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Land: USSR/Oost-Berlijn.
Onderwerp: USSR prepares to vacate East Berlin.

Referenties:

Datum van waarneming: Begin maart 1959.

Bron: Van bevriende zijde.

Opmerkingen:

Verzonden aan: de Minister van Buitenlandse Zaken.

Aan Zijne Excellentie Prof. Dr. L.J.M. BEEL
Minister-President

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'S-GRAVENHAGE.

GEHEIM

USSR/East Berlin

USSR PREPARES TO VACATE EAST BERLIN

Soviet preparations to withdraw military and civilian organizations from East Berlin have reached an advanced stage. There are extensive packing activities in the compound at Karlshorst, and a new headquarters is being built between Bernau and Wandlitz See, a few miles north of Berlin. The preparations to move have been noted principally in the Soviet State Security (KGB) units in Karlshorst, which is the largest organization in the compound. In addition, the principal Soviet hospital in East Berlin has been almost vacated, and preparations are being made to close the school, trade mission, and other installations.

The advanced preparations indicate that the Russians could be ready in a very short time to evacuate virtually all their personnel from the city. Construction deadlines for new buildings outside East Berlin, to which the Russians plan to move, such as barracks and offices, remain set at around 25 May.

In addition to the KGB, other Soviet organizations which are believed to exercise close control over the East Germans are involved. Since these organizations will probably be quartered at Bernau, Strausberg, or Fuerstenwalde - all of which are near East Berlin - Soviet officials will be able to continue close observance of East German activities.

One report indicated that the Karlshorst compound would be used by the East German Army in the future. Such a move would be symbolic of the increased authority of the East German regime.

If control over East Berlin is transferred to East Germany, the sector border between East and West Berlin will for all practical purposes become an international frontier, and Allied access rights to the entire

city, spelled out in a quadripartite agreement, will be retained only through East German sufferance. East Germany would probably assume access controls at the same time, leaving West Berlin subject to being cut off completely. Refugees would find it more difficult to go to West Berlin, and, if the already stringent security controls were tightened further, the refugee flight through the city would for all practical purposes be stopped.

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