

NEUES DEUTSCHLAND on Provocation

East Berlin ADN Domestic Service in German 0941 GMT 6 November 1963--L

(Text) Berlin--"An impertinent provocation by the U.S. occupiers" is how NEUES DEUTSCHLAND today describes the actions of a U.S. military convoy in obstructing traffic on the autobahn between Marienborn and West Berlin. The paper says: "This deliberate action by the occupiers caused a temporary interruption of traffic along the autobahn This resulted in prolonged waiting and long lines of cars . . . the exemplary work of the GDR authorities has, so far, prevented lengthy delays . . . The Western powers talk about rights of access, but such rights do not exist, and the Western powers know that very well." (ADN ellipses)

Several trucks carrying U.S. soldiers which on Monday morning crossed from West Germany refused to be checked by Soviet troops. The Americans said their documents were allegedly not complete and would be produced afterward. When they were not allowed to pass unchecked, the documents suddenly turned up, but the lieutenant in charge refused to submit to a check.

With the press, radio and TV people providing a big propaganda ballyhoo, the U.S. troops settled down for a conspicuous bivouac next to the autobahn. The first serious hitch in frontier traffic at this checkpoint occurred when the convoy, acting on the orders of the U.S. military commandant at the neighboring West German border town of Helmstedt, tried to cross into the GDR without a check. Vehicles belonging to the Soviet Armed Forces blocked the road and thus foiled this dangerous provocation. A West German truck driver who could not proceed said angrily: "Let them buzz off to Texas and leave us in peace here." A well-known West German surgeon said that this smacked of an "organized incident" of the U.S. type.

The provocateurs were foaming with rage when they saw that French and British military vehicles submitted to the frontier check in the normal way and passed on without looking at the camping U.S. soldiers. The U.S. occupiers had announced over the West German radio that the French and British convoys would, as a token of "solidarity," camp on the autobahn together with the provocateurs.

NEUES DEUTSCHLAND emphatically repudiates the arrogant claim of some Western papers that the Western powers have agreed among themselves on the procedure regarding control on the GDR frontier. The details and procedure of control are laid down by the control agencies and nobody else," the paper states.

This claim by the Western powers to possess occupational rights in West Berlin, when the state of war and occupation was long ago officially lifted for all Germany, is a sickly remnant of the Potsdam agreement, which has been violated by the Western powers. Since the conclusion of the German-Soviet state treaty in 1955, territorial sovereignty and frontier control have been matters for the GDR authorities. A special German-Soviet arrangement was merely arrived at for the NATO occupiers who are unlawfully remaining in West Berlin; this was done to facilitate a peaceful solution of the anomalous situation in West Berlin. Thus, the NATO military transports are checked by the members of the Soviet forces who are temporarily stationed in the GDR as Warsaw Pact allies.