

January 26, 1957
**Telegram No. 2849 from Conant (Bonn) to the
Secretary of State [Approved for Release November
2006]**

Citation:

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<https://digitalarchive.umd.edu/document/115005>

Summary:

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

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Original Language:

English

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4 FILED 553

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Info
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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

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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:

OCB
USIA
CIA
OSD
ARMY
NAVY
AIR

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 MISINTERPRETATIONS; 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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