

DROWNING INCIDENT 'JEOPARDIZES' FRG-GDR THAW

Hamburg DPA in German 1110 GMT 14 May 75 LD

[Text] Bonn--The Federal Government holds that the events surrounding the death of the 5-year-old Turkish boy in Berlin have put its endeavors to create a better atmosphere between the two German states "in serious jeopardy." This was pointed out to Michael Kohl, permanent GDR representative in Bonn, by Manfred Schueler, head of the Federal chancellor's office, in a talk today. Schueler had summoned Kohl to the chancellor's office.

According to the Federal press office, Schueler immediately rejected Kohl's objection that he was not competent to deal with problems concerning Berlin. Schueler stressed that Kohl was the accredited representative of the GDR in Bonn. Occurrences "of decisive significance for relations between the two German states" could not be outside Kohl's authority.

Referring to the matter in hand, Schueler said that the Federal Government cannot understand why on 11 May GDR border authorities prevented the West Berlin fire brigade from rendering timely assistance to the Turkish boy who fell into the River Spree. Together with the governments of the three powers and the Berlin Senat, the Federal Government maintained that the rescue of a human life in danger must override all juridical and political considerations. The population had reacted to the tragic news of the child's death with indignation and grief.