

OSLO PAPER CITES FISCHER ON BERLIN WALL

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[Unattributed report on GDR Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer 28 July Oslo press conference: "GDR Minister Rejects Criticism of Berlin Wall"]

[Text] "Like all other states the GDR will safeguard its interests and borders as the government thinks fit. This is a sovereign right of the individual country, and other states have nothing to do with it. Thus the Berlin Wall will stand as long as we consider it necessary," GDR Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer stated at a brief press conference in Oslo yesterday.

The press conference marked the end of Fischer's 3-day official visit to Norway--a visit Fischer described as profitable and effective.

Asked how the GDR's signing of the UN Declaration of Human Rights accords with the GDR's encroachment on private individuals' freedom of movement within and across borders, Fischer replied that he could not understand why the question had been addressed to him. "Cause and effect must not be confused," he said. "It is not necessary to study Marxist logic to understand that. If people use their ordinary commonsense they will understand that the question must be addressed to those who cause these problems."

Fischer also stated that the GDR signed the UN Declaration of Human Rights because human rights hold a very high position in East German policy.

According to information from Amnesty International there are currently 6,000-7,000 political prisoners in jail in the GDR. Recent border incidents between East and West Germany have recently also involved tourists.

The GDR foreign minister had little time at his press conference because he was to catch a flight soon afterwards. East German journalists diligently availed themselves of the opportunity to put "safe" questions to the foreign minister. On relations between the GDR and Norway Fischer stated among other things that the two countries do indeed have different social systems but this fact presents no obstacles to a further widening of relations. He pointed out that trade between the GDR and Norway has greatly increased in recent years. Fischer also stressed that his talks with Norwegian Foreign Minister Knut Frydenlund had revealed agreement between the two countries that the policy of detente must be pursued and that there is no alternative to such a development. This is in accordance with the views which Frydenlund expressed on a previous occasion during Fischer's visit.

During his stay in Norway, Fischer also had talks with Trade Minister Hallvard Bakke and other Norwegian politicians.