

Tunnels Under S-Bahn

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(Text) Berlin--German and foreign journalists were told here today about a new attack from West Berlin against the GDR state frontier. Under the protection of West Berlin police, West Berlin bandits undermined a railway embankment running alongside the state frontier. It has been confirmed by witnesses that tools and other materials for this act were taken in trucks to this spot on the frontier between the French sector of West Berlin and the GDR capital. The outrage imperiled both the S-Bahn and long-distance freight traffic. The network of tunnels dug by the bandits was discovered when the platform of the Wollankstrasse S-Bahn station suddenly collapsed. Both the north-south lines of the S-Bahn and freight traffic for West Berlin pass this station.

The purpose of tunnels was to enable agents and saboteurs to infiltrate the GDR underneath the frontier. At the press conference which was held on the spot, it was emphasized that this new incident illustrates the anomalous character of the situation in West Berlin. The GDR railway administration has protested to the West Berlin Senate and demanded strict punishment of those guilty. The statement says that the Senate, whose police covered up this provocation, would be responsible for all consequences. In connection with this incident, it was recalled that once before, in April 1956 a tunnel was dug from West Berlin into GDR territory for the purpose of telephone espionage.

GDR Deputy Foreign Minister Otto Winzer has written to General Lacomme, commander of the French occupation troops in West Berlin, to protest on behalf of the government against this violation of the territorial integrity of the GDR. The letter says in part: "The building of tunnels under the much used railway embankment, which also carries your military trains to Tegel, is an act endangering public safety, a serious punishable offense in every state. The GDR Government expects you to draw the conclusion from the occupation rights you claim and to take energetic actions against the instigators of this outrage and all others concerned, as well as to make sure that similar crimes will not be repeated." Winzer states that the GDR Government has instructed the authorities concerned to take all necessary steps to safeguard the territorial integrity of the GDR and to protect the lives of travelers.