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GENERAL

1. Soviet authorities in Berlin embarrassed by Linse kidnapping:

The Committee of Free Jurists has informed the US High Commissioner's office in Berlin that Walter Linse, the kidnapped West Berlin lawyer, is being held in Licherfelde barracks

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in East Berlin. The Soviet authorities give the impression that they don't know what to do with him and that they had no idea the kidnapping would cause such a world furor.

The Committee points out that Linse can hardly be released under Western pressure, adding that it is not even certain that High Commissioner Chuikov has sufficient control over the MVD to release him. It believes that the best solution would be to intimate that if Linse is permitted to escape the incident would not be publicized by the West.

Comment: Although Chuikov gave Mr. McCloy the impression that he would do what he could, McCloy is not very hopeful of Linse's release.

The kidnapping has tended to undercut the position of West German neutralists who have argued that the Soviet Union could be trusted to fulfill the terms of a negotiated German settlement.

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2. Soviet High Commissioner in Vienna protests air corridor "violations":

In a 16 July letter, Soviet High Commissioner Sviridov in Austria protested to the US High Commissioner that the Tulln-Linz air corridor had been violated by United States military planes. He stated that the corridor could be used without advance notice only by transport and liaison planes of the occupying powers.

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He warned that in the event of future unauthorized flights, the Soviet authorities will take "stricter measures" against violators, responsibility for which must be borne by American authorities. A similar letter was presented to British officials.

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WESTERN EUROPE

5. West German Communists may convert to quasi-military status:

The Bavarian branch of the West German Communist Party went underground on 27 June, and may convert to quasi-military status in August, [redacted]

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Cadres of trusted followers are being sent to East Germany for training in sabotage, guerrilla warfare, and weapons transport. Weapons are to be smuggled into West Germany for future use by terrorist groups.

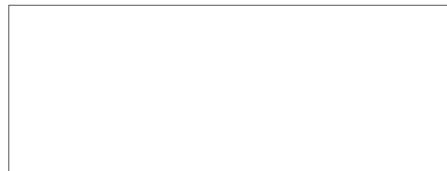
Comment: The party will almost certainly not commit itself to such activities as gun running until the Constitutional Court has ruled on the government's case for outlawing it.

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Communists have made frequent trips to East Germany since last winter, apparently to obtain instructions and training on future underground activities. Previous evidence indicated, however, that the party's underground plans precluded violence.

6. Postponement of Saar elections favored by West German Social Democrats:



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The acting chief of the West German Social Democratic Party now strongly favors the postponement of the Saar elections, scheduled for 19 October, to avoid aggravating

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the issue. American officials in Paris and Bonn suggest that the French be urged to delay the elections until December, in order to keep the issue quiet at the time of final German ratification of the Bonn and Paris treaties.

American representatives in Bonn state that the Germans are more interested in the licensing of pro-German parties by the Saar Government than in the date of the elections. The recent conditional refusal of Saar authorities to license two such parties has produced so strong a reaction in Germany that Adenauer may raise the matter in his talks with Schuman next week. American officials feel that if the Saar authorities definitely refuse the licenses, the Bonn government may not be able to prevent a "serious outburst" in its own ranks.

7. Austria considering trade negotiations with Soviet Union:

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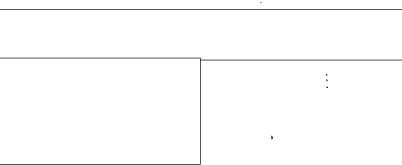
Austrian Foreign Minister Gruber states that his government has tentatively decided to offer to negotiate a trade agreement with the Soviet Union. The Foreign Minister says Austria will insist that exports of the Soviet-controlled enterprises be credited to Austria, a condition which Gruber believes the Russians will reject.

Comment: In the light of recent Soviet gestures to Austria with respect to interzonal trade and Danube shipping, the Russians might be prepared for political reasons to offer the Austrians quite favorable terms. Trade between the two countries is now virtually non-existent.

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9. Moderate French labor leader may be new Communist dupe:



"Fighting Democracy," the international organization which Leon Jouhaux has just launched to mobilize popular support for UN objectives is actually being promoted by two fellow travelers, Henri Laugier and Louis Dolivet, according to the American Embassy in Paris.

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Comment: In recent years Jouhaux has been content to get by on the prestige of his earlier success as a labor leader; his identification with a Communist-led movement might wreck the Force Ouvrière, which he founded to provide middle-of-the-road opposition to the Communist-dominated General Confederation of Labor.

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Laugier, who has been Assistant Secretary General of the UN, has served as an officer in fellow-traveling groups, and is considered well-disposed toward the USSR. He proposed the "Fighting Democracy" idea last November.

Dolivet is the pseudonym of an old Communist militant of Rumanian origin who was a Comintern agent in Paris before World War II. More recently he directed the pro-Russian United Nations World and helped promote neutralism in France.