

AU161459 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 13 Aug 79 p 2 AU

[Editorial: "13 August 1961"]

[Text] August 13, 1961, the day on which the GDR secured its state border with West Berlin and strengthened the protection of the border with the FRG, will forever remain a memorable date. Especially this year, when we are approaching the GDR's 30th anniversary, we commemorate a day which plays such an important role in the history of our republic. Then, some conditions were clarified about which many an imperialist politician and other people had unclear or even adventurous perceptions. Lack of insight into the real conditions and positions is dangerous in politics. In those days the cold war waged against us by the imperialists in the FRG threatened to become hot. Our quick, wisely calculated action, supported by the Warsaw Pact states, was like a cold shower for hotheads. The clarity we created promoted discernment and commonsense. This was beneficial for peace and in the long term good for the process of detente in Europe.

In those days it was thought in Bonn that the time had come to bring the GDR under its jackboot. Everything possible was done in order to weaken our state, to "bleed white" its economy. A "war of nerves" was waged with the aim of bringing about an "explosion" and "entering through the Brandenburg Gate to the strains of music." All these are words from newspapers of the FRG and West Berlin, which they no longer want to acknowledge today. In those days in the expectant exhilaration of success, they talked too much, they saw everything coming. Therefore we closed the Brandenburg Gate and secured the borders. This made the whole revanchist operation plan come to pieces. Now it was clear to the whole world that no one could touch the GDR. The politicians in Bonn learned the limits of their power. This was a great success for peace.

The FRG Government had prepared for its action systematically and was pursuing far-reaching goals. It had commissioned a "research council" to elaborate a comprehensive plan for "day X". This plan provided for the GDR's annexation, for sharing state-owned enterprises and banks among the monopolies of the FRG, for dissolving the agricultural producer cooperatives and for handing the country over to the former big land owners. "Day X" was supposed to be the day on which the revanchists' trees were expected to grow to the heavens. This did not materialize. On 13 August 1961 it was made clear that the GDR is an independent, sovereign state which had become a permanent component of the socialist community of states, a close ally of the Soviet Union and the fraternal socialist states.

With the measures of 13 August 1961 the socialist revolution in the GDR won better conditions for its evolution. The damage caused by the FRG, especially by the luring away of qualified experts, was overcome. On the firm basis of the socialist production conditions the extensive building of socialism was successfully implemented. In this way developed the solid prerequisites for the decisions of the SED's eighth and ninth party congresses, for the tested policy of the main task, for its consistent realization.

Bonn was harboring the illusion that it was possible to isolate the GDR. The invasion by the Bundeswehr was to be termed a purely "internal German" affair, a kind of police action to reestablish "order". But on 13 August the revanchist adventures were facing the states of the Warsaw Pact as a united front. The immediate securing of the border was effected by the National People's Army together with the Border Troops, the combat groups of the working class and the People's Police. The Warsaw Pact states as a whole were ready to repel any attack on the GDR and thus on the socialist community. The governments of the Warsaw Pact states declared that in the face of the aggressive efforts of the reactionary forces of the FRG and its NATO allies they could not avoid taking the necessary measures in order to safeguard their security and that of the GDR. No sooner said than done: Realities proved to be stronger than illusions. He who did not know it before was able to learn much on 13 August 1961: Aggressive intentions meet with hard resistance in the GDR. Peace is consistently defended, socialism stands on a firm basis in our country, and the GDR is a component of the socialist community which cannot be extracted even at the risk of one's own destruction. These lessons have had their effect in certain circles of the FRG and in other Western countries. They led to conclusions which are even now having a favorable influence on the development of the international situation.

In this way 13 August has contributed to the fact that 10 years later essential changes in the European situation had become apparent. The treaties between the USSR and the FRG and between the People's Republic of Poland and the FRG were signed already in 1970. In them, the FRG recognized both the Oder-Neisse border and the border between the GDR and the FRG as being inviolable. In 1972 the Basic Treaty between the GDR and the FRG followed, by which the FRG also recognized the inviolability of the border and the sovereignty of the GDR. What we secured by the military forces on that 13 August was fixed in international law by these treaties.

The path led on to Helsinki. The 1975 Final Act contains important principles of security and cooperation, such as for example the principles of respect for sovereignty and the rights inherent in it, the inviolability of frontiers, noninterference in the internal and external affairs of the participating states. It was just these principles which the GDR had successfully defended on 13 August 1961 and thus created facts which benefited European security.

Despite all the positive consequences of our measures of 13 August, however, one has to state that the lessons which so clearly emerged from them have still not been understood by all. One can still hear it said in the FRG--namely by responsible politicians of all the parties represented in the Bundestag--that the relations between the GDR and FRG could be developed on a different basis from the system of treaties signed in the meantime, that one should "keep open" the German question, besides other instances of revanchist babble of German national megalomania. From this one desires to derive the right to interfere in the internal affairs of the GDR. Attempts to interfere are made with persistence and hatred by manifold means.

Under these circumstances we are aware, as we were 18 years ago, that the border with the FRG and with West Berlin also forms the border between socialism and capitalism and that this border must be secure if peace is to be secure. Our special thanks today, the thanks of the GDR people, go to the soldiers, NCO's and officers who are doing their daily heavy duty in reliably securing and protecting this border.

Let all concerned understand that there is no other responsible solution in the relations between the GDR and the FRG than the peaceful coexistence between states with different social systems. We support the further development of normal relations corresponding to international law, corresponding to the UN Charter. Indispensable preconditions for this are the recognition of borders, the respecting of sovereignty and noninterference in internal affairs. Precisely this was made clear with determination on 13 August 1961. It is valid now and will continue to be in the future.