

January 26, 1957

**Telegram No. 2849 from Conant (Bonn) to the
Secretary of State [Approved for Release November
2006]**

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Summary:

Verbatim exchange between an East German journalist and West German Chancellor Adenauer

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INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Control: 15506

Rec'd: JANUARY 26, 1957

3:52 AM

FROM: BONN

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 2849, JANUARY 25, 7 PM

SENT DEPARTMENT 2849; REPEATED INFORMATION MUNICH 85, WARSAW,
PRAGUE, BUDAPEST, BUCHAREST UNNUMBERED

FOLLOWING IS VERBATIM EXCHANGE BETWEEN EAST BERLIN CORRESPONDENT
AND CHANCELLOR ON RFE AT CHANCELLOR'S REGULAR PRESS CONFERENCE
TODAY:

QUESTION: SINCE THE BEGINNING OF NOVEMBER THE FOREIGN OFFICE
HAS BEEN EXAMINING, BASED ON PRESS REPORTS IN WEST GERMAN PAPERS,
THE HUNGARIAN TAPE RECORDS OF RADIO FREE EUROPE. AT FIRST,
A FINAL ANSWER WAS SAID TO BE FORTHCOMING IN SOME THREE WEEKS;
SINCE THAT TIME, THIS PROMISE WAS "PROLONGED" AGAIN AND AGAIN.
DO THE AGREEMENTS WITH THE UNITED STATES REGARDING THE GRANTING OF
THE LICENSE MAKE IT NECESSARY TO REFRAIN FROM MAKING A STATEMENT
OR MAY SUCH A STATEMENT STILL BE EXPECTED, AND WHAT IS YOUR PERSONAL
OPINION ON WHAT BECAME KNOWN OF THE CONTENT OF THESE BROADCASTS?
IS THE RIGHT OF ASYLUM BEING VIOLATED BY THESE BROADCASTS?

ANSWER: THIS QUESTION I DON'T UNDERSTAND, THE LAST QUESTION.
TO THE OTHER QUESTIONS I CAN MAKE THIS REPLY: NO AGREEMENTS WITH
THE UNITED STATES REGARDING THE GRANTING OF THE LICENSE FORCE
US TO REFRAIN FROM MAKING A STATEMENT. AN EXAMINATION HAS TAKEN
PLACE; THIS EXAMINATION SHOWED THAT THE ASSERTIONS WHICH HAD
BEEN VOICED IN THE PRESS, THAT THE EUROPEAN RADIO STATION, OR
RATHER RADIO FREE EUROPE, HAD PROMISED THE HUNGARIANS MILITARY
AID FROM THE WEST, ARE NOT IN CONFORMITY WITH THE FACTS. HOWEVER,
ALSO SOME REMARKS WERE MADE WHICH MIGHT GIVE RISE TO MISINTER-
PRETATIONS; ON THIS, A DISCUSSION, AN EXCHANGE OF IDEAS TOOK
PLACE; CHANGES IN THE STAFFING RESULTED FROM IT, AND I BELIEVE
THAT FOR THE TIME BEING THE MATTER MAY BE REGARDED AS SETTLED.

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CONANT

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