

RADIO FREE EUROPE
MUNICH

OUTGOING CIPHER MESSAGE

TO: C

FEB 19 15:42

MUN 38 19 FEB 70

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

191430

RFE DAILY REPORT NO. 41

1. BULGARIA: ACCORDING TO CETEKA, ZHIVKOV GAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY IN PRAGUE FOR CZECHOSLOVAK JOURNALISTS AND JOURNALISTS FROM THE "SOCIALIST" COUNTRIES ACCREDITED TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA. ACCORDING TO TANJUG (DS), ZHIVKOV INSISTED THAT YUGOSLAV JOURNALISTS NOT BE INVITED. ZHIVKOV'S ANSWERS WERE IN GENERAL OF NO PARTICULAR INTEREST. HOWEVER, IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION FROM THE ADN CORRESPONDENT BACHMANN ON BONN'S OSTPOLITIK, ZHIVKOV SEEMED TO MAKE BONN'S DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION OF THE GDR A PRECONDITION TO DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN BONN AND ALL EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. IN REPORTING THE PRESS CONFERENCE, CETEKA (IN ENGLISH) STATED: "IF WILLY BRANDT'S GOVERNMENT SINCERELY WISHES TO REGULATE ITS RELATIONS WITH THE SOCIALIST STATES AND TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THEM, ONE OF THE CONDITIONS MUST BE TO EXTEND RECOGNITION TO THE GDR AS A STATE." (THE CETEKA REPORT WAS NOT IN THE FORM OF A DIRECT QUOTE OF ZHIVKOV.) WHILE ADMITTEDLY IT WAS NOT CLAIMED THAT ZHIVKOV USED THE PHRASE "DE JURE" RECOGNITION OF THE GDR, THE STATEMENT COULD BE INTERPRETED TO IMPLY AS MUCH. THIS STATEMENT HAS NOT BEEN CARRIED ON OTHER CZECHOSLOVAK OR BULGARIAN MEDIA MATERIAL AVAILABLE TO US FROM MONITORING, AND WE SHALL CHECK FURTHER TO SEE IF IT WILL BE. WE CONSIDER IT POSSIBLE THAT ZHIVKOV CLUMSILY AND UNINTENTIONALLY USED A MORE CLEAR FORMULATION ON THIS ISSUE THAN HAS BEEN USED IN THE PAST, AND THAT PUBLISHED VERSIONS OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE WILL RETURN TO THE TRADITIONAL MORE FUZZY FORMULATION. BD'S WILL DRAW ATTENTION TO THE STATEMENTS, ASKING IF ZHIVKOV IS THE AUTHORIZED SPOKESMAN FOR ALL THE EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING POLAND, AND ASKING IF BONN'S DE JURE RECOGNITION OF PANKOW IS INDEED A PRECONDITION FOR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH BONN. WE SHALL ALSO BROADCAST ANY WEST GERMAN REACTIONS TO THE ZHIVKOV STATEMENT. (TODAY'S NEUES DEUTSCHLAND, WHICH JUST ARRIVED, CARRIES THE STATEMENT, BUT OMITTS THE REFERENCE TO PRECONDITIONS FOR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, MENTIONING ONLY THE PRECONDITION FOR "REGULARIZING" FRG RELATIONS WITH EAST EUROPE.)

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2. CZECHOSLOVAKIA: NOTHING

3. HUNGARY: NOTHING

4. POLAND: NOTHING

5. RUMANIA: RUMANIAN MEDIA HAVE MADE ABSOLUTELY NO RPT NO
MENTION OF THE NIXON FOREIGN POLICY REPORT AS OF THIS WRITING
(1130 MT).

4. POLAND: NOTHING

5. RUMANIA: RUMANIAN MEDIA HAVE MADE ABSOLUTELY NO RPT NO MENTION OF THE NIXON FOREIGN POLICY REPORT AS OF THIS WRITING (1130 MT).

6. OTHER: BRANDT HAS REPLIED TO STOPH'S PROPOSAL FOR DISCUSSIONS IN A MEASURED, OPEN-ENDED, TELEXED MESSAGE IN WHICH HE SUGGESTED THAT NEITHER SIDE ENTER DISCUSSIONS WITH ANY PRECONDITIONS AND EXPRESSED HIS PREFERENCE NOT TO COMMENT ON THE DETAILS OF THE EAST GERMAN PREMIER'S NOTE. BRANDT, IN HIS REPLY, CITED NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO GERMAN STATES AS AN IMPORTANT CONDITION FOR THE REDUCTION OF TENSION AND A CONTRIBUTION TO THE SECURITY OF EUROPE. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE MEETING TAKE PLACE BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES NOT LATER THAN THE SECOND OR THIRD WEEK IN MARCH AND STATED THAT HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY MINISTER FRANKE AND OTHERS. SINCE STOPH HAD PROPOSED THAT EAST BERLIN BE THE VENUE OF THE FIRST MEETING, BRANDT COUNTERED BY PROPOSING THAT THE SECOND MEETING TAKE PLACE IN BONN. EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES IN GENERAL REACTED POSITIVELY TO THE BRANDT AGREEMENT TO MEET PREMIER STOPH. RADIO WARSAW OBSERVED THAT A STEP FORWARD HAD BEEN TAKEN; "THAT IN A CERTAIN SENSE BONN HAS RETURNED THE BALL, AND THAT ON THE POLITICAL PLANE SOME PROGRESS IN THE FORM OF THE EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN THE CHIEFS OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED." RADIO PRAGUE'S BONN CORRESPONDENT FAIX OBSERVED THAT THE DECISION OF THE BRANDT GOVERNMENT WOULD MEET WITH "GREAT SUPPORT" AMONG THE WEST GERMAN PUBLIC AND THAT "EVEN THE LEADERS OF THE OPPOSITION CLEARICAL PARTIES" HAD RECOGNIZED THIS AND HAD ISSUED A STATEMENT SUPPORTING BRANDT. FAIX NOTES THAT BRANDT'S DECISION NOT TO BRING FOREIGN MINISTER SCHEEL TO THE MEETING IS A REFLECTION OF THE BONN GOVERNMENT'S POSITION THAT EAST GERMANY IS NOT A FOREIGN COUNTRY AND THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO GERMAN STATES HAVE A SPECIAL CHARACTER. THE BULGARIAN NEWS AGENCY'S BONN CORRESPONDENT, IGNATOV, SAID THAT THE DECISION TO HOLD TALKS CAN BE EVALUATED AS A POSITIVE MANIFESTATION AND THAT BRANDT'S AGREEMENT TO MEET STOPH HOLDS REAL PROSPECTS FOR CONCRETE HIGH-LEVEL TALKS. THE HUNGARIAN RESPONSE WAS LESS ENTHUSIASTIC. RADIO BUDAPEST MERELY STATED THE POSITIONS OF BOTH PARTIES TO THE DISCUSSIONS, NOTING THAT PROGRESS WOULD DEPEND ON THE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN MOSCOW AND THE WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT. RUMANIA HAS YET TO COMMENT ON THE BRANDT REPLY. THE ONE DISCORDANT NOTE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN REGISTERED FROM EAST BERLIN. ADN SAID THAT

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BRANDT'S REPLY HAD AVOIDED THE BASIC ISSUE AND CRITICIZED BRANDT FOR MAKING NO REFERENCE TO THE EAST GERMAN DRAFT TREATY PROPOSED BY ULBRICHT IN DECEMBER. ADN GAVE NO INDICATION AS TO WHETHER BRANDT'S SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR THE MEETING WOULD BE ACCEPTED. BDS ARE ROUNDING UP THE EAST EUROPEAN RESPONSES, NOTING THEIR GENERALLY POSITIVE TONE.

CONCERNING YESTERDAY'S DAILY REPORT ITEM ON THE RESIGNATION OF TVARDOVSKY FROM "COMES," SEVERAL SPECULATIVE THESES WERE ADVANCED AS TO WHY SUCH ACTION HAD BEEN TAKEN. TODAY'S GWERTZ-MANN PIECE FROM MOSCOW PUTS THE ENTIRE MATTER IN A NEW LIGHT, INVALIDATING OUR MESSAGE OF YESTERDAY. IT SEEMS THAT, ACCORDING TO "LITERATURNAYA GAZETA," A DECISION HAD BEEN MADE BY THE SOVIET WRITERS' UNION TO BREAK CONTACT WITH "COMES" AND THAT NOT ONLY TVARDOVSKY HAD RESIGNED BUT ALSO THE CONSERVATIVE HEAD OF THE GEORGIAN WRITERS UNION, ABASHIDZE, APPARENTLY OVER THE INTERPOSITION OF "COMES" IN THE SOLZHENITSYN AFFAIR IN THE FORM OF A LETTER FROM VIGORELLI SUPPORTING SOLZHENITSYN.

END MSG