

GDR Border Guards Shoot, Capture Escapee

LD240941 Hamburg DPA in German 0652 GMT 24 Nov 86

[Text] Berlin, 24 Nov (DPA) — An escape attempt by a young man failed on Sunday night in north Berlin, amid gunfire from GDR border guards. The Berlin police announced that, according to a witness, a total of 30-50 shots were fired in volleys during the morning hours. The lifeless and bloodstained escapee was finally carried away.

The escape attempt took place on the demarcation line with the West Berlin District of Frohnau. A local resident heard loud shouting, including the words "Stop, stand still." As he went up to the wall, shots were fired, evidently from automatic weapons. On top of the wall he saw a person hit by a further burst of fire who then fell back onto GDR territory. The witness was able to see through a chink in the wall that a young man in a bloodstained white shirt was laying on the ground. A border guard apparently went up to him and said: "I've caught you, you bastard." However, a second guard agitatedly shouted "shit" and threw his cap to the ground. He was immediately disarmed and led away.

The escapee, who had intended to climb over the wall using a ladder propped up against it, was covered with a tarpaulin and driven away.