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1 April 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: PP Activities in Connection with the Berlin Crisis

REFERENCE: IN 38209

1. The Board of National Estimates has read the reference cable and has the following reactions:

a. We assume that the Agency has psychological warfare and political action capabilities required to accomplish the tasks mentioned in the cable from Bonn. In any case, this matter is outside our province.

b. With reference to paragraph B and in particular the point about "saber-rattling", we query whether it would be possible to make a significant impact on the Russians without substantially increasing the hopes and possibly even resistance activities of Satellite populations, in particular those in East Germany, Hungary, and Poland. We believe that for this reason paragraph B

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has a built-in contradiction: we doubt that we can "duly impress" the Russians with our "capability and readiness to revive cold-war liberation operations" without in fact "stirring up violence and unrest in Eastern Europe."

c. We have estimated that one of the basic reasons for the Russians making an issue of West Berlin at this time is their concern that West Berlin is an important Western asset and focus for cold-war operations. We believe, therefore, that stepping up PP and Political Action activities in the manner outlined in the referenced cable would increase Soviet intransigence with respect to West Berlin, rather than "influence Soviet attitudes toward greater moderation during the forthcoming four power negotiations."

FOR THE BOARD OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES:

**SHERMAN KENT
Assistant Director
National Estimates**