

RADIO FREE EUROPE  
MUNICH

OUTGOING CIPHER MESSAGE

TO: C

1970 MAR 31 15:30

MUN 81 31 MAR 70

TO: DURKEE INFO YARROW HOVEY DUNNING REYMAN KAUFMANN SCHNEIDER  
FM: WALTER INFO COOK BROWN KOHAK LYON

311510:

RFE DAILY REPORT NO. 73

1. BULGARIA: NOTHING.
2. CZECHOSLOVAKIA: NOTHING.
3. HUNGARY: NOTHING.
4. POLAND: NOTHING.
5. RUMANIA: NOTHING.

6. OTHER: THE EAST GERMAN RESPONSE TO THE SUSPENSION OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ALLIED TRAVEL BOARD IN BERLIN AND THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE REQUIREMENT THAT EAST GERMANS MUST HAVE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS TO TRAVEL TO NATO COUNTRIES HAS BEEN DEPRECATORY. "NEUES DEUTSCHLAND" OBSERVED THAT IT WAS A "LONG OVERDUE BUT NEVERTHELESS HALF-HEARTED WITHDRAWAL." NEUES DEUTSCHLAND SAID THE SUSPENSION TOOK PLACE UNDER "THE STRONG PRESSURE OF REALITIES" AND THEREFORE COULD NOT BE CONSIDERED AS A CONCESSION. THE RESPONSIBLE WEST GERMAN PRESS GENERALLY REGARDED THE SUSPENSION AS A POSITIVE STEP IN THE DIRECTION OF DETENTE THROUGH PERMITTING GREATER MOBILITY BETWEEN EAST AND WEST AND A GESTURE OF GOOD WILL WHICH SHOULD NOW BE MATCHED BY SOME ACTION FROM THE OTHER SIDE.

WHILE THERE HAS BEEN SOME CRITICISM IN THE SOVIET PRESS OF BRANDT FOR NOT BEING REALISTIC AND RECOGNIZING THE GDR "DE JURE", THE GENERAL POSITION ON THE ERFURT MEETING HAS BEEN POSITIVE. "PRAVDA" ON MARCH 29 SAID THAT THE MEETING BETWEEN BRANDT AND STOPH MAY LEAD TO NORMALIZATION, CITING THE MEETING AS LEADING WIDER SECTIONS OF THE WEST GERMAN PUBLIC TO A "MORE SOBER APPRAISAL OF THE EXISTING SITUATION." THE ARTICLE CRITICIZED BRANDT FOR TRYING TO MANEUVER THE PROBLEM OF NORMALIZATION "INTO A SUBJECT FOR POLITICAL BARGAINING." THE SOVIETS CONTINUE TO HOLD OUT HOPE OF "NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS" (WHATEVER THAT MAY MEAN IN SPECIFIC TERMS) AS A REWARD FOR "DE JURE" RECOGNITION OF THE GDR.

(MORE)

PAGE 2    MUN 81

WE ARE INCLINED TO AGREE WITH MARDER IN THE WASHINGTON POST OF 28 MARCH, THAT IN ESCALATING ITS PROPAGANDA TO THE "WE SHALL NOT SIT IDLY BY" LEVEL ON LAOS, PEKING IS NOT COMMITTING ITSELF TO ANYTHING. PEKING'S REAL CONCERN IN OUR OPINION IS ITS SOVIET FRONTIER. FOLLOWING THE ARTICLE BY I. ALEXANDROV (AS THE NYT CORRECTLY POINTS OUT, AN INFREQUENT PSEUDONYM USED FOR MAKING A SERIOUS THREAT) AND THE SPATE OF SUBSEQUENT ARTICLES IN THE HEIGHTENED SOVIET PRESS CAMPAIGN AGAINST PEKING, THE CHINESE HAVE REASON TO BE CONCERNED WITH THE PROGRESS OF THE KUZNETZOV TALKS IN PEKING. DURING THE COURSE OF SVOBODA'S STOPOVER IN ULAN BATOR THE CHINESE WERE ATTACKED IN THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE AND BY MONGOLIAN PRESIDENT SAMBA AT A CZECHOSLOVAK-MONGOLIAN FRIENDSHIP MEETING.

END MSG