

This convoy has been held up since 1:05 p.m. Central European time, February 2, 1959.

This convoy, on leaving Berlin, was passed through the Nowawes checkpoint by Soviet personnel, having been found to comply with normal procedures, and followed the established route toward its destination. At the Marienborn checkpoint, the Soviet authorities refused to allow it to proceed.

Despite protests by the United States Political Adviser, Berlin, to the Soviet Political Adviser and by the Chief of Staff of the United States Army, Europe, to the Soviet Military Liaison Mission at Frankfurt-Main, the men and vehicles have not yet been allowed to proceed on their journey.

The action of the Soviet authorities at Marienborn is in clear violation of the United States' rights of access to Berlin via the Berlin-Helmstedt autobahn, exercised by the United States Army in accordance with quadripartite agreements with the USSR, the United Kingdom and France since 1945.

The United States Government expects the Soviet Government to take the necessary measures to allow the men and vehicles to proceed to their destination and to ensure against a repetition of the incident.

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***Statement by Secretary of State Dulles Upon Returning from Europe, February 9, 1959***<sup>1</sup>

I have talked in London, Paris and Bonn with governmental leaders of those countries, and with Secretary-General Spaak of NATO.

We have had a useful exchange of views primarily on the serious situation created by Soviet threats and repudiations concerning Berlin.

We have reconfirmed the unity and firmness of our position expressed in the joint communique of the four powers at Paris December 14. We do not accept the substitution of East Germans for the Soviet Union in its responsibilities toward Berlin and its obligations to us. We are resolved that our position in, and access to, West Berlin shall be preserved. We are in general agreement as to the procedures we shall follow if physical means are invoked to interfere with our rights in this respect.

We discussed the whole problem of Germany. We exchanged views on the prospects for a foreign ministers meeting with the Soviet Union at which all aspects of the German problem can be discussed, not only Berlin and a peace treaty, as the Soviets propose, but also reunification and European security, as the Western Powers have proposed.

We are willing to talk with the Soviets in a sincere effort to reach agreements.

The leaders of the British, French, German and United States governments will keep in close contact on the German situation, and their foreign ministers contemplate meetings as may be appropriate. Officers at other levels will be in consultation on specific questions.

I return encouraged by the unity, understanding and resolution in the three countries I visited.

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<sup>1</sup> Department of State press release 99, February 9, 1959.