

21 September, 1966

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1981 1985 1986
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To: Dr. Bühling
From: A.P. Hockaday
Subject: Berlin Contingency Plans - Amendments proposed by the Military Committee

M. Gregh has asked me to look at your proposed note to the Directeur du Cabinet.

2. I agree with your covering note subject to a minor correction in paragraph 2, and to the inclusion of the Military Committee Representative among the recipients of copies.

3. I agree in general with your draft PO, but would suggest a number of drafting amendments as indicated in pencil.

4. I would prefer, however, a rather more comprehensive re-draft of your brief for the Secretary General on the following lines:

5. "A. Current Plans

There exist two catalogues of planned operations from which appropriate action could be selected in the event of serious interference with, or interruption of, access to Berlin.

6. The set of planned operations from which it is envisaged that a selection might be made in the first instance are known as LIVE OAK plans and involve the use of forces of the three powers (France, United Kingdom and the United States). So far as land forces are concerned, they consist of a variety of probes along the autobahn on a fairly limited scale in order to try to regain access to Berlin.

7. The 2nd catalogue of planned operations consists of the Major NATO Commanders' plans in the BERCON and MARCON series. These represent a catalogue of plans for possible action by NATO forces in the event that the efforts of the three powers to maintain access to Berlin, in accordance with the LIVE OAK plans, are unsuccessful.

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Public Disclosure
SEE PDN (210) also.

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8. The BERCON series has been developed to provide a choice of alternatives which may be implemented either singly or in combination as may be indicated by the circumstances. They are grouped as follows:

- (a) BERCON ALPHA
A catalogue of 5 Air plans.
- (b) BERCON BRAVO
Two possible nuclear demonstrations.
- (c) BERCON CHARLIE
A catalogue of four plans involving ground forces.
- (d) BERCON DELTA
A consolidated group of naval measures.

9. As your paragraph 4

B. Considerations

Since BERCON CHARLIE ONE and THREE are clearly directed against interference with access to Berlin, they can be regarded as logical extensions of the LIVE OAK probes. The same argument applies, although less directly, to BERCON CHARLIE FOUR, since the Eisenach to Berlin autobahn entrance could be controlled from the high ground of the Thüringer Wald. It is more difficult, however, to see the relation between the attack planned under BERCON CHARLIE TWO and the restoration or maintenance of access to Berlin. Indeed, the Military Committee point out that the road network in the area east of Kassel is of only local minor importance.

10. A further point about BERCON CHARLIE TWO is that it is planned to be performed by two German Divisions under the command of the 3rd German Corps. By contrast, it is specifically provided in SACEUR's original formulation of BERCON CHARLIE ONE that German command organisation and German troops will not be involved therein.

11. C. Objections

Your paragraph 7 as amended in pencil.

12. D. Proposed Change

SACEUR now proposes, with the support of the Military Committee, that BERCON CHARLIE TWO should be designed to force a salient to straddle the autobahn in the vicinity of Eisenach and should be entrusted to two American Divisions with two German Divisions designated as a reserve force. This proposal eliminates the disadvantages referred to above and makes the relationship between BERCON CHARLIE TWO and FOUR more comparable to that which exists between BERCON CHARLIE ONE and THREE.

13. E. Amended Version (As your paragraph 9)."

AWA