

Editorial

Kornblum should resign

We join Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., in calling for the immediate resignation of John C. Kornblum, U.S. Mission Chief in Berlin.

This demand is based on statements made by Kornblum during an Aug. 13 televised interview, broadcast in the Federal Republic of Germany. Any member of the U.S. foreign service who insults his President as flagrantly as Kornblum has done, must be ordered to submit his resignation immediately. There was a time, when government officials were expected to shoot themselves for perpetrating deeds less dishonorable than Kornblum has done.

On the subject of the Kennedy administration's lack of action, at the time Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchov ordered the wall installed, Kornblum is either totally ignorant of the circumstances of that incident, or he is lying. What President Reagan did, was something which no President since 1961 had the courage to do earlier: to declassify U.S. files on Kennedy administration actions during the Berlin Wall crisis, and to do so publicly. What the President said happened, is precisely what did happen. Kornblum either does not know the facts, or he was lying.

But for the intervention of President Kennedy's National Security Adviser, McGeorge Bundy, not only would U.S. armed forces have taken down the wire dividing Berlin immediately, but Soviet dictator Nikita Khrushchov would have backed down immediately. In addition, if U.S. armed forces had taken down the wall then, Khrushchov would probably not have risked the Cuban Missiles Crisis the following year.

From the beginning of the Kennedy administration, it was Soviet Premier Khrushchov's estimate, that the new President was a "playboy," who could be intimidated into backing down before menacing Soviet gestures. Khrushchov came away from his brief private meeting with Kennedy at Vienna, strengthened in this belief. So, Khrushchov deployed a number of risky adventures, including the Berlin Wall actions, and the later Missiles Crisis, gambling on this assessment of the young President.

Khrushchov had strategic assets inside the Kennedy administration, centered around former Stalin crony W. Averell Harriman, and McGeorge Bundy. During the second half of the 1950s, Khrushchov had reached agreements with a leading section of the U.S. Liberal Establishment, on "nuclear deterrence," through a network of private back-channels centered around Bertrand Russell and the Pugwash Conference. In recent public statements, McGeorge Bundy has admitted that he, like Robert S. McNamara, was opposed to the President's thinking on strategic matters. Harriman's circles inside the State Department, and Bundy in a key position inside the White House, were able to manipulate U.S. policy, and to prevent the President from gaining vital intelligence in time.

These were the factors which shaped the U.S. failure to tear down the Wall at the beginning, as the United States could have done successfully at the time.

U.S. intelligence services' station chiefs in Berlin, and elsewhere, had highest-level intelligence from inside Soviet and East German circles, outlining the way Khrushchov intended to orchestrate the Berlin Wall scenario, and including information on Soviet willingness to back down, if the United States took decisive action to tear down the wall. This intelligence never reached the President during the Berlin Wall crisis. Through McGeorge Bundy, orders were issued not to transmit such intelligence to Washington.

For 25 years, those facts about the Berlin Wall incident have sat in both U.S. intelligence archives and in the private knowledge of those involved at the time. The facts have been an open secret within the intelligence community. Now, 25 years later, President Reagan has publicly declassified the facts.

What President Reagan said, is absolutely accurate. Kornblum should resign immediately, not only because he has behaved like a scoundrel, but because keeping such weak-kneed Soviet appeasers in key U.S. positions in the Federal Republic of Germany is itself a repetition of the kind of blunder which permitted the Wall to become the institution it has become today.