

FRG ACCUSATIONS ON BORDER ACCIDENT REJECTED

East Berlin Voice of the GDR Domestic Service in German 2000 GMT 13 May 75 LD

[Text] A spokesman for the GDR Foreign Ministry told ADN today that the West Berlin Senat bears the full responsibility for the tragic accident at Oberbaumbruecke on 11 May. Since 1973 the GDR has repeatedly urged the West Berlin side to take precautionary and safety measures to prevent accidents at the state border with the GDR. The Senat should make certain danger spots on the West Berlin side safer. These repeated requests, the GDR Foreign Ministry spokesman said, had not yet been complied with.

For this reason the GDR vigorously rejects any slanderous accusations made in connection with the tragic death of the 5-year-old Turkish child.

The spokesman added that the GDR had, moreover, made repeated proposals to the Senat for a rescue agreement operations in case of accidents. Its proposal of (?July) 1973 said: "Should persons setting out from West Berlin find themselves in acute distress in GDR boarder waters, the GDR Government allows West Berlin authorities and private persons to initiate rescue operations. It had been impossible now to put this sensible arrangement which is in the interest of both sides, into effect because of the West Berlin Senat's unreasonable refusal to acknowledge the GDR's state frontier with West Berlin.

In conclusion the spokesman gave an assurance that the GDR would continue to do its best to protect human life and health, and to normalize its relations with West Berlin.