

Organized Provocations

East Berlin Domestic in German 1810 GMT 20 August 1962--G

(Erhard Makat commentary)

(Text) Dear listeners in West Berlin: Do you want more dead? With this provocative question written on a poster, a few hundred fascist hooligans and youthful political rowdies yesterday moved across Berlin and terrorized the West Berlin population with brawling and clamoring until the late hours of the night, until the early hours of the morning. This is provocative, because no decent Berliner wants dead people.

But who wants dead people? Who is never satisfied, calling for dead people continuously in Berlin, such as Ernst Lemmer yesterday? Who pursues an extremist policy which produces more and more dead people, such as Amrehn and Brandt and their ilk? Who, therefore, issues shooting orders to the murderers of Peter Goering and Reinhold Huhn, so that new blood will flow, as did Interior Senator Albertz over the weekend? Who sends groups of terrorists armed with submachine guns against our state border where they are to provoke serious incidents, as is confirmed by the large number of agents of the Girmann organization just apprehended by our security organs, who were specially trained for that in a special camp in Oberursel.

The answer is unequivocal: this cry for more dead people is backed by the Senate (passage indistinct). On Breitscheid Square, a man seeing Willy Brandt's storming mob said: "If we do not slap their hands this time, we will soon be in the middle of war again." This time? This obviously referred to reminiscences from 23 and 24 years ago, from the time when Henlein's Nazi troops lined up in the Sudetenland for provocations and Oberlaender's detachments of Germans from foreign countries gathered in Bromberg and Posen, when suddenly horror stories about adventurous escapes across the border were played up in the entire Nazi press; all this was done to clear the road for Hitler's invasion. Compare it with what happened in West Berlin last evening and last night, and you will find a nearly identical new edition of that warmonger tactic.

The plan of action provided for the following course of events: Before 1700 hours, the gathering of the first group of about 50 youths near the Gedächtniskirche. They were paid stooges of various espionage organizations who, since 13 August 1961, no longer have been able to carry out their business here and, therefore, are now used in West Berlin to disturb the peace and jeopardize your security, dear West Berliners. Shortly afterwards, couriers went to other city districts and picked up reinforcements. Soon, a parade with this cadre troop in the lead and followed by a large number of motor bicycles and cars moved to Schoeneberg, from there over Martin Luther Strasse, the Taentzien, Luetzow Square, along the state border to Potsdam Square. Alert observers did not fail to observe the lead vehicles with covered license plates and opened sliding windows, carrying maps to direct the itinerary, nor the escort by the Duensing police, nor the American staff cars from which high-ranking (officers?) continuously received orders.

Particularly outraged are the inhabitants of the workers districts of Kreuzberg and Neukoelln, through which in the early morning hours the parade of flashy cars with agents and bourgeois (word indistinct), including their prostitutes, moved and with a deafening horn concert prevented decent workers from getting their rest.

This, dear listeners, was the allegedly spontaneous action of people who, even hours before the start of the provocation--namely, yesterday afternoon over the frontline city radio station Free Berlin--were praised by the extremists in superlatives. These hooligans, a commentator said, have shown a decent attitude since 13 August, and--listen carefully, dear listeners--this attitude is called pleasantly different from the failure of some adults. The extremists call it pleasant when organized groups of hooligans move around in Berlin, terrorize the people with posters demanding more dead. It is pleasant for Brandt and people like him when the powder keg of West Berlin is constantly kept at the edge of explosion. It is pleasant to these warmongers who follow the course of Hitler and again let an incited youth drive itself to its doom. But it is a complete failure by the adults since they do not learn from the experience of history and halt this dangerous activity.

Also it is extremely cheap for Brandt and Amrehn now to pretend suddenly to be guardians of morals and order, for these men, who called for the murder of Peter Goering and Reinhold Huhn, lauding and rewarding the murderer and agitating for new murders only yesterday, to pretend suddenly to be the advocates of humanity.

Did Willy Brandt yesterday, when he--naturally, quite accidentally--walked onto the steps of Schoeneberg City Hall and there met his provocateurs--this quite spontaneous and accidental demonstration--

did he say there that he will do everything possible and that the day will come when accounts will be settled? Or did he, perhaps, not say that? Did Willy Brandt last Friday agree with Adenauer on the whole new series of provocations, after Adenauer and Norstad, of all people, shortly before had emphasized their unanimity? Is it not true that Willy Brandt yesterday immediately called for Clay so that he would again take more stern action against the GDR state border, not stopping even at atom threats?

Dear West Berliners, we advise you in your very own vital interest not to trust this mayor and his deputy. To follow Brandt means taking the dangerous course to the ultimate risk, which can any time start with a nocturnal hate campaign but whose end no one will survive.

Brandt--that is war. The communists have warned once before: Hitler--that is war. We advise you not to ignore historical experience, as this would be suicidal. Brandt acts in accordance with the old gambler tactics: first organized unrest, and then demands with a theatrical pose: You see how I am urged, please hold me back.

We warn you, do not allow yourselves to be deceived by that, and most Berliners are no longer deceived by it. This is shown by the fact that yesterday merely a few hundred hired brawlers and hooligans went out to terrorize the people methodically. According to an old saying, however, the more the fox is cornered, the more ferociously he bites. It is necessary to slap the hands of even that small group of provocateurs in time, as a sensible, older West Berliner said yesterday on Breitscheid Square.

Our antifascist protective wall is solid and stable, and it is defended by the armies of the whole socialist camp. And what power is behind it can be judged by the powerful rockets which already send spaceships into the cosmos in groups. Thus there is no use, and least of all for you, dear West Berlin listeners, to tolerate such transgressions any longer. On the contrary, the situation for you will be easier and relaxed when (peaceful?) conditions prevail in West Berlin. The slogan which will lead West Berlin to a secure and peaceful future, in which every decent citizen can shape his life of his own free will, is not the shameful, provocative call for more dead but the establishment of a free, demilitarized city. It will come even before Brandt and Amrehn can convert West Berlin into a city of dead people. And you, dear West Berliners, are well advised if you now advocate it actively.