OMGBS REJECTS SOVIET CHARGES

Director Says Russian Element of Kommandatura Has Placed Odd Interpretation on "Unity" and "Improvement" in Berlin Affairs

THE SOVIET STATEMENT that for three years the Soviet Kommandatura has taken all measures to insures unity in the city government of Berlin has been solicitous for the improvement of the material situation of the Berlin population cannot be based on the accepted interpretation of the words "unity" and "improvement".

If one may interpret "unity" as meaning united in ignorance under a controlled press and united in subjugation to the will of a political machine, then we must admit the Soviet authorities have taken measures for unity in the city government.

If we can interpret "improvement" as meaning regimenting the population to gratefully accept charity from the overlords of the Sed (Communist-dominated Socialist Unity Party), we must also admit they have struggled for the improvement of the material situation of the Berlin population.

The US Military Government will continue to strive for a unified democratic government in Berlin. It has in the past and will continue in the future to help the German population to improve their own material situation. The US Military Government, however, does not hold with the promise of giving a hand-out of a hot meal to a few workers at the expense of the over-all population and then only to force that small group of workers to work all the harder.

The US Military Government feels that a hand-out of a questionable midday meal to 100,000 out of 600,000 workers is a futile gesture conducive to the loss of self-respect and pride of the German workers. It creates hopelessness for the future in the individual receiving a handout. It also creates frustration in the minds of the other 500,000 workers who feel that they may have to give up certain of their principles to acquire a few pounds of vegetables for themselves and their families.

By Col. Frank L. Howell
Director, OMG Berlin Sector

THE MAGISTRAT did not, in December, 1946, give its approval to a British-US proposal to include the productive capacities of the British-US Sectors of Berlin into the production and supply plans of the Bizonal Area. There was no such proposal made. There was a survey accomplished by OMG officials to learn the raw material and consumer goods requirements of Berlin as well as to learn what production Berlin

Economic development in western Germany has now been assumed by the Germans themselves under the control of the occupying powers. The German economists are basing the development on the simple rules of interchange of goods.

The material situation has improved remarkably. In spite of the many obstacles instigated by the SMA to prevent Berlin from enjoying benefits of this economic improvement, and in spite of Berlin's not being able to participate in the economic planning, Berlin has and will reap the benefits from all of these plans.

Already in view for the last six months of 1948 are increased allocations in all categories. To cite some examples: Before the end of 1948 the people of the western sectors will receive more than 100,000 pairs of leather shoes per month, 2,500,000 yards of textiles produced from imported cotton provided by the Joint Export Import Agency, 545 new vehicles, 2,060 used vehicles from US Army surplus, 12,500 auto and truck tires and tubes, 30,000 bicycle tires and tubes, and building material to reconstruct 8,000 living spaces, or sufficient for 12,000 persons.

THE MAGISTRAT has liaison men in Frankfurt who continually press the authorities to allocate to Berlin its needs in raw materials and consumer goods. Neither these men nor any persons of Berlin government have a voice in the economic planning of either the Bizonal Area or Berlin. They may be compared to salesmen or buyers of a large factory. They are stationed at the source of supply. They doubtless serve as the four Magistrat representatives in Leipzig serve.

There are more liaison men in Frankfurt than in Leipzig because of the fact that in the western sectors and western zones the Germans themselves accomplish their own procurement while in the Soviet Sector and Zone procurement is done by the SMA. These liaison men are

This statement was made by Col. Frank L. Howell, director of OMG Berlin Sector and US representative on the Allied Kommandantura of Berlin, in answer to Soviet charges that the US and British authorities were trying to join their sectors to the Bizonal Area. A similar reply was made by Brig. E. R. Benson, British representative.

JULY 13, 1948

31

INFORMATION BULLETIN
not officials and have not been appointed to any bizonal organization. They are merely supply agents of the Magistrat. Hence, the Magistrat has violated no Kommandatura order in sending them to Frankfurt.

There has been no siphoning of valuables, equipment or metal scrap into the Bizonal Area or outside Germany as a result of the presence of these liaison men. US Military Government has encouraged trade between Berlin and all Germany and with foreign countries. It has encouraged export of metal scrap to foreign countries in order to obtain foreign exchange.

The SMA evidently agrees that the export of metal scrap to foreign countries is economically sound, since on Jan. 6, 1948, it entered into a contract to ship 100,000 tons of metal scrap to Belgium at a price of $23 per ton. A lot of this scrap has been collected in the Soviet Sector of Berlin, and attempts have been made to collect some of it from the American Sector. The US Military Government encouraged an agreement to export 10,000 tons of metal scrap to the United States at a price of $30.75 per ton.

The Magistrat has not created a special body to examine “the program to include western sectors of Berlin into the Bizonal Area.” The statement by the Soviet representative relative to such a body is relative to a fund of RM 1,000,000 to support such a body in 1947, is not based on facts. The Magistrat has sent persons to Frankfurt to study economic cooperation between Berlin and the western zones. Such cooperation is an economic necessity.

Does the Soviet representative deny that the Magistrat has any coordination with the economic organization in the Soviet Zone? Does he also deny that the Magistrat seeks economic cooperation with these organizations?

US Military Government is striving to aid in balancing Berlin’s economy. It recognizes that in normal times the natural market for certain Berlin industries was in what is now the Soviet occupied area. Hence, the US Military Government has allowed 55 percent of the manufactured goods of the US Sector to be shipped into the Soviet occupied area.

It also recognized that the market for certain other industries was almost wholly for export to foreign countries. Hence, US Military Government encourages export to foreign countries in order to receive foreign exchange with which to purchase raw materials and goods from these countries that otherwise would be unavailable to the Berlin economy. It sees the economic harm of choking transportation to the western zones and foreign countries in order to enforce the sale of all Berlin’s production into the Soviet area markets.

In view of the Foregoing, US Military Government rejects the three proposals (containing the charges) offered by the Soviet representative.

**OFFICIAL INSTRUCTIONS**

Assignment of Personnel to Supervise Women’s Affairs within the Laender Office of Military Government, AG 353. 81 (EC), OMGUS, 26 May 1948. Provides for appointment of specialists in state OMG’s and cites duties.

Weekly Directive No. 23, Hq EUCOM, 11 June 1948. Lists following:


Sec. II—Entry of Automobiles into the United States Duty Free, AG 451 RTY. Quotes intent of Public Law 633, 77th Congress, that automobiles are considered personal property.

Sec. III—Counterfeit Military Payment Certificates, AG 123. 7 FIN. Urges vigilance in detecting counterfeits.

Sec. IV—The 7720 EUCOM Replacement Depot, AG 320. 2 GPA. Directs discontinuance of direct requests for replacements.

Sec. V—Weekly Check of Particular Entries in Certain Personnel Records, AG 333 AGX. Lists questions to be checked.

Sec. VI—EUCOM Small Arms Competition 1946, AG 353, 8 GOT. Amends Sec. IX, EUCOM Weekly Directive No. 13 of 2 April 1948 as to arms used and number of officers on a team.

Sec. VII—Telephone Requirements, AG 311. 2 SIG. Directs minimum lines per unit.

Sec. VIII—Course of Instruction in Property Accounting, AG 140 FIN. Gives dates and quotas for third course at EUCOM Finance School.

Sec. IX—Unauthorized Formations of Labor Service Companies (Civillian Guard), AG 322 GSP. Cites prohibitions.

Sec. X—Quota for Courses of Instruction at the 7712 European Command Intelligence School, AG 352 GID.

Sec. XI—Removal of Winterized Tents, AG 451 OR. Lists such tents on 1/4-ton trucks considered permanent installations and cannot be removed without permission.

Sec. XII—Signal Corps Training Films, AG 352 SIG. Lists new films.

Sec. XIII—Officer Candidate Schools, AG 351 AGP. Recinds Sec. XVI EUCOM Weekly Directive No. 2 of 16 January 1948, quotes DA Cir 136 of 1948 and gives new instructions.


Establishment of Military Posts Division, General Staff, Headquarters, European Command, General Orders No. 57 (Sec. I), Hq EUCOM, 15 June 1948.

Rear Echelon, Information Control Division, AG 322 (IC), OMGUS, 16 June 1948. Lists ICD units moved to Nuremberg.

Committee on Tripartite Military Government Organization (US Element) CINCEUR, General Order No. 58, Hq EUCOM (Berlin), 19 June 1948. (See separate item page 19).

Copies of Official Instructions listed in the Information Bulletin may be obtained by writing directly to the originating headquarters.