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FOR THE SENATE:

Everett M. Dirksen, *Leader*
 Thomas H. Kuchel, *Whip*
 Bourke B. Hickenlooper, *Chr.*
of the Policy Committee
 Leverett Saltonstall, *Chr.*
of the Conference
 Thruston B. Morton,
Chr. Republican
Senatorial Committee

PRESIDING OFFICER:

The Republican
National Chairman
 Ray C. Bliss

THE JOINT SENATE-HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP

Press Release

FOR THE HOUSE
 OF REPRESENTATIVES:

Gerald R. Ford,
Leader
 Leslie C. Arends, *Whip*
 Melvin R. Laird,
Chr. of the Conference
 John J. Rhodes, *Chr.*
of the Policy Committee
 Clarence J. Brown,
Ranking Member
Rules Committee
 Bob Wilson,
Chr. Republican
Congressional Committee

FOR RELEASE
FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 1965

STATEMENT BY THE

JOINT SENATE-HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP

Senator Dirksen	Representative Ford
Senator Kuchel	Representative Arends
Senator Hickenlooper	Representative Laird
Senator Saltonstall	Representative Rhodes
Senator Morton	Representative Brown
	Representative Wilson

August 13 marks the fourth anniversary of a tragedy in American foreign relations and a tragedy for all mankind - the erection of one of man's most hated and degrading structures, the Berlin Wall. The Wall is an insult to all of mankind. It is an ugly reminder that the communists cannot command the voluntary allegiance of those trapped by terrible circumstance within their borders.

In 1961, the communists violated the Four Power Agreement, a pledge among nations, and they violated man's sense of individual diversity, a pledge among all men, when they constructed their cold cement edifice. Now, four years afterward, the Wall has been warmed many times over by the blood of courageous, imprisoned men who have sought escape from mistrust, compulsion by force, and deadening conformity.

The lust for freedom of the east German people has sent unnumbered hundreds under, through, and over the Wall in quest of this freedom. In order to join with their families and friends in the West and escape the tyranny of communist government, these men have matched bravery and ingenuity against the fiendish traps and obstacles concocted by the communists. Many German people have died by the bullets of communist rifles when they sought to escape.

It is a great irony that man's response to the Wall, the escape, has become one of the most meaningful and important actions to all

freedom-loving men. We feel a common bond with the stifled individuals behind the Wall, and every free man identifies with the individuals who are compelled by conscience and blessed with the opportunity to escape.

Tragically, as more men have escaped and more men have died, the Wall has been fortified and enlarged with cement, wire, and explosives. Yet one remains confident that the bravery and genius of such men will not be defeated by a wall.

The return of freedom and unity to all the German people must remain a major objective of the foreign policy of the United States until the Wall is no more.

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