

NEUES DEUTSCHLAND Editorial

East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND 13 August 1962--G

(Text) On 13 August 1961, all the world watched Berlin. Everyone felt that a decision of great significance had been taken, but at that time only a few people knew what this decision really meant. It meant no more and no less than the saving of peace.

Let us recall what happened last summer. In their megalomania, the Bonn ultras thought that the time had come to carry out the policy of strength and to roll up the GDR. On 11 July 1961, the Adenauer CDU executive met to proclaim in a statement of principle that the German question has been solved and that the "zone" had to be integrated in the NATO sphere of influence. Incitement against our republic was extremely aggravated. The ultras from Bonn did not spare any expense or crimes in confusing our GDR citizens and causing panic among them. They intended to proceed to military provocations and then to begin an open attack. A war threatened for the fall of 1961.

At that time the GDR Government, in agreement with the other states of the Warsaw Pact, took the necessary measures on 13 August. Thus the development of the devilish program mapped out by the ultras was suddenly interrupted. Peace was saved--not only for our worker-peasant state, but also for the West Berliners, for the West Germans, and for the entire world. After a year has passed we can say: the protective wall erected against the aggressors turned out to be reliable and has guaranteed peace. It has exerted a quieting influence on many excited souls and has promoted an insight into realities. Our resolute action and the helplessness of the ultras have made it clear that our state is solid, strong, inviolable, and that Bonn's revanchist attitude does not find support to the ultimate risk from the NATO partners.

This clarity has also created a favorable climate for negotiations on the German peace settlement and on the solution of the West Berlin issue. As is well known, the Soviet Union submitted relevant suggestions as early as three and a half years ago. However, the Western powers for a long time rejected such negotiations. Only in 1961, following the lessons of 13 August, did the United States declare its readiness for negotiations. It is true that so far the negotiations have not led to real results; however, a certain progress is obvious.

The measure of 13 August strengthened the prestige and the sovereignty of the GDR. Even the Western powers had to realize that there are two German states and that the borders of the GDR cannot be changed. After 13 August, the Western powers abandoned the stupid project of separating the GDR capital from the republic. As far as West Berlin is concerned, they have familiarized themselves with the idea that the anomalous situation must be changed.

During the past year, and particularly during the last few months, the waves of criminal plots rebounded from our protective wall. All these provocations, the explosive plots, the agent tunnels, and the murder of our border policemen confirm again and again the correctness of our protective measures. However, these crimes also show that it is extremely urgent to finally eliminate this danger to peace and to transform West Berlin into a demilitarized free city. We want normal conditions to be created at our state border. On 13 August 1961 we saved the peace. This peace must now be finally insured.