Indications point to a total considerably in excess of last year's 144,000, despite intensified East German security precautions.

Reflecting increased international tension and unsettled conditions in East Germany, the number of persons returning from West to East Germany or drawn there by hope of better jobs has fallen this year in comparison with 1959. Refugees reaching West Berlin in July who had previously resettled from West to East Germany told British authorities in Berlin that there was

a sharp drop in the number of individuals asking for admission this spring and that East German officials were being much more careful in their security processing of such individuals.

Whereas last year the East Germans frequently boasted of the high return flow, this year they have been reticent. Their claim that 26,000 persons asked for "asylum" during the first six months contrasts with the claimed figure of 62,000 for the whole of 1959.

The East Germans are likely to continue their harassment of West Berlin, with the aim of reducing its importance as an escape route, and probably will also continue to enforce special controls to limit travel by East Germans to East Berlin. Security precautions on the East - West German frontier are already at a high point and are likely to be maintained at this level. The strict measures now in effect, however, may well cause many East Germans to try to escape at this time if possible, out of fear that all escape routes may soon be closed.

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