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[Dr H. commentary: "On the FRG Espionage Center in Salzgitter"]

[Text] Recently a spokesman of the GDR Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement on the activities of the so-called FRG Central Registration Office in Salzgitter. This FRG authority conducts "investigations and inquires" against staff members of GDR state organs and primarily those who deliver commercial human traffickers from the FRG and West Berlin to their just punishment. The spokesman most sharply protested against this gross interference in the internal affairs of our republic and against the brazen threats against GDR state organs and citizens. He described the machinations of the FRG center in Salzgitter as a violation of the treaty on the principles of the relations between the GDR and the FRG and demanded that the FRG office, which is contrary to the international law, be immediately dissolved.

It is obviously believed in the FRG that this protest can be ignored. In any case, as Western press reports now confirm, the activities of this institution in Salzgitter, which is contrary to the treaty and to international law, are being continued.

The following is being expounded under the headline: "Strictly By the Legal Code." The "Central Registration Office" was founded in 1961 as a direct provocation against securing the GDR state border against the FRG and West Berlin. Senior prosecutor Retemayer is the present head of the office. Thus far this office has initiated 15,000 "preliminary inquiries, 239 of these in the first half of this year alone." The "defendants" include staff members of the GDR judiciary, lay judges, members of the National Peoples' Army and people's police as well as other GDR citizens who are conscientiously fulfilling their citizens' duty. Thus a "deterrent effect" vis-a-vis GDR citizens is to be achieved, as is stated literally.

The press report also indicates how the "registration office" in Salzgitter obtains the "pertinent material" for its activities. Espionage and informers services are involved and the term espionage center is used without any inhibitions. The press report leaves no doubt about the fact that the FRG authority in Salzgitter, among other things, also conducts espionage to influence the development in the GDR. Without mincing words reference is made to influence on "great politics," to "considerations of political expediency on which naturally no loud reflections are being made in any ministry of justice or party." Nevertheless, a brazen attempt is made to assign a "legal" basis to the attempts contrary to international law, directed against the basic treaty, detente and peaceful coexistence.

This basis, it is said there, is provided by the FRG penal code which determines "that all Germans, regardless of whether they have committed an act penalized by the norms of this code at home or abroad, are subject to the West German penal law. The GDR is not a foreign country for the FRG and despite their own GDR citizenship, GDR residents are legally equal to FRG citizens according to the Federal German concept of the law."

This monstrosity constitutes direct evidence of the fact that the FRG still adheres to the long bankrupt "duty of supplying protection for all Germans" that it proceeds from an outspoken revanchist concept that the state border, sovereignty and state citizenship of the citizens of the GDR, a neighboring state of the FRG, are being deliberately disregarded and that a so-called legal concept is being defended there which blatantly contradicts the law of nations."

As far as the GDR and its citizens are concerned, it is self-evident that they will not be impressed by the FRG provocations. As before, the GDR will also in the future watch over the interests of its citizens and will come out for the strict observance and full implementation of the concluded treaties and agreements. Part and parcel of this is that it does not put up with violations of these treaties and agreements such as misuse of the transit routes between the GDR and the FRG and West Berlin as well as plots against its state borders and state security.

The activity of the FRG office in Salzgitter constitutes a gross interference in internal GDR affairs. It constitutes a deliberate violation of treaties and agreements between the FRG and the GDR valid under international law, a permanent legal and political attack against the normalization of the relations between the two German states at which the basic treaty is aimed. This normalization requires that Bonn finally dissociate itself from the relics of the cold war period--and the Salzgitter espionage center is one of the worst of these relics. As a matter of fact, it has never paid the FRG to slight GDR protests.