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25 August 1961

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CENTRAL

INTELLIGENCE

BULLETIN



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State Dept. review completed

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West Berlin: A planned meeting in West Berlin of West German refugee and expellee groups on 1-3 September may be the occasion for the imposition of East German measures to bar West Germans from East Berlin and to refuse passage at the East - West German border to identifiable participants in the refugee meeting. Such moves, which would probably be announced in advance as was the case last year, would violate last December's understanding between Bonn and the East Germans, consequently risking a breakoff by West Germany of interzonal trade. East Germany probably expects that suspension of interzonal trade is inevitable, and hence may attach no great significance to risking such reprisal even before a peace treaty.

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The increasing assertiveness of the East Germans and the tone of the latest Soviet note suggest that the Communists are planning to maintain a state of high tension in Berlin and sustain the momentum of their recent actions. Thus far, however, Communist propaganda has not focused on the scheduled meeting.

The refugee meeting might also be the pretext for following the Soviet protest note with increased pressure on the Western civilian airlines to accede to East German controls over their passengers and cargo; while direct physical interference with air travel appears unlikely because of risk of provoking a military clash, the Soviets may temporarily refuse to guarantee the safety of civilian flights during the refugee meeting.

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