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[Press review compiled by Klaus-Dirk Tiepelmann]

[Text] KOELNER STADT-ANZEIGER writes: The well known tune can be heard from East Berlin again about threats, straight propaganda, and insulted obstinacy. The death of the Italian truck driver at the GDR border seems to have confused the SED leadership so much that it is resorting to the tested formulas of the Cold War. It was not the "incited" GDR border guards who shot at a harmless person who had no evil intentions at all. The citizens of the Federal Republic are said to be "agitated" who take note of the contrary. It is not the shooting order that creates death at the barbed wire fence and the wall, but the provocations of the West. In the archives into which the GDR reached in order to publish its emphatic Sunday commentary on recent events was also the tested means of preventing people from meeting.

NEUE RUHR-ZEITUNG notes: The threat to examine whether freedom of movement will be granted to citizens of the Federal Republic in the GDR reads like a termination of detente and normalization policies. One can hardly believe in the continuation, let alone the intensification, of this policy now. Chancellor Schmidt personally was involved in the unfounded accusations. He cannot keep quiet about that.

KIELER NACHRICHTEN stresses: There are treaties which must be adhered to. This must be pointed out clearly to SED chief Honecker. Bonn must not be impressed by clumsy attempts to threaten it. East Berlin un.masks itself by following up the inhumanities at the border with another one. Those questioning tourist and visitor traffic indicate that they are willing to trample on people and interstate relations between West and East. How far away the GDR still is from its much desired "world equality"! Even the rain of medals at Montreal cannot cover up the helplessness of the GDR on the international stage.

NEUE OSNABRUECKER ZEITUNG writes: It cannot remain inconsequential for the future relationship between the two German states that by East Berlin is threatening to ignore the existing treaties. Regulations for travel and visitor traffic cannot be changed like a schedule which has become unpopular. Modalities have been outlined clearly in the basic treaty between the Federal Republic and the GDR. Every curtailment of traffic, therefore, would discredit [East Germany] as a partner for further agreements--aside from the fact that the Helsinki agreements, too, envisage freedom of movement.

WESTDEUTSCHE ALLGEMEINE points out: The statement of East Berlin has two separate main points. First there is the threat to curtail traffic, and then there is the reminder to be reasonable. The treaties are being referred to. Anchored in them is respect for the GDR and its borders as well as the further development of human exchange and visits. It is clear that you cannot ignore the connections. Speaking about sanctions, therefore, is senseless. Even if the GDR is trying hard to shed the feeling of guilt, the election campaign must tempt nobody to confuse useless showing off with German policy.

MUENCHNER MERKUR stresses: Moscow's reaction to the recent incidents at the GDR border should have demonstrated finally to the Federal Government how necessary a change in Germany and Ostpolitik has become. If the Kremlin, despite the disgust of the West (which is prepared to accept inter-German realities now with the fatal shot that was fired at Corghi), continues irreversibly to defend the shooting order, terming border incidents as "provocations on the West German side" and arguing that they are the "logical consequence of the incorrect arguments of Bonn", it demonstrates that the earlier brand of "detente policy" did not serve the implementation of human rights for citizens in the GDR and the East bloc. The spirit of Helsinki will always remain a ghost.

RHEINISCHE POST points out: The Soviet Union, too, is threatening a deterioration of the inter-German and overall European climate if the sacrosanct GDR death border were uncovered in its full shamefulness by a worldwide UN discussion of recent incidents. If justification according to the rules of civilian states does not work any more (such as maintaining human rights and using appropriate means), the Moscow master and the GDR vassal must hang together in blackmailing solidarity. How firm is Bonn in regard to blackmail, how steadfast are its allies? After the death of the Italian truck driver Corghi as the latest incident, it is no more only a matter of tiresome "German quarrels" at the inter-German border.

BADISCHE ZEITUNG is of the following opinion: The death of Corghi was neither the result of a tragic sequence of mysterious matters, as East Berlin maintains, nor is it a regrettable mistake which can happen with the police organs of any state. This incident was the fatal consequence of the GDR regime's barrier, without any consideration for appropriate action in relation to the individual case. If there really exists something like an anti-GDR campaign in the Federal Republic now, it is not due to the election campaign but to the sensibility which has been intensified by CSCE promises and detente avowals in regard to all violations of basic human rights.

DIE WELT deals with Italian press reports on the shooting of Corghi: Nobody can tell the Italian journalists what is worth commentary and what not.

But that the Italian press has uttered not a word of opinion on the murder of their compatriot Corghi on the territory of the GDR makes one ponder. It cannot be due to a lack of interest, because the papers carry detailed new reports on the bloody incident. One has the impression that freedom of opinion in Italy hides behind the protest of the PCI sent to East Berlin, a protest the Italian Communists could not avoid because the fatal shot killed one of their comrades. It seems that the Italian Press is fearfully respectful of political opportunism, defined by a PCI man in the following way: "There are people wanting to hear from us that Benito Corghi has become a victim of Communism. They will not hear it."