

ATTACK ON S-BAHN REPAIR CREW THWARTED

East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND 7 February 1962--G

(Text) West Berlin police 5 February, acting jointly with rowdy gangs, staged a new dangerous provocation against the GDR border at the Wollankstrasse railroad station. At about 2015, two West Berlin citizens who were accompanied by a police officer and who had entered Nordbahnstrasse which is situated in the vicinity of the Wollankstrasse railroad station, threw a number of tear-gas bombs into the station building. Shortly thereafter more than 20 armed policemen and larger groups of rowdies gathered.

To the accompaniment of encouraging shouts from these rowdies, the frontline city policemen hurled about 30 tear-gas bombs into interurban railroad installations at which construction workmen were engaged in repairing the damage caused by the construction of an agent tunnel under the railroad installations. Construction worker Joachim Sieg was hit by a tear-gas bomb on this occasion. The disgusted construction workers defended themselves by throwing bricks at the policemen.

Thanks to resolute action by the construction brigades and GDR border patrols, the intention of the West Berlin police to prevent the repair of the tracks was thwarted. Attacks on the GDR state border such as that at the Wollankstrasse railroad station which are organized by the frontline city authorities constitute a serious threat to interurban traffic as well as to transport of passengers and freight to West Berlin. In this connection, attention is drawn to a statement by the GDR minister of transportation according to which the West Berlin Senate alone is responsible for the consequences arising from such attacks against the GDR state border.

(Editor's Note: East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND 7 February also reports that the provocative statement made by a spokesman of the West Berlin Senate 1 February concerning the crimes at Wollankstrasse has led to disputes in political circles of West Berlin, according to information recently received from West Berlin businessmen. Immediately after the international press conference by GDR Minister of Transportation Erwin Kramer, a spokesman of the Senate had praised the bandits and expressed "much respect" for this dangerous border violation. Senator Albertz and Bonn's minister Lemmer demanded that this statement be made. Officials of the Senate, however, felt that a "public sanctioning" of border violations endangering transportation was "premature and imprudent," because this would be equal to a "blanket authority" for new and greater incidents and harmful to the reputation of the West Berlin Senate abroad. These circles referred to articles in the GDR press stating that the Brandt Senate is undermining communication lines with West Berlin by tolerating such crimes.)