

CONTINUED DISMANTLING OF BORDER DEVICES REPORTED

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[Text] Bonn, 3 Oct (DPA) -- The dismantling of the automatic firing devices at the GDR border has continued over the weekend. It was stated at the Interior Ministry today that the devices have been dismantled along a total of 20 kilometers. On Friday [30 September] the devices were removed from a stretch of 17.8 kilometers. A stretch totaling 439 kilometers along the GDR-FRG border was previously equipped with the devices. "It is continuing, but slowly," it was stressed. Once again the relevant circles pointed out that "other border defense installations" could apparently replace the dismantled automatic firing devices. However, importance is attached to the fact that "new installations" have not yet been seen.

In today's edition the Bonn paper DIE WELT reports that the GDR is constructing a new defense system. Escapes are to be prevented behind the border. According to DIE WELT, the Federal Government has information to the effect that the government in East Berlin intends to install the devices in the hinterland. This would make it virtually impossible for would-be-escapees to reach the West. DIE WELT cites a report by the Federal Border Guard, according to which the "border watch" model is to be introduced at the GDR border from 1984-85. This would signify a three-way division of GDR forces on the demarcation line.