

Filed by
Mr. Hopkins
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July 2, 1948

198
Berlin Blockade
Misc

Dear Mr. Woll:

I appreciated very much your
letter of June thirtieth and I am glad to have
your views on the situation in Germany.

Sincerely yours,

HARRY S. TRUMAN

Mr. Matthew Woll ^{x142}
Chairman ^{x197199}
International Labor Relations Department
Free Trade Union Committee
American Federation of Labor
570 Lexington Avenue
New York, New York

x198-Misc.
x220-Misc.
x263-Misc.



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New York, N. Y.

June 30, 1948

The Honorable Harry S. Truman,
President of the United States,
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

As you know, it is my responsibility for the American Federation of Labor to follow international developments. I feel very deeply the crucial importance of allowing no weakness to develop in our handling of the "siege" of Berlin by the U.S.S.R. The immediate future of Germany and Western Europe depends upon sure firmness in maintaining our policy which alone can assure freedom of the people concerned, and continuity in their way of life.

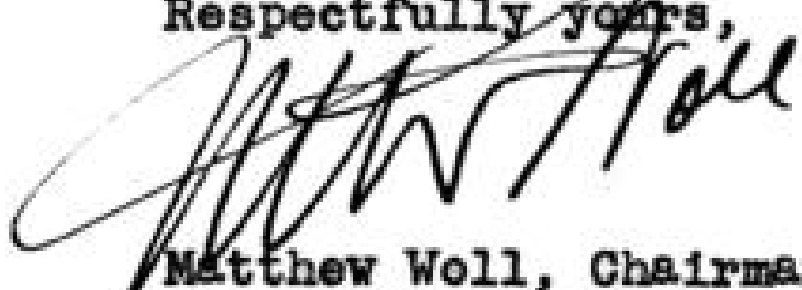
Any wavering by the United States will be seized upon by Eastern Europe as a sign that we do not intend to stand by those European nations which are willing to insist upon democratic institutions, and that Communist aggression may be extended with impunity. The people of Central Europe understand all too well that the Communists are watching for evidences of weakening to determine how far they dare move now. They, too, are watching for a sign to tell them whether they dare resist. Appeasement at Berlin will work out identically with appeasement at Munich--but in quicker time.

The feeling in the United States, as I learn it from trade unionists, is deeply resentful of the

ruthless aggression by which Communist control has been extended, and fearful of the treachery which has deprived individuals and nations of the rights which give life dignity and purpose.

We know only too well that Communist desire for domination will not stop at either ocean. We urge firmness, now, before the tide of conflict reaches our own country. With all the intensity I possess, Mr. President, I urge you to strengthen our stand at Berlin and make obvious that we will not be bullied or beguiled into compromises with dictatorship and the authoritarian state.

Respectfully yours,



Matthew Well, Chairman
International Labor
Relations Department,
Free Trade Union Committee,
American Federation of Labor

MW:MMcS