

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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September 8, 1961

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM: *WWR*
WWR

SUBJECT: Potential Aspect of General Clay's Mission.

Some thought has been given in town over the past week to one aspect of General Clay's mission. You may wish to be aware of this potential dimension of the job envisaged for him.

It is clear that we have both a short-run and a long-run problem of West Berlin morale. If it is not solved in the long run Khrushchev could win by default. This problem centers on the question: What kind of mission does West Berlin have that transcends this small piece of real estate? Without such a mission the young and the first-rate may drain away. If we assume that its role as a beacon to the East will be radically limited, it might be well worth looking to the underdeveloped areas.

As you may know, West Berlin has now a substantial number of foreign students and even a small technical training operation.

Two concrete ideas to expand this mission are the following:*

-- To engage the large and sophisticated West Berlin electrical industry in training Afro-Asians in electrical engineering technology; designing and producing for the underdeveloped areas special types of electrical equipment needed there (e.g., special transistor TV's for villages which do not have electricity); providing for younger Berliners tours of technical assistance overseas.

*A third idea -- which could only be implemented as part of an agreement with the Russians -- is that the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe be shifted from Geneva to Berlin. This would give Berlin a mission to the East less disruptive from the Soviet point of view than its past mission with respect to East Germany.

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5(b)

White House Guidelines

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By mmk NARA, Date 4/17/97

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-- Building up special courses in the Berlin University for Afro-Asian students. A good and well staffed proposal to this end is now going through the working levels of the Berlin Task Force.

The notion is that General Clay undertake to press these -- or similar -- ideas forward. His operational energy and prestige would be invaluable in engaging West Germans as well as West Berliners in such enterprises.

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