French Prime Minister Courrèges has informed Cafrere that he feels that the strike situation has taken a turn for the better though the Commune of Toulouse will still make a desperate effort to prevent a government success with the coal miners. The French Ministry of the Interior has informed our Embassy that the danger of a railway strike has been averted, the steel strike is on the point of settlement and the coal miners strike will soon be over owing to lack of enthusiasm and the syndicate's shortage of funds, the extent of Soviet strike aid having been disappointing to the GDF. Cafrere says that French officials believe that the government will emerge from the present crisis considerably strengthened.

We have informed our Embassy in Brussels that we fear that the lack of effective leadership in GDR will jeopardize the success of SED and have serious repercussions in Congress but that the best interests of this government would be served by Belgian Prime Minister Speeck associating his influence from his present post of Chairman of the GDR Council rather than by accepting the post of Director General of GDRG as proposed by Harriman. We fear that his withdrawal from the political leadership of Belgium would have an unfortunate effect in Belgium and upon the Benelux union and would result in minimizing the dominant role he is now playing in the Benelux Union and the EU.

Our UN delegation reports that Vishinsky has insisted to the Argentine Foreign Minister who is acting as President of the Security Council that the Council has no jurisdiction in the Berlin case and that the Soviet 300,000 was introduced in the western sectors of Berlin as a condition for lifting the blockade. The Argentine Foreign Minister recognizes that Vishinsky's position is entirely unsatisfactory. The representatives on the Council of the six powers not involved in the Berlin dispute have assured our delegation that no resolution will be introduced by any of them without prior consultation with our representatives and our delegation believes that the six powers fundamentally support our position and will vote with us when the time comes.