

STATE SECRETARY LISTS W. BERLINERS IN ESCAPE CASES

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[Text] Bonn--Since the basic treaty was signed the GDR has sentenced 112 people for helping others to escape. This figure was quoted by Heinz Morgenstern, state secretary in the Inner-German Ministry, on Thursday in reply to a written question submitted by the opposition.

According to Morgenstern, a total of 167 people resident either in West Germany or in West Berlin have been arrested between 21 December 1972 and 10 August 1974 for "trafficking in human beings, which is hostile to the state," according to paragraph 105 of the GDR Penal Code. For being an "accomplice in illegal crossings of the frontier" 69 persons have been arrested and 46 sentenced so far in accordance with paragraphs 213 and 22 of the GDR Penal Code.

The sentences for helping people to escape range from 2 years and 5 months to a maximum of 15 years. Most of the sentences were between 3 years and 5 years 11 months. For being an accomplice in illegal crossings of the frontier the sentences ranged from 1 year to 3 years 10 months. These figures also include arrests made on the transit routes under the suspicion of having infringed the above paragraphs of the penal code.

According to Morgenstern, Czechoslovakia and Poland are each holding two West Germans or West Berliners in remand for helping people to escape, and Bulgaria and Hungary one each. There are 12 West Berliners or West Germans in prison in Czechoslovakia, 2 in Hungary and 1 each in Bulgaria and Poland, he said. For helping people to escape, Bulgaria has arrested and sentenced 13 West Germans or West Berliners, Czechoslovakia 10, Poland 1 and Hungary 14.