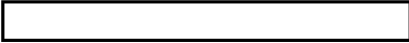


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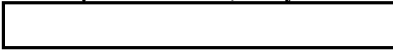


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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
22 JUNE 1953

WORLD REACTION TO EAST GERMAN RIOTS
(Part No. 3)



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Soviet Bloc

The East German press and radio have continued their intensive attacks on "Western agents" accused of causing the riots and added new specific charges. A letter from the Soviet commandant to the US commander in Berlin accused Western representatives in Berlin of responsibility for the "crimes of the hirelings-provocateurs of war." It stated that communications within Berlin would be restored when the Western powers took measures to control the criminals guilty of the provocations in East Berlin. The letter included the text of the interrogation of a prisoner from the US sector of Berlin who "admitted" taking part in a plan directed by an American two-star general which was aimed at turning the peaceful demonstrations into riots.

The Communist party announced that foreign planes had parachuted saboteurs into the Soviet zone of Germany to keep the flames of rebellion going. While claiming that a great number of them had been arrested, the party admitted that quiet had not yet been entirely secured. Official announcements that strikes and demonstrations have ended in specific cities have confirmed the widespread nature of the disturbances.

The Soviet press and radio continued on 21 June, although with less intensity, to charge the Western powers, especially the US, with the responsibility for the riots. Soviet propaganda organs have continued to repeat the East German interpretation of the riots but have made no authoritative original comment. Commentaries have included eye-witness accounts of "arson and assault" committed by "hooligans in American checked shirts" belonging to some 30 US-sponsored terrorist organizations. These "diversionary activities" are said to be financed by MSA, the Ford Foundation and the AF of L, and aided by such persons as a former top aide of Himmler.

The reports from Germany were accompanied on 21 June by a broadcast to Soviet troops in East Germany warning that the current situation there heightens the need for "vigilance" on the

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part of Soviet soldiers against the machinations of "imperialist intelligence services" which seek to undermine the USSR and its armed services. Pravda used a similar theme in its lead editorial on 21 June which called for "vigilance" inside the USSR against the agents of American intelligence.

After maintaining complete silence on the Berlin disturbances for almost 48 hours, all Satellites except Rumania reported the East German version of the riots. The uniformity of the Satellite propaganda reactions, both in timing and content, is a clear indication they were issued on the basis of instructions from Moscow. News of the riots was accompanied by no known instances of popular demonstrations or increased security measures in the Satellites.

Western Europe

In West Germany, the Bonn defense commissioner has said that the Eastern threat to the German people compels the Federal Republic to pursue an active defense policy. A mourning ceremony for the victims of the East German rebellion was held on 21 June at the Federal Parliament building in Bonn. Representatives of the diplomatic corps and many organizations heard the principal address delivered by President Heuss, who declared the rising to be "an incalculable plebiscite of the German people under Soviet mastery for the right of freedom." The demonstrations, he said, showed above all the need for free, all-German elections.

The executive secretary of the German trade union league appealed to all workers and civil servants to observe five minutes of silence on 22 June as an expression of sorrow for the East German victims.

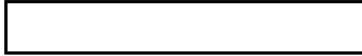
Southeast Asia

In Indonesia, the East German riots are receiving prominent press attention, although editorial comment thus far has been limited. One Moslem daily sees strong evidence that the lot of the common man behind the Iron Curtain differs greatly from that pictured by communist propaganda. A communist paper reiterates the East German interpretation of the disturbances.

Far East

In the Philippines, Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs Neri was quoted as stating that the East German riots would carry immense consequences, as serious as the armistice in Korea. In the only reported press comment, the American-owned Manila

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Bulletin viewed the riots as the "spontaneous outbursts of an oppressed people," which revealed the internal weaknesses of the Communist Party in East Germany.

The Peiping Home Service commented three times on 20 June about the East German disturbances, and each time reflected the TASS report blaming the riots on "secret agents" of the US and West Germany. The commentary also reported that Otto Nuschke has been "kidnapped" by "western agents" but was later returned.

Near East

No new comment.

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