

July 21, 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

1. Attached is a chronology of the preparation of our aide memoire on Berlin. I think the moral of it is that no one was really riding herd all the way through. We can and will keep a sharp eye on later problems of this sort through the White House member of the coordinating group. *Berlin*
2. Miscellaneous interesting intelligence telegrams on Soviet noises about Berlin. *All TDC's, (NY & NY, Frankfurt)
3/3/61, 3/11/61, 3/15/61, 4/6/61, 4/11/61, 4/15/61, 4/27-7/17*
3. Report on our exploitation of the East German exodus and an up-to-date cable giving the current rates of movement. *Berlin*
4. For your reference, a copy of the letter sent to Macmillan today. Except for the first two paragraphs, the letters to de Gaulle and Adenauer are identical. *Macmillan Cable - (Zyngier)*
5. A translation of de Gaulle's letter to you of July 6th showing that you and he are on the same wavelength. *de Gaulle Cable (Zyngier)*
6. Two interesting conversations with Menshikov. Nitze's report in particular is worth attention, partly because it shows that Paul did a good job. *Berlin*
7. A very interesting memorandum from Harlan Cleveland on the United Nations. Cleveland is one of the best of those who want to be sure that full attention is given to the political as well as the military aspects of the Berlin crisis. I myself do not agree with the notion of a heavy UN presence in Berlin, but the argument is worth your attention. *Berlin*
8. A memorandum from General Taylor on Berlin airlift. *Berlin*
9. Dispatches from Paris and Brussels about Ambassador Blankenhorn and comment from Lightner on the views of Strauss. *Paris - (B. Strauss) file*
10. CIA Estimate of Soviet response to improvement in NATO conventional capabilities -- this paper concludes that they will find the nuclear deterrent more credible because of the conventional build-up. *NATO*

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11. A very intelligent paper from Thomas Shelling on nuclear strategy in Berlin. If you find this paper at all persuasive, you will wish to start work on these problems in the Defense Department where there is still a hideous jump between conventional warfare and a single massive all-out blast. : Berlin

12. Copies of our aide memoire and of the report of Gromyko's response.

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Moscow 179

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Jill