Correspondence between Philip Johnston and Harry S. Truman, September 12, 1948.

Note: This is a letter from a private citizen, Philip Johnston, to President Truman. In his letter Johnston is referring to a recent article from the Los Angeles Times which discusses possible solutions to the Berlin blockade.

Sourcing questions:
1) Who was the author of the document?
2) Who was the intended audience? (Who was it meant for?)
3) When was the document written?
4) Why did the author write it? What was their purpose?
5) Do you think Philip Johnston is a supporter of Truman? Why/why not?
Source 2


Note: This source is an excerpt from a report made to the National Security Council by the Secretary of Defense concerning the situation in Berlin.

COPY
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
Washington

26 July 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL:

Subject: U. S. Military Courses of Action with Respect to the Situation in Berlin

I am forwarding herewith, for the information of the National Security Council, the following views which have been expressed by the Joint Chiefs of Staff on the matter of United States military courses of action with respect to the situation in Berlin:

The following discussion is intended to set forth in general terms, and from the military viewpoint, the salient features of the present Berlin situation. The Joint Chiefs of Staff are prepared to supply such further and more detailed information as may be requested. They would appreciate opportunity to comment on such determination as may later be reached by the National Security Council on aspects of the situation in Berlin that have military implications.

As a fundamental basis for consideration of the Berlin problem, it is assumed that it is United States policy to maintain our position in Berlin. This makes it essential to examine the courses of action that this policy necessitates and those to which it may lead.

Careful study of results to date, together with calculations of Berlin supply requirements and maximum air transport capabilities, indicates that minimum requirements can be met by air transport. This will entail augmentation of the present air transport effort to the greatest possible extent. This in turn will further and seriously reduce our air capabilities for implementing emergency war plans including the essential support by the Military Air Transport Service of those plans. Also, there will be a major and serious drain on available supplies of aviation gasoline, which may necessitate special action to provide necessary controls to overcome the inherent peacetime difficulty of meeting the heavy additional aviation gasoline demand and maintaining adequate reserve stocks.

Sourcing questions:

1) Who was the author of the document?
2) Who was the intended audience? (Who was it meant for?)
3) When was the document written?
4) Why did the author write it? What was their purpose?
5) Does the author support the idea of an airlift? What is the evidence to support that?
Source 3

Note: This source is a letter from President Truman's secretary to the mayor of Toledo, Ohio, Michael Disalle. Truman's secretary is responding to Disalle's letter concerning the Berlin blockade.

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July 26, 1948

Dear Mr. Mayor:

Thank you for your telegram of July 17th addressed to the President, with the proposal that the Red Cross be invited, through the United Nations, to aid the people of Berlin. Your concern over the present situation and your constructive proposal for assistance to the German people are appreciated as renewed evidence of the deep humanitarian feelings of the American people toward suffering and distress throughout the world.

You may be sure that this Government has been giving, and will continue to give, every consideration to all practical measures to relieve the situation in Berlin, and that your proposal is being considered along with others.

Very sincerely yours,

MATTHEW J. CONNELLY
Secretary to the President.

Honorable Michael V. Disalle,
Mayor of Toledo,
Toledo, Ohio.

[Signature]

to State of appropriate consideration by memo 7-26-48

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Sourcing questions:
1) Who was the author of the document?
2) Who was the intended audience? (Who was it meant for?)
3) When was the document written?
4) Why did the author write it? What was their purpose?
5) Is this source reliable? Why/who not?
Source 4

Recording of former President Harry S. Truman discussing his decisions during the blockade of Berlin.

Date: 1964

Library: Harry S. Truman Library

Creator: Talent Associates, Ltd. and Screen Gems, Inc.

Permanent Link: https://goo.gl/u7ssfU

http://www.presidentialtimeline.org/#/object/1300

Sourcing questions:
1) Who was the person on this recording?
2) Who was the intended audience? (Who was it meant for?)
3) When was the recording created?
4) Why did the author record it? What was their purpose?
5) What did you learn from the recording that you did not learn from the other sources?
Source 5
1948 Berlin Airlift Newsreel, Universal International

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A2ej9vdo--4&feature=youtu.be

Note: A newsreel is a form of short documentary film that was prevalent from the 1910s through the 1960s, regularly released in a public presentation place and containing filmed news stories and items of topical interest.

Sourcing questions:
1) Who was the creator of the video?
2) Who was the intended audience? (Who was it meant for?)
3) When was the video created?
4) What was the purpose of the video?
Source 6

Note: This source is a copy of a telegram of Alfred M. Bingham, the chairman of the American Association for a Democratic Germany.

Sourcing questions:
1) Who was the author of the document?
2) Who was the intended audience? (Who was it meant for?)
3) When was the document written?
4) Why did the author write it? What was their purpose?
5) What does the author want Truman to do about the Berlin blockade?
Monday, July 19, 1948:

Have quite a day. See some politicians. A meeting with General Marshall and Jim Forestal on Berlin and the Russian situation. Marshall states the facts and the condition with which we are faced. I'd made the decision ten days ago to stay in Berlin. Jim wants to hedge - he always does. He's constantly sending me alibi memos which I return with directions and the facts. We'll stay in Berlin - come what may. Royal, Draper and Jim Forestal come in later. I have to listen to a rehash of what I know already and reiterate my "Stay in Berlin" decision. I don't pass the buck, nor do I alibi out of any decision I make.
WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
INCOMING CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

TOP SECRET

NR: DA-TT-9300
(April '48)

WASHINGTON:
DA-1

From Bradley

We are receiving many inquiries from members of Congress as to why we do not evacuate dependents from Berlin.

Evacuation now might be plausible because it would reduce number to be supplied by air.

Such evacuation might be interpreted as either start of withdrawal from Berlin entirely, or on the other hand as a clearing of decks for action if necessary. What is your thinking on this subject in view of new situation?

DU-1

To: Dept of Army

1. Highway and air traffic conditions are normal today. Civil freight for Germsa moving normally. Military freight into Berlin appears to be moving normally so far free from attempted search. Passenger trains not moving in view of Soviet action. Also, no outward movement by rail of military
freight as no loadings can be made without Soviet permission and this we will not ask.

2. Compromise believed impossible to attain now as in my view this is only Soviet first step. British Deputy visited Soviet Deputy last evening to find opening and found none.

3. We can continue under present conditions indefinitely and in my opinion should do so although this will require substantial increase in air passenger lift. British wish to propose compromise but I can not agree that such an offer would serve any useful purpose except humiliating rebuff.

4. I do not believe we should evacuate now. In emergency, we can evacuate quickly. However, evacuation now would play into Soviet hands and frighten rest of Europe.

5. I propose (A) to sit tight, spending most of my time in Berlin for immediate future. (B) to let dependents who are nervous go home. (C) to speed up planned transfer of employees to Frankfurt. (D) to gradually move unessential employees. This will be done over weeks rather than days so that each additional aggravation will find our support problem lessened. In general, in spite of some imaginative correspondents' reports our people are calm and continuing their everyday life normally.

6. While Soviets won train victory in success in stopping move, I am sure our position has topped for time being further interference with air and highway movements which would require force to implement.

7. I anticipate in next few weeks, Soviet demand for our withdrawal because of failure of act to govern Germany. I think we should await such demand before making any decision to evacuate non-combatants.

8. While British would like to find a compromise, Robertson assured me today he would stick with us. French are firm now but not wholly reliable.

9. Finally, there are few dependants here who have any thought of leaving unless required to do so. I do wish to emphasize there is little nervousness among them here. Our stake is too high and evacuation would deceive no one as to military intent.

Sourcing questions:
1) Who was the author of the document?
2) Who was the intended audience? (Who was it meant for?)
3) When was the document written?
4) Why did the author write it? What was their purpose?
5) Why do the words “Top Secret” appear on the document?
6) Is this a reliable source? Why/why not?
Source 9
Motion Picture 342-USA-17643 - Outtakles from "Operations Vittles", 1948

Note: This source is an excerpt from a U.S. Air Force movie concerning the Berlin airlift.


Sourcing questions:
1) Who was the creator of the video?
2) Who was the intended audience? (Who was it meant for?)
3) When was the video created?
4) What was the purpose of the video?
5) What does the video show?
Sourcing questions:

1) Who was the creator of this cartoon?
2) Who was the intended audience? (Who was it meant for?)
3) When was the cartoon created?
4) What was the purpose of the cartoon?
5) What does the cartoon show? Explain the meaning of the cartoon in your own words.