

Stamp: 30000
Date: 1952

Letter, en date du 31 juillet 1952, adressée par M. Reber, agissant au nom de H^t Comm. Américain, au G^{ral} Tchoukhov.

To: ~~General Chuikov:~~

You must be aware of the indignation which is still being voiced by public opinion in West Berlin and the free world in general over the abduction of Dr. Walter Linse from his house in Berlin on the morning of July 8. The seriousness of the issue involved and the failure of the authorities under your command to take action impel me to bring the matter to your attention.

The facts of the case are clear and cannot be disputed. As Dr. Linse was preparing to leave his home in Berlin at 7:30 on the morning of July 8, he was overpowered by three unidentified persons, forced into a waiting car, and carried into the Soviet Zone. Dr. Linse's cries attracted the attention of a civilian car and a police car, both of which pursued the kidnapers. The fleeing car fired upon those pursuing it and threw sharp-pointed hooks in their way. As the car approached the Soviet Zone, the barrier at Berliner Strasse and Schœlder Strasse was suddenly raised by the volkspolizei, enabling the car to enter the Zone without reducing speed.

The American Commandant in Berlin at once protested to the Soviet Commandant in the strong terms which this kidnapping demanded and sharply condemned the evidence of collusion by persons under Soviet control, as shown by the timely raising of a barrier usually so jealously guarded. The American Commandant's demand that Dr. Linse be returned at once in safety and that the perpetrators of the abduction be punished has gone unanswered.

On the occasion of his final call to you on July 11, Mr. McCloy, just prior to relinquishing his duties as United States High Commissioner, directed your attention to the kidnapping. You expressed your amazement and incredulity that such a thing should happen in a city like Berlin. As you stated you were not familiar with the affair because you had been absent from Berlin at the

kidnapping took place, Mr. McCloy gave you a complete and detailed account. You expressed the hope that Mr. McCloy did not believe that Soviet personnel had any part in the affair and you assured him that you would conduct an immediate investigation of the matter.

On July 18 Mr. McCloy wrote to you expressing gratification at your readiness to cooperate and requesting you to inform me in his absence of the results of your undertaking. To this date, however, Dr. Linse is still detained by forces under your control, and no word of explanation from you has been received.

It is difficult to believe that a crime of such a nature could be committed with the connivance of your forces. I am therefore shocked by the tone of the controlled press of the Soviet Zone, which on July 13 boasted of this crime. In the face of such cynical assertions about personal liberty and individual safety, I cannot see how public opinion in Germany or elsewhere could place faith in the assertions made by responsible persons of the Soviet administration and Germans under their control that they desire German unity based on democratic freedom and all-German elections.

Almost a month has now passed since Dr. Linse was abducted. He has not returned to his home and no one in the Soviet Zone has seen fit to reply to inquiries made or to announce the result of the investigation which had been promised. I again ask you urgently to give the necessary instructions so that Dr. Linse can be released. Further delay in determining facts and in bringing the perpetrators of this crime to justice cannot be understood unless it denotes approval of this crime.

The American Commandant in Berlin, Mr. McCloy and I myself have pressed this matter with the Soviet Commandant in Berlin and with you because the kidnapping of Dr. Linse took place in the American Sector of Berlin but my two colleagues, the British and French High Commissioners, have asked me to tell you their on/behalf that they fully share the views which I have expressed.

(Sgd) S. Reber