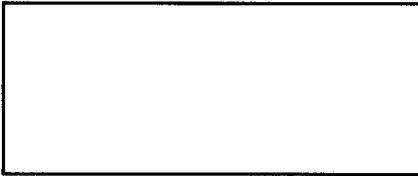


TOP SECRET

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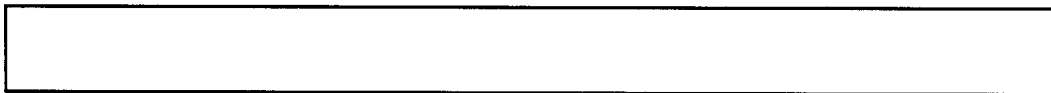


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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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DIA review(s) completed.

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*Berlin: (information as of 0330 EST) According to reports from American officials in Berlin, the Communists have placed steel beams in a zig-zag pattern across the Helmstedt autobahn near the checkpoint at Babelsberg at its eastern end just before it enters West Berlin. The only purpose of this barrier as so far constructed seems to be to slow down traffic. The barrier is reported to be on the strip between the Soviet and US checkpoints and to have been constructed only on the lane incoming from West Germany. No such barriers have apparently been erected at the western end of the autobahn at Helmstedt. This reported construction is similar to the barriers put in place at the Friedrichstrasse inter-Berlin sector crossing point in connection with recent attempts by the East Berlin police to institute documentary control over official western vehicular traffic when the passengers were in civilian dress.

There have been no indications of change in the Communist position that pending a separate treaty or a negotiated settlement, allied access to West Berlin will remain under Soviet control. It is possible that the construction is simply intended as a reminder of the Soviet position that Western "procrastination" on negotiations with the USSR will result in unilateral Soviet action--a separate treaty followed by the turnover of access controls to the East Germans. However, recent actions within the city of Berlin suggest that the Communists could be preparing attempts to establish East German control over official Western autobahn travelers proceeding to West Berlin in civilian dress.

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DAILY BRIEF

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