

Tour of City

East Berlin ADN in German to East Germany 1011 GMT 24 October 1962--L

(Summary) Berlin--At Brandenburg gate, Major General Poppe, the city commandant, reported to Gromyko. Troops presented Gromyko with red carnations and a picture of Brandenburg Gate. After inspecting the frontier defense installations for half an hour, Gromyko made the following entry in the city commandant's visitor book: "The protective wall renders a good service to the just cause of the GDR and the cause of peace and socialism." V.S. Semenov and Ambassador Pervukhin added their signatures.

Foreign Minister Gromyko and his party heard with great interest an account of frontier and security measures. He then mounted an elevated platform on the frontier at Brandenburg Gate. Major General Poppe told him how British occupation troops had erected a barbed-wire fence around the Soviet war memorial in the Tiergarten, and how West Berlin rowdies had pelted vehicles of the Soviet relief guards with stones. The commandant also spoke about other historic buildings nearby and pointed to the Reichstag building where Karl Liebknecht had spoken against militarism and war.

Gromyko and his party then went to another point on the state frontier. They stood in silence at the spot where Corporal Reinhold Huhn had been murdered. Poppe described this vile murder to Gromyko. Gromyko cordially greeted frontier troops and said that as Soviet Foreign Minister he wished to emphasize as clearly as possible that the protective wall not only serves the interests of the GDR but of peace in general and socialism. In his brief speech, the Soviet Foreign Minister stated that the imperialist powers do not like the protective wall. Yet they respect it, since they know that the GDR, the USSR, and the other socialist countries are determined to preserve their interests and will not tolerate any violation of the GDR's sovereign rights.

Gromyko noted that the USSR is negotiating with the Western powers with a view to reaching a joint settlement of questions of the German peace treaty, including West Berlin. Gromyko added: "We must emphasize that we would never dream of permitting an infringement of GDR sovereignty." Agreement with the Western powers is possible only under conditions of absolute respect for sovereign GDR rights. The Soviet foreign minister wished troops of the Frontier Brigade success in their vigil for peace and safeguarding the GDR.

Gromyko and party next went to the Friederichstrasse crossing point for aliens where City Commandant Poppe told him about provocations by the U.S. occupiers who at one time had taken up positions with tanks in order to demonstrate their policy of strength and provoke GDR security forces. He underlined that all formalities at the crossing point are proceeding smoothly. During his brief visit, the Soviet foreign minister satisfied himself that this is indeed the case. He also witnessed the unimpeded crossing into the GDR capital of a U.S. car carrying four members of the U.S. forces. The car was briefly halted by an officer of the GDR frontier brigade and then permitted to pass.

The Soviet foreign minister, GDR Foreign Minister Bolz, and other members of the party drove to the town center. A large crowd had gathered near Humboldt University, blocking the highway and forcing the convoy to stop. Foreign Minister Gromyko was loudly cheered by the crowd. Nearly 3,000 Berliners spontaneously demonstrated their friendship for the Soviet foreign minister outside Humboldt University. Students and lecturers, passers-by, and building workers from building sites lined the streets between the university and the State Opera House. German and foreign students sang international youth songs and the march of the Cuban revolution. When the crowd demanded that Gromyko speak, he mounted a truck which served as a rostrum.

Sometimes we have been told by the Western powers: You see, we are prepared to respect the sovereignty of the GDR just to a certain extent, so far but not further. We say no. The sovereignty of the GDR cannot be divided into two parts, one of which is to be respected and the other not. The sovereignty of the GDR must be respected fully. (Applause)

We have repeatedly said that an agreement can be reached between East and West on questions concerning the German peace treaty. However, this agreement is possible under a certain condition, namely, when the three Western powers withdraw their forces from West Berlin. Without this precondition an agreement cannot be reached on the questions which must be solved in connection with the German peace treaty. (Applause)

The GDR, Soviet Union, and other socialist states want only peace. However, the socialist states, including the Soviet Union, are capable of protecting their interests and their security. The Western powers must know that the GDR borders are strongly locked. (Applause)

Now, dear friends, long live the just cause for which the GDR is fighting! Long live its legitimate rights and its sovereignty! Long live the cause of peace and socialism! Farewell: Friendship!