



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON

July 21, 1948

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SUMMARY OF TELEGRAMS

FRANCE Ambassador Caffery believes that the most probable solution of the French governmental crisis will be a new coalition along approximately the same lines as the previous Schuman cabinet, which solution he notes will hardly inspire public confidence. Caffery has little doubt that the present crisis, revealing the obvious lack of unity among the democratic forces of the center, has hurt the prospects of the center groups and correspondingly strengthened both the Communists and the de Gaullists.

AUSTRIA Our Minister in Vienna points out that while the recent Soviet note on Berlin may be a veiled threat to commence restrictive measures in Vienna, it would be difficult for Moscow to accomplish this without first effecting a complete partition of Austria between the Soviet and the western zones. For this reason he believes the Soviets may be reluctant to institute such measures, since it would constitute the kind of action for which they condemn the western powers and would clearly reveal that their objectives are actually the partition of Europe.

GERMANY Ambassador Murphy reports that the physical and economic plight of the western sectors of Berlin, now completely dependent on the air lift for both food and raw materials, is worsening daily. Sufficient food is being received to sustain life but not to maintain morale over an extended period, and the curtailment of industrial activities is leading to greatly increased unemployment.

We have informed Ambassador Douglas that our primary purpose in Berlin remains the lifting of the Soviet land blockade. While the Soviet offer to supply food to the western sectors of the city will have a propaganda value for the USSR, it does not solve the question of raw materials nor the blockade against the Allied forces and in no way alters our basic objective.

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