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E. O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D), or (E)
7-15-75
Dept. of State letter, Aug 9, 1975
By NLT/Hc, NARS Date 12-1-85

MEMORANDUM

Mr. Malik, Soviet Representative on the Security Council of the United Nations, recently approached Mr. Jessup in a private conversation with suggestions which intimated that the Soviet Government might be prepared to lift the Berlin blockade if the Western Powers would lift the counter-blockade and would agree to a meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers. Mr. Malik indicated that the Soviet Government might agree that the lifting of the blockade could precede the convening of the Conference of Foreign Ministers, provided a date was fixed for the latter.

In view of the extreme delicacy and importance of this matter, I instructed the Secretary of State to have this approach followed up in further private discussions between Mr. Jessup and Mr. Malik, with a view to ascertaining whether it had any real substance. Mr. Jessup was instructed in particular to obtain confirmation of Soviet readiness to lift the blockade prior to the meeting of the Ministers.

Pending such clarification I instructed the Secretary of State not to disclose information about this discussion without my authorization. The British and French Foreign Ministers were naturally kept personally informed of the progress of these talks.

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The discussions to date have now indicated that there is a sufficient degree of seriousness on the Russian side to warrant our proceeding further and entering, if the Russians are willing, on the negotiation of the actual arrangements; and we are now consulting further with the British and French Foreign Ministers on this point.

In these circumstances I think it important that Secretary Royall, Mr. Voorhees, General Bradley and General Clay be acquainted with the above, for their strictly personal information, and suggest that you make the appropriate arrangements. Until further notice, I would appreciate it if you would see to it that no other persons are apprised of the matter.

I am similarly authorizing the Secretary of State to inform the political representatives of the United States at Berlin and Moscow.

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THE BRITISH AND FRENCH AND THEN READ TO MALIK

1. Mr. Acheson has given careful consideration to the information conveyed by Mr. Malik to Mr. Jessup on April 10 including the views expressed by Mr. Vishinsky. In accordance with the position indicated by Mr. Jessup to Mr. Malik on April 5, Mr. Acheson has informed Mr. Bevin and Mr. Schuman.

2. Before proceeding with any formal discussion of arrangements regarding the simultaneous lifting of the restrictions on communications, transportation and trade and a meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers, it is necessary to have a clear understanding on certain points which have arisen in the several informal conversations between Mr. Malik and Mr. Jessup.

3. With regard to the lifting of the restrictions, it would need to be clearly understood that the restrictions to be removed are those imposed since March 1, 1948, on the one hand by the Government of the Soviet Union on communications, transportation and trade between Berlin and the Western zones of Germany, and on the other hand by the three powers on communications, transportation and trade to and from the Eastern zone of Germany.

4. With regard to the question of the establishment of a Western German Government, it is desirable to repeat the

statement

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statement made to Mr. Malik by Mr. Jessup on April 5; namely:

"It is a well-known fact that the three Governments are proceeding with preparations for the establishment of such a Government. These preparations will continue."

5. It can be stated in addition that, if a meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers is held, the fact of such a meeting will not interrupt or retard these preparations.

6. On the other hand, the continuation of the preparations for the establishment of a Western German Government will not preclude or contravene any agreement arrived at by the four powers on a government for all Germany.



7. The exact date on which the Western German Government will be established cannot be determined at this time but preparations for such establishment could scarcely be completed before July 1, 1949.

8. The Foreign Ministers of the United States, France and the United Kingdom would be available for another meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers upon the conclusion of the necessary prior agreements, but would wish to conclude their personal participation in such a meeting by approximately the end of the first week of June. These prior agreements would deal with the description of the restrictions on communications, transportation and trade to be removed and the date of their removal, and the place, date and agenda for a meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

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