

HEADQUARTERS  
BERLIN COMMAND  
APO 742

AEBGA 265/76 GA

24 February 1960

SUBJECT: Information for Visitors in Berlin

TO: Individuals Concerned

1. Rescission: Letter AEBGA 260/20 GA, this headquarters, 20 March 1959, subject as above.

2. Welcome to Berlin. We hope your stay will be rewarding and that you see and enjoy the city, its sights and places of interest. To insure that the pleasantness of your visit is unmarred, this publication furnishes the DO's and DON'T's to which you should adhere while here.

3. Berlin is an occupied city completely surrounded by the Soviet occupied zone of Germany. Surface access to Berlin is through this occupied zone. You are not permitted to enter this Soviet occupied zone of Germany except enroute to or from Berlin via the Berlin-Helmstedt Autobahn or the US Duty Train. To transit the Soviet zone either by road or rail, you must have proper and complete documentation. The city proper is divided into four sectors, US, British, French, and Russian. You are free to visit all sectors to include the East sector (Soviet), i.e. East Berlin. In the Western sectors, (US, British and French) i.e. West Berlin, you may travel as you please exercising only the care which is normal in any city of the world. While in West Berlin, you may travel by bus, the U-Bahn, or by Western sector taxicab, identified by a solid white stripe. Even though in West Berlin:

a. DO NOT use East Berlin taxicabs which are marked with the broken white stripe below the window line.

b. DO NOT use the S-Bahn as it goes into the Soviet occupied zone of Germany.

4. As complete protection cannot be guaranteed to you as a US citizen, or the dependent of a US citizen, you are not encouraged to travel in East Berlin except as a member of an official US Army tour. Special Services of Berlin Command conducts such tours which depart from the Shopping Center each Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday at 1300 hours (Tp: 74-6523 for reservations). If you desire to travel to East Berlin on your own by private vehicle, you should have no difficulty if you keep in mind the following points:

a. Two types of currency exist in Berlin. In West Berlin, the currency used is the Deutsche Mark. This money cannot be used in East Berlin, where the standard currency is the East Mark. If you plan to make

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purchases or spend money in East Berlin, you must exchange your West Marks for East Marks in an East Berlin Noten Bank which is the official East Berlin money exchange. You will be issued a certificate to use as proof you acquired the East Marks legally. Retain this certificate. Show it upon demand. Purchases made with East Marks acquired through other sources are illegal. Among those items which are forbidden for sale to you are gasoline, food, rare or valuable antiques or objects of art, and clothing. Items which you may purchase in limited quantities are books, pictures, magazines, phonograph records, sheet music and post-cards. You may also purchase in East Berlin tickets to public entertainment, i.e. operas, concerts, theater or the circus.

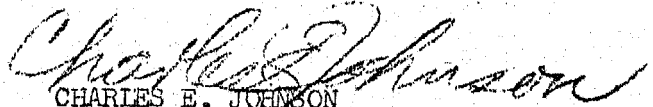
- b. Avoid bars and cafes.
- c. Avoid public gatherings and crowds.
- d. Do not involve yourself in excessive conversation or get into arguments.
- e. If you drive your own car, be certain your insurance covers you in East Berlin. Drive carefully, observe all posted traffic signs. Avoid accidents.
- f. The taking of photographs in East Berlin is not recommended although only military installations, military personnel or the police are specifically prohibited. The act of carrying a camera may arouse suspicion even though you are not using it.

5. In the event you are arrested and detained, follow these instructions:

- a. Inform your detainer that you are an American, and that you wish to return to West Berlin. If this request is denied, ask that a Russian official be called.
- b. Show your identification card on demand to establish your identity. Furnish information only as to your name, date of birth, Service or ID Card number, and your rank or title. You may answer truthfully the reasons for your visit to East Berlin. Limit any discussion to pertinent facts regarding your detention.

6. Your personal conduct should be exemplary at all times while in East or West Berlin since as an American in Berlin you are a representative of the entire United States in the eyes of the communists and indeed the whole world.

7. This letter is effective until 24 February 1961.

  
CHARLES E. JOHNSON  
Brigadier General, USA  
Commanding