



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
ACTION MEMORANDUM

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
(with EXDIS/NODIS attachments)

March 26, 1975

153

TO: The Secretary

FROM: L - Monroe Leigh

OTJ for

Cuban Prisoner Exchange

Last December and again in February we received indications that the East Germans were interested in obtaining the release of Robert Glen Thompson, an American citizen imprisoned in the United States since 1965 for espionage, in exchange for the release of another American citizen, Lawrence Lunt, imprisoned in Cuba since 1965, also for espionage. You approved our exploring this proposal and Justice concurred. (See Tabs B and C.)

We have now been assured by our East German contact that this offer is still open and was not superseded by an intervening Cuban offer to exchange Lunt for a Puerto Rican nationalist whose release, it appears, would be dangerous. If a deal is struck with the East Germans, the Criminal Division at Justice is willing to recommend to the parole board that Thompson be paroled when he becomes eligible in May and that he be allowed to travel to East Germany. However, Justice has asked that a letter be sent to the Attorney General requesting his concurrence in the proposed response to the East Germans.

Recommendation:

That you sign the letter attached at Tab A.

Attachments:

- Tab A - Letter to Attorney General.
- Tab B - State 035797. (NODIS)
- Tab C - Action Memorandum from ARA and L, dated February 6, 1975. (EXDIS)

Drafted: L:OTJohnson:kp
x22149:3/26/75

Concurrences:

ARA - Mr. Gleysteen
EUR - Mr. Vine

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E.O. 12958 Sec. 3.6

MR 94-150, #16, State L.A. 4/5/96

By Lt. NARA, Date 8/28/96

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Jas.

Secretary Kissinger recommends that Attorney General Edward Levi take steps to obtain the release of Lawrence Lunt, imprisoned in Cuba for espionage. The plan would involve the East Germans who were interested in obtaining the release of Robert Glen Thompson, an American citizen imprisoned in the U.S. for espionage, in exchange for the release of Lawrence Lunt, imprisoned in Cuba. Department Of State, 26 Mar. 1975. U.S. Declassified Documents Online, link.gale.com/apps/doc/CK2349090473/USDD?u=roosesc&sid=bookmark-USDD&xid=bda34896&pg=1. Accessed 21 Feb. 2023.