

GDR REPORTEDLY ERECTING METAL FENCE ON BORDER

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[Text] Hamburg, 24 Mar (DPA) -- According to BILD AM SONNTAG, the GDR is now erecting metal fences 3.20 meters high, combined with floodlights, 500 meters behind the death strip. The new fences are said to be already in place over a length of 40 km along the Hesse and Bavarian borders. The paper says escaped GDR soldiers have revealed the new system. This system uses acoustic and optical signals to give an alarm when someone trying to escape passes through the electronic barriers.

According to the paper, Gerhard Reddemann (CDU), chairman of the Bundestag intra-German committee, has confirmed this information. The paper quotes Reddemann as saying: "These new systems do not actually contradict the commitment by SED leader Honecker to dismantle the old SM-70 automatic firing devices. However, in practice, they stand his statement on its head: The border will be made even more impenetrable as a result."

The report was prereleased to DPA in edited form.