



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON

July 20, 1948

~~TOP SECRET~~

SUMMARY OF TELEGRAMS

GERMANY Ambassador Douglas reports that Foreign Minister Bevin is now anxious to send a reply to the Soviet Union concerning the Berlin question without further delay in order to keep the initiative in our hands. He believes that while we should remain firm in setting forth our rights and rejecting the Soviet arguments, we should not close the door to discussions of our outstanding differences. Bevin feels we should indicate a willingness to discuss the entire "general situation" with the Soviets, but he does not believe we should raise the question of taking the dispute to the United Nations at this time.

Ambassador Smith in Moscow expresses the view that any move by the western powers to supply Berlin with an armed overland convoy would be met by the Soviets with armed force, since the whole position and prestige of the USSR would be at stake and Moscow would not be able to retreat. Smith feels that a "little shooting" would not necessarily produce a conflict, but he feels that all other possibilities should be exhausted before we attempt anything in the nature of armed convoys.

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12065, Sec. 3-402

State Dept. Guideline, June 12, 1979

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

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