

Letter to West Berlin Senate

East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND 2 February 1962--G

(Text) Otto Arndt, president of the Berlin Reichsbahn Directorate, sent the following letter of protest to the West Berlin Senate:

Gentlemen: On behalf of the GDR minister of transportation, I sharply protest the deliberate serious jeopardy to the interurban and long-distance traffic at the Wollankstrasse railroad station caused by a tunnel dug from West Berlin to the railroad installations of the Reichsbahn. During the night of 26-27 January 1962, the duty official in charge of the interurban railroad station at Wollankstrasse found that the platform pavement showed a number of long cracks. On 27 January the center of the platform collapsed to a depth of more than one meter. Investigations revealed that during the last week a group of West Berlin citizens penetrated from Nordbahnstrasse on West Berlin territory to buildings situated near the track thereby damaging Reichsbahn installations, undermining the tracks, and violating GDR territory.

Because of the vigilance of the railroad workers and their timely detection of the attack on passenger and freight transportation, the Berlin Reichsbahn Directorate was able to introduce organizational measures to prevent danger to human lives and eliminate property damage. The tracks leading via the interurban station at Wollankstrasse serve the interurban transportation of the West Berlin people. They are also a supply line for the people of the northern city districts of West Berlin and are used in transporting French occupation forces.

In the past I have repeatedly protested the provocative actions carried out by certain West Berlin circles to jeopardize the operations of the interurban and long-distance railroads seriously. This new attack, the undermining of the tracks at the Wollankstrasse interurban railroad station, endangers human lives. The people concerned are the people of West Berlin as well as the members of the French occupation troops. Because police under your command tolerated, covered up, and supported this attack, I call your attention to the responsibility which you bear for the crimes committed against the safety of operations and installations of the Reichsbahn. I resolutely demand investigation of the crime and most severe punishment for the culprits. The responsibility for all consequences for the above described facts will be borne by the West Berlin Senate.