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INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Action

Control: 15142

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Info

FROM: MOSCOW

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 2890, MAY 24, 2 PM

**EYES ONLY**

EYES ONLY SECRETARY

IN DISCUSSING GERMAN QUESTION LAST NIGHT I GAINED IMPRESSION K IS MOST ANXIOUS THAT DISCUSSION WITH PRESIDENT GO WELL AND IS DEEPLY TROUBLED ABOUT HOW TO HANDLE DISCUSSION GERMAN PROBLEM. HE EMPHASIZED MOST STRONGLY HIS DESIRE FOR GOOD RELATIONS WITH US. WHILE NATURAL HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO SOFTEN UP PRESIDENT BY CONVERSATION OF TYPE HE HAD WITH ME, I AM CONVINCED HE IS DEADLY SERIOUS IN HIS INTENTION CONCLUDE SEPARATE TREATY IF SOME AGREEMENT NOT REACHED. I BELIEVE HE IS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO ULBRICHT TO ACHIEVE SOMETHING THIS YEAR AND WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO ATTEMPT CHANGE EAST GERMAN REGIME IF HE IS UNABLE CARRY OUT HIS COMMITMENT UNLESS OF COURSE SOME SCHEME OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE SUCH AS REGIONAL ARRANGEMENT INCLUDING IN GERMANY MIGHT GIVE EXCUSE FOR FURTHER DELAY.

BELIEVE K HAS REAL POINT ABOUT DIFFICULTY DISCUSSING GERMAN PROBLEM IN FRONT OF ADVISORS AND CONSIDERATION MIGHT BE GIVEN TO DISCUSSING THIS PROBLEM WITH ONLY INTERPRETERS PRESENT. DISADVANTAGE WOULD BE RISK, WHICH I CONSIDER SLIGHT, THAT K WOULD NOT ACCURATELY INFORM HIS COLLEAGUES OF PRESIDENTS DETERMINATION TO MAINTAIN COMMITMENT TO WEST BERLIN REGARDLESS CONSEQUENCES.

**EYES ONLY** THOMPSON

SGC

*Moscow 2890*

*611.61 / 5-2461*

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