

BORDER GUARD REPORTS ON ESCAPES FROM GDR, CSSR

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[Text] Bonn, 27 Feb (DPA) -- Last year a total of 51 GDR citizens, including 9 soldiers, evaded the border installations bordering on the FRG. Escape attempts across the death strip failed in about 30 other cases. This emerges from a progress report issued by the Federal Border Guard for 1983, which was published today in Bonn. In 1982, 72 GDR citizens managed to escape across the death strip. In 1983, 13 civilians, including 7 GDR citizens, as well as 3 members of the CSSR forces, escaped across the CSSR border. The report states that 18 escape attempts failed. According to this report, in relation to the complete dismantling of the SM 70 self-firing devices announced in September 1983, the GDR has so far dismantled the devices along a total of 52.7 km.