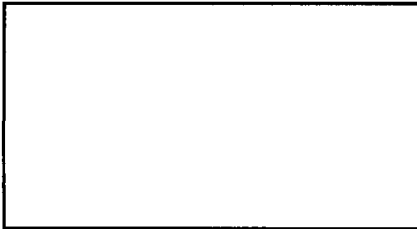


25X1



2 May 1961 25X1



Copy No. C 1

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



25X1

State Dept. review completed

TOP SECRET

***USSR-Berlin:** (Khrushchev used his 24 April conversations with West German Ambassador Kroll to offset the impression that he was committed to a showdown on the Berlin and German questions before the Soviet party congress in October. While strongly emphasizing his determination to achieve a solution during 1961, Khrushchev told Kroll that the bloc had set no precise deadlines and would be willing to wait until the West German elections and "possibly" until the party congress before convening a bloc peace conference to sign a separate treaty with East Germany. Although Khrushchev failed to mention East-West negotiations prior to a bloc conference, his [redacted] remarks over the past several months suggest that he still expects a further round of negotiations and recognizes that the process of arranging new talks will take longer than he anticipated and could extend beyond next fall. He also told Kroll that he was convinced the West would not risk nuclear war over Berlin and that the USSR could cope with any economic sanctions or a break in diplomatic relations. He assured Kroll that the prospect of a showdown over Berlin "need not affect negotiations already begun with the US" but that he was skeptical over such negotiations and, in particular, he believed the US was not seriously interested in disarmament. [redacted]

No

25X1

25X1

25X1


25X1

2 May 61

DAILY BRIEF

ii


[redacted] 25X1


Soviet Proposals for an Interim Agreement on Berlin -

An interim or "temporary" agreement on Berlin will probably be the focal point of the Soviet position in any future negotiations. The USSR introduced the idea of a temporary agreement on Berlin for the first time at the Geneva foreign ministers' conference on 10 June 1959. This proposal modified the original demand for a free city made in November 1958, in that it no longer called for an "immediate and complete abolition" of the occupation in West Berlin. Instead, Gromyko proposed that the West could retain certain rights for one year and that communications to Berlin would continue "in their present form." During this period the Western powers would reduce their troops in Berlin to "token" contingents, prohibit stationing of nuclear or rocket weapons in West Berlin, and prohibit subversive activities and hostile propaganda against the bloc; an all-German committee would be established to examine the questions of a peace treaty and unification. If this committee failed to reach agreement, the USSR would sign a separate peace treaty with East Germany, and Gromyko explained that this would terminate all Western rights in Berlin.

In response to Western counterproposals for an interim agreement, Gromyko on 19 June extended the Soviet plan to 18 months and modified it by proposing that at the end of this period the foreign ministers could resume consideration of the Berlin question, but would have to give "due regard for the situation obtaining at that time." Gromyko was deliberately vague on the status of Western rights in Berlin after the expiration of the agreement. The 19 June proposal also dropped the provision for a guarantee of the interim status by the Big Four and East Germany.

On 28 July, shortly before the conference adjourned, Gromyko submitted another 18-month solution, incorporating previous provisions but aimed at "changing the existing situation in West Berlin." For the first time, the USSR formally spelled out a precise level for Western troops in Berlin--a combined total of 3,000 to 4,000. A four-power commission



would supervise the agreement, and at the end of the period the Geneva Conference would reconvene if the all-German negotiation had failed. Moscow did not publish this proposal.

The only subsequent authoritative mention of an interim agreement was the USSR's 17 February memorandum to Bonn, which stated, "The Soviet position does not preclude the possibility of a temporary settlement of the West Berlin issue prior to the conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany, but on the condition that an exact date for the conclusion of this treaty is fixed." This reference to a peace treaty at the close of the interim period suggests that Moscow has in mind the unpublished proposal of 9 May 1960.