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A/ISS/IPS, Department of State  
E.O. 12958, as amended  
June 19, 2008

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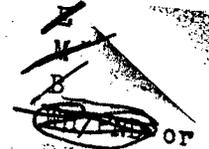
THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

June 26, 1973

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Attention MRS TROMBLY  
Keep this study together

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Initiation of Negotiations with the  
GDR on Establishment of Diplomatic  
Relations

The West German Parliament has completed ratification of the Basic Treaty regulating relations between the FRG and the GDR and the Treaty has come into effect. The only remaining question concerning the Treaty results from an action by the state of Bavaria challenging its constitutionality before the Constitutional Court. The Constitutional Court has committed itself to render a decision by the end of July. It is anticipated that the Court will find the Treaty constitutional.

Given these developments, I believe that we can now establish a general time frame for negotiations with the GDR on the establishment of diplomatic relations. We propose to take no action until after the decision of the Constitutional Court has been rendered. Assuming that the decision is not of a nature to interfere with the implementation of the Basic Treaty, we plan to get in touch with the GDR Observer at the UN in early August and inform him that we wish to work out a schedule for bilateral talks. We intend to propose that a small group from the Department go to East Berlin sometime in August to look into the facilities which can be made available for the establishment of an American Embassy. This would be followed in September by bilateral negotiations in Washington in which the East Germans would be represented by a delegation from East Berlin. We consider it advantageous to send the US

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delegation to East Berlin first since an important aspect of the substantive bilateral negotiations will be the premises and operating conditions which the East Germans are prepared to guarantee for our Mission.

When the negotiations take place we will follow the positions described in my memorandum of February 15, 1973 which you reviewed earlier. Assuming the negotiations are successful we foresee the opening of an American Embassy in East Berlin before the end of the year.

I find that the seating arrangement at the CSCE in Helsinki will place me next to the East German Foreign Minister. If, during the five or six days that we will be sitting together, he alludes to the possibility of bilateral relations I intend to say that we plan to be in touch with the East German Ambassador in New York on the subject later in the year.



William P. Rogers

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