

NEUES DEUTSCHLAND COMMEMORATES BERLIN WALL

East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 13 Aug 74 p 2 A

[Dr K. commentary: "13 August 1961--A Deed for Peace"]

[Text] In the cold war period there were frequently moments when peace in Europe was balanced on a razor's edge. Such a threatening situation developed in the summer of 1961. The danger was averted on 13 August, the day when the GDR, in accordance with a decision of the Warsaw Pact states, effectively secured its state border with the FRG and West Berlin.

It was the openly proclaimed goal of FRG imperialism to destroy the socialist German state and to annex its territory. At the beginning of the sixties it was believed that the right moment had arrived. In accordance with Bonn's "legal position" they imagined that the adventure could be staged as an "internal German matter." Europe was facing great danger.

Our action for securing the state border made it clear to the imperialists: so far and no farther! It was an action undertaken not by the GDR alone but the entire socialist community of states. NEUES DEUTSCHLAND of 13 August 1961 frontpaged, in addition to the decisions of the GDR Council of Ministers, a corresponding declaration of the Warsaw Pact states.

On 13 August respect was enforced in an unequivocal manner for the inviolability of the border of our socialist state and thus of the border of the socialist community of states. The protection against disturbances had a very favorable effect on peace and on the construction of socialism, not only in the economy but in all social spheres. It was clearly demonstrated that the strengthening of the GDR as part of the socialist community and the securing of the borders represented a significant contribution to the strengthening of European peace, and a more secure peace is favorable for the development of socialism.

The 13 August decision and its lessons had a far-reaching influence on European politics. Some people in the West who in 1961 belonged to the zealots were made to think. They had wanted to invade the GDR at the Brandenburg Gate and were now facing a wailing wall. In the long run this was no satisfactory situation. [as published] Thus, those who were more reasonable learned to understand reality better and to take it into consideration. Our policy of peaceful coexistence between states with different social systems, including the GDR and the FRG, met with growing interest on the other side.

Today the foundations have already been established for a relationship of peaceful coexistence between the socialist and the capitalist countries of Europe and for a normalization of the relations between the GDR and the FRG. If one looks back it is obvious that a strong impetus for detente emanated from 13 August 1961. Decisive for the change in Europe was the growing strength of the Soviet Union, of the entire socialist community of states, including the GDR. Thirteen August was an action of peace of the socialist states which demonstrated the correlation of forces in a textbook manner. Thus the securing of our borders was useful for peace in the given situation existing in 1961 as well as in the long run.

Today, therefore, we should thank all those who on 13 August and afterwards fulfilled their duty in the frontline. We thank the soldiers of the National People's Army, the members of the factory militia detachments and of the people's police. We will never forget the sons of our socialist fatherland who were murdered by the henchmen of imperialism while serving at the border. We thank all who today and in the future are helping to secure socialism and peace by vigilantly protecting our border.