

PRAVDA on Berlin Wall

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[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The Moscow PRAVDA writes today on the provocative activities of the revanchists in the FRG: These cold war actions have been condemned by the overwhelming majority of the FRG population. The paper refers, among other things, to the recent meeting of the Pomeranian refugee group in Luebeck, whose statements were inspired with unveiled hostility to detente and the further normalization of the FRG's relations with the countries of the socialist community.

Ladies and gentlemen, 13 years ago, this policy of revanchist groups, denounced by PRAVDA today, was the official policy of the government in Bonn: the liberation of the East Zone; ~~Germany with 1937 borders~~. Psychological preparations had been made, military plans had been mapped out in detail. On the day X the lines of demarcation and of the sectors were to be crossed and the GDR was to be rolled up from its capital, from Hof, Wartha, Helmstedt, and West Berlin, and was to be reincorporated into the Reich as the 11th state of the FRG. That would not have been an inner German solution but war!

The securing of our state borders vis-a-vis the FRG and West Berlin and their visualization saved peace; 13 August 1961 had its effects. For one thing, the grasp into the GDR's pockets stopped. For more than 16 years, our gates and borders had been open, and imperialism had tried everything to bleed the detested socialist state to death. Now we are able to work for ourselves. And there is today nobody who would not have since become aware of the advantages of socialism: freedom from wars, from social insecurity and lack of education; everything for man and for his material and cultural requirements. [words indistinct] 13 August 1961 had an effect on such Western politicians as are able to see reality. Positions that had become untenable were abandoned, the ballast was thrown overboard, the relationship with the GDR became more realistic.

August 13 was not a go-it-alone policy of the GDR but a peace action of the socialist community of states. The securing of the border between socialism and capitalism was one of the preconditions of detente, a clear line extending from the inviolability of our borders, that was made plain at the time, to the present European treaty system. The interrelationship existing between the 13th of August and the quadripartite agreement on West Berlin is obvious, though there are still people who do not listen to reason and though there are still backsliders.

All those who took part in that peace action 13 years ago and all those who are on duty on the border and protect it today--they all deserve our acknowledgement and gratitude. All those who were killed in this peace action deserve highest honor.