



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON

July 13, 1948

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SUMMARY OF TELEGRAMS

GERMANY We are proposing to the British and French that, if the Soviets have not replied to our note on Berlin by July 14, the three western Ambassadors in Moscow should jointly inquire of the Kremlin when a reply may be expected. If the Soviets do not indicate that a reply will be forthcoming this week, we will proceed on the assumption that this silence constitutes a refusal to lift the blockade or to discuss the Berlin question.

Ambassador Murphy comments that our proposed lines of action for dealing with the Berlin question all fall into the category of negotiations, which approach in his opinion "falls short of the adequate". He points out that semantics will not cure the Berlin situation, which has now passed into a physical struggle for the maintenance of our position, and that the only cure now would be the use of guarded truck convoys reinforced by troops if necessary in order to force our established right to the use of surface transportation into Berlin. He states that the local British and French authorities support this idea, which he does not believe involves any more risk of war than the decision to remain in Berlin.

Murphy also transmits a report that the South African Government has now agreed to deliver the note prepared by the Berlin city assembly to the United Nations.

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12065, Sec. 3-402

State Dept. Guideline, June 12, 1979

By NLT-NC NARS, Date 11-13-80

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