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SENT DEPARTMENT 535, REPEATED INFORMATION BONN 463.

RMR REFERENCE: INFO GUIDE 60-24

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FOR USIA

"ON THE BEACH" IN DUBBED GERMAN VERSION "DAS LETZTE UFER" PREMIERED HERE DECEMBER 17 UNDER "PROTECTORATE" DR. HEINRICH WEITZ PRESIDENT FEDREP RED CROSS AND MAYOR BRANDT. MAYOR LIMITED OPENING REMARKS TO THANKING RED CROSS FOR TAKING INTEREST IN BROAD PROBLEMS HUMAN WELFARE SUCH AS NEED FOR CONTROLLED DISARMAMENT INCLUSIVE OF ATOMIC WEAPONS. BRANDT LEFT ALMOST IMMEDIATELY AFTER FILM STARTED FOR ANOTHER ENGAGEMENT.

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FILM OPENED AND IS PLAYING EXCLUSIVELY AT 570 SEAT KURBEL CINEMA DOWNTOWN OFF KURFURSTENDAMM. SPECIALIZING IN LONG ENGAGEMENTS SENSATIONAL TYPE FOREIGN "ART" FILMS KURBEL NOT CONSIDERED FIRST-RATE CINEMA.

ONLY EAST PRESS MENTION TO DATE WAS NEUES DEUTSCHLAND OBSERVATION DECEMBER 18 THAT BRANDT LEFT THEATER 20 MINUTES AFTER FILM STARTED. PAPER ASKS, "DID FRONT-CITY BOSS NOTE FILM'S INTENTION AND GET PEEVED"?

DESPITE CONSIDERABLE PRE-RELEASE PROMOTION IN WEST BERLIN PAPERS, 6 OR 9 CRITICS WROTE DEFINITELY UNFAVORABLE REVIEWS AND REST LUKEWARM. POPULAR ULLSTEIN TABLOID "B.Z." SET TONE FOR CRITICISM ON POLITICAL GROUNDS WHILE DISTINGUISHED CRITIC FRIEDRICH LUFT IN DIE WELT LED ATTACK FROM ARTISTIC VIEWPOINT.

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-2- 535, DECEMBER 21, 7 PM FROM BERLIN

UNDER CAPTION "FEAR CAN BE NO COUNSELOR" B.Z. SAID: FILM EVADES GREAT AND DECISIVE QUESTION OF OUR WESTERN EXISTENCE. WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF DEMOCRATIC, FREEDOM-LOVING WEST DESTROYS ITS NUCLEAR WEAPONS? NO REACHING DESIRED GOAL OF CONTROLLED DISARMAMENT IS NOT OUR FAULT. FEAR AND SHOCK MUST NOT BLIND US TO REALITY. ONLY IN WEST WILL THIS CRY FOR HUMANITY AND PEACE CALL FORTH RESPONSE. WHO CAN RESPOND IN EAST EXCEPT POLIBURO?

UNDER CAPTION "HOLLYWOOD MAKES MELODRAMA OUT OF FRIGHTFUL THEME" LUFT SHARPLY CRITICIZED KRAMER FOR USING APOCALYPSE MOVIE AS STAR VEHICLE RESULTING IN "PURE SOB-STUFF." IN SAME VEIN TAGESSPIEGEL'S REVIEW "CREEPS INSTEAD OF HORROR," OBSERVED END OF LIFE IS SEEN LIKE MERE UNFOLDING OF "INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC" DURING WHICH MAIN CHARACTERS HAVE NO BETTER CONCERNS THAN "LOVE". DER TAG TOO CAPTIONED ITS REVIEW "END OF WORLD WITH LOVE AFFAIRS."

GENERALLY UNCRITICAL REVIEW WEST BERLIN'S ONLY FILM TRADE JOURNAL FILMBLAETTER STATED: "FILM SEEMS SATISFIED TO DEPICT END OF MANKIND IN LOVEABLE TERMS. LET'S HOPE THIS PLEASES BOX OFFICE. PRESUMABLY REAL THING WOULD BE SOMEWHAT LESS AESTHETIC."

MISSION COMMENT

MISSION OFFICER BRIEFED MAYOR BRANDT ON FILM'S THEME AND CONTENT BEFORE PREMIER. SUBSTANCE REFERENCED INFOGUIDE GENERALLY WELL REFLECTED IN CONCLUSIONS REACHED INDEPENDENTLY BY WEST BERLIN CRITICS. TO DATE NO GROUP HAS SOUGHT EXPLOIT FILM FOR "ANTI-ATOM DEATH" CAMPAIGN OR SIMILAR POLITICAL PURPOSES. WILL REPORT SUCH DEVELOPMENTS IF THEY OCCUR.

LIGHTNER

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