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FROM: BERLIN

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 176, AUGUST 13, 11 AM

NIACT

ACTION DEPARTMENT 176, BONN NIACT 150, INFORMATION PARIS PRIORITY 98, LONDON PRIORITY 92, MOSCOW PRIORITY 89, POLAD USAREUR PRIORITY 87

PASS FOR EMBASSY, USRO, STOESEL AND FINN

EARLY MORNING AUG 13 EAST GERMAN REGIME INTRODUCED DRASTIC CONTROL MEASURES WHICH HAVE EFFECT OF PREVENTING ENTRY INTO WEST BERLIN OF SOVZONE AND EAST BERLIN RESIDENTS. THREE DECREES WERE ISSUED BY REGIME, ACCOMPANIED BY GDR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS RESOLUTION BASING DECREES ON DECLARATION OF WARSAW PACT GOVERNMENTS WHICH REQUESTS THAT GDR TAKE SUCH ACTION. MISSION OBSERVERS ASCERTAINED EARLY MORNING HOURS SUN, AUG 13 THAT CONTROL MEASURES WERE BEING IMPLEMENTED.

RMR

EVIDENTLY AS A RESULT OF INCREASED REFUGEE FLOW WITH ATTENDANT ECONOMIC LOSS TO GDR AND PRESTIGE LOSS TO SOCIALIST CAMP, EAST DECIDED AT RECENT MOSCOW CONFERENCE OF WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES TO PROCEED WITH FAIR ACCOMPLISHMENT WHICH WOULD DRASTICALLY DISRUPT FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT WITHIN BERLIN AND ERECT FRONTIER WITH RESPECT ENTRY INTO WEST BERLIN OF SOVZONE AND EAST BERLIN RESIDENTS. IN THIS WAY EAST HAS NOW TAKEN SOME OF THE STEPS WHICH IT HAD BEEN ANTICIPATED WOULD FOLLOW FROM SEPARATE PEACE TREATY WITH GDR.

SUMMARY OF DECREES CONTAINED NEXT FOLLOWING MESSAGE.

ASSUME DEPT HAS RECEIVED BERLIN "CRITIC CHANNEL" MESSAGES SENT EARLY THIS MORNING.

LIGHTNER

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| ACTION ASSIGNED TO NAME OF OFFICER | NOTE: PASSED WHITE HOUSE, 8/13/61 | DATE OF RECEIPT | DIRECTIONS |
| OFFICE SYMBOL | FILE | 8/12/61 | File |

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86-2-181 / 8-1361

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