



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON

July 15, 1948

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SUMMARY OF TELEGRAMS

GERMANY We have informed Ambassador Douglas, in discussing the terms of the Soviet reply to our note on Berlin, that we consider it absolutely essential that all possible steps be taken before the Security Council and elsewhere to avoid having any move to lift the Berlin blockade by convoy or otherwise regarded as aggression. We feel that the American public must be assured of our best efforts to avoid the use of force. Douglas has indicated that he agrees with this position because of its importance to public opinion everywhere.

The preliminary reaction of the French Foreign Office to the Soviet note is that it represents a "stiff reply" and that the refusal to accept any conditions such as lifting the blockade before engaging in quadripartite talks is discouraging. However, the Foreign Office considers the note about what they expected and indicated that it did not alter any of their conclusions as to the appropriate course of action.

GENERAL Ambassador Harriman believes that the single most important aspect of western Europe today is the development of the will to resist internal and external aggression. However, he feels that this determination can be weakened by events and that the maintaining and strengthening of this will to resist is therefore fundamental to our policy. This should be accomplished both through the effective implementation of ERP and encouragement of the idea that we intend to help rebuild military defense against outside aggression.

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958, Sec. 3-402

State Dept. Guideline, June 12, 1979

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

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