11 August 1961

State Dept. review completed

TOP SECRET
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TOTAL ANNUAL REFUGEE FLOW INTO WEST BERLIN AND WEST GERMANY

Refugees entering West Berlin (most of whom later go on to West Germany) and Refugees entering West Germany directly across East-West German zonal border.

TOTAL ARRIVALS IN WEST BERLIN & WEST GERMANY

WEST BERLIN REFUGEE TOTALS
COMPARISON OF 1960 AND 1961 BY WEEKS

DAILY TOTALS SINCE 15 JULY 1961

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DAILY BRIEF

Berlin Refugees: 1,650 East Germans and East Berliners, including 237 "border crossers" who commute to jobs in West Berlin, registered at Marlenfelde reception center on 9 August. Of the 237 "border crossers," 143 were East Berliners, while 94 had been residents of the Soviet Zone.

*An official East German news agency broadcast of 10 August suggests that the East German legislature, the People's Chamber, will enact in East Berlin today "more effective and hard-hitting measures" against refugees and border crossers.

USSR-Germany: The appointment of Marshal Ivan Konev as commander of the Soviet forces in East Germany, announced yesterday by the official East German news agency, probably is intended to underscore the seriousness of measures recently announced by Khrushchev to "make the defensive might of the Soviet Union even stronger and more dependable." The naming of Konev, former commander of the Warsaw Pact forces and leader of the Soviet forces which captured Berlin at the end of the Second World War, is also calculated to sharpen repeated warnings that the bloc will forcefully rebuff any resort to force by the Western powers to protect their position in West Berlin following the conclusion of a separate peace treaty with East Germany. Khrushchev probably feels that the appointment of a man of Konev's prestige and experience will strengthen his efforts to impress the West with his determination to conclude a German treaty before the end of this year, and that it will generate greater public pressure on Western governments to take the initiative in making specific proposals for negotiations on the German and Berlin problems.

The decision to appoint Konev may have been made at the meeting of the first secretaries of the Communist parties of the Warsaw Pact members in Moscow on 3 to 5 August; this
same meeting also instructed "competent bodies" to prepare "all necessary foreign political and economic measures" for the conclusion of a German peace treaty and the "observance" of its provisions, including the creation of a free city in West Berlin.
Marshal Konev

Khrushchev's choice of Konev to assume command of Soviet forces in Germany returns one of the Kremlin's best known and most experienced field commanders to active duty. Konev's exploits during the Second World War won him renown as a brilliant strategist and an expert in encircling movements involving large groups of armies. He is known as a devoted Communist, who successfully combined military ability with unquestioning loyalty to the party in climbing to the top of his profession.

Konev, who is now 64, evidently came out of retirement to take his new position. From 1955 until the spring of 1960, he had been Soviet first deputy defense minister and commander-in-chief of the Warsaw Pact forces. His departure from these posts in 1960 was attributed by Moscow to his poor health. During the Second World War, he engineered the Belgorod-Kharkov offensive and the Korsun pocket, and together with the forces under Marshal Georgy Zhukov, swept across Poland and Czechoslovakia to capture Berlin.

Konev has been a member of the central party organization since 1939, when he became a candidate member of the central committee. He was raised to full membership at the 19th party congress in 1952. He has consistently sided with the party in matters affecting army-party relations, and in November 1957 evidently played a major role in the ouster of Zhukov from the ministry of defense.