

CHRONOLOGY OF SELECTED DEVELOPMENTS PERTAINING TO BERLIN

- May 1, 1976 East German Army troops again march in May Day parade, violating Four-Power wartime agreements. Allies protest.
- May 22 Konrad Naumann, First Secretary of the East Berlin party district, promoted to full membership of the East German politburo.
- Spring East German Party Chief Honecker appeals to Brezhnev to permit direct election of East Berlin Volkskammer representatives. Brezhnev reportedly turns him down, but consents to other East German actions to assert their authority in East Berlin as long as Soviet rights are not affected.
- June 24 New East German electoral law drops use of term "representative" for East Berlin members to Volkskammer.
- August 13 East Germans turn back several bus loads of West German Christian Democratic Party (CDU) youth attempting to visit West Berlin on the anniversary of the erection of the Berlin Wall;
- August 18 Self-immolation of East German Evangelical pastor Oskar Bruesewitz to protest the East German regime's church policies.
- August 26 Allies lodge a protest regarding the August 13 bus incident with the Soviet ambassador to East Berlin.
- October Discontinuance of special identification cards used by East Berlin members of the Volkskammer.
- November 8 GDR announces that tariffs would be increased on February 1, 1977 for hauling Allied trains between West Germany and West Berlin.

4 May 1977

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November 11 Director General of GDR Foreign Office complains about Allied patrols to US Charge in East Berlin.

November 17 East Germans expel dissident writer Wolf Biermann.

November 20 Honecker orders district secretaries to "deny unequivocally" all emigration applications based on the Helsinki Final Act.

December 2 East German police at Berlin Wall are issued armbands reading "Border Troops of the GDR."

mid-December East Germans begin controlling access of East German citizens to West German mission in East Berlin.

December 23 East Germans expel West German correspondent for "slandering the GDR."

December 30 East Germany announces new visa regulations effective January 1; third-country nationals coming from West Berlin must purchase one-day visas to visit East Berlin. New regulation does not affect Allied personnel.

January 1, 1977 Border control posts between East Berlin and East Germany removed. Signs marking boundaries of East Berlin are changed to conform with international signs.

January 1-2 Neues Deutschland, the East German Communist Party newspaper, prints two articles defending new visa requirements. Foreign Ministry claims East Berlin is an integral part of the GDR and that "four-power status" of East Berlin has not existed since the founding of the GDR in 1949. Furthermore, the Quadripartite Agreement does not apply to East Berlin.

January 3 East Berlin lawyer Wolfgang Vogel claims that the new visa regulation should be viewed as part of a gradual effort to undermine the four-power status of Berlin.

January 6

Horst Mahle of the West Berlin communist party (SEW) claims that the recent East German measures on visas and control points are intended largely for the GDR populace to show them that the government is working to integrate East Berlin into East Germany.

January 7

Soviets and East Germans in Paris protest West German Foreign Minister Genscher's plan to accompany French foreign minister during the latter's visit to West Berlin. They charge this is improper and incompatible with the Quadripartite Agreement because West Berlin is not part of West Germany.

January 11

Access by East Germans to the West German mission in East Berlin is blocked by GDR security personnel for 24 hours.

Allies deliver protest regarding the new visa regulations and changes in control points to the Soviets in Moscow. Foreign Ministry official Bondarenko reaffirms the Soviet position that the Quadripartite Agreement does not apply to East Berlin. Bondarenko tells French and British that "Greater Berlin" no longer exists.

Allies in Moscow have the impression, shared by the US embassy in Paris, that the Soviets are in effect responding to the fact that West Berlin plans to have delegates in the European Parliament.

January 13

The Soviet second secretary in East Berlin claims the Soviets were "surprised" by the East German move against the West German mission in East Berlin.

An East German academician tells a US embassy officer that East Germany may have to tighten up on West German visitors. He says East-West German relations are at a critical stage.

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January 13

West Berlin Communist party newspaper reports that East Germany has decided to discontinue publication of the legal gazette (Verordnungsblatt), in which East Berlin formally adopts East German laws; journal has not appeared since September.

January 15

An unofficial East German spokesman, citing unrest in the GDR, says the East Germans might have to crack down on West German access to East Germany. Claims the Soviets share East German concern about the effect of West German visitors on the East German populace, and agree that the GDR must do everything possible to assure control.

January 15-16

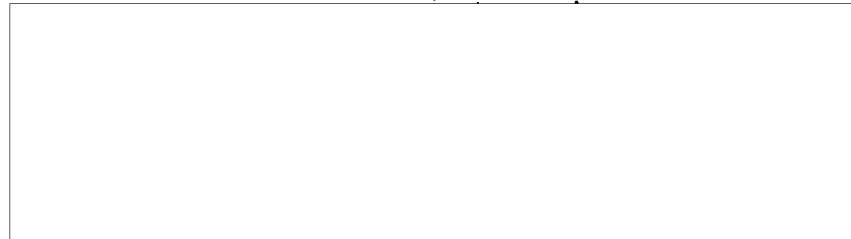
West Berlin press reports that large number of West Germans, who had previously lived in the GDR, have been refused permission to visit East Berlin.

January 17



January 18

Press spokesman for East Berlin city government refuses to speak on the issue of whether the Verordnungsblatt has been discontinued.



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- January 19 Soviet ambassador (Abramimov) complains to British ambassador (Wright) that the Allies are abusing their rights to enter East Berlin; protest the number of US patrols and the frequent observation and photographing of the Soviet embassy in East Berlin. He also says that Western allies have no rights, only responsibilities, in East Berlin and defends recent East German actions.
- January 21 Two Soviet embassy officials in Washington call on State Department officers and remark that now is not the time for problems in Berlin.
- January 21-24 Increase in the number of persons denied entrance to East Berlin.
- January 25 Neues Deutschland reprints article from Hungarian party paper that says Verordnungsblatt has been abolished because it is superfluous.
- January 27 East German foreign minister hands West German mission aide memoire warning West Germans to "desist immediately" from interfering in East German internal affairs--encouraging East Germans to emigrate.
- January 28 Allies make demarche to the Soviets in East Berlin on Verordnungsblatt. A Soviet embassy spokesman responds in standard fashion, claims East Germany is within its rights, and the Quadripartite Agreement does not apply to East Germany.
- January 30 Pravda attacks West German Foreign Minister Genscher for accompanying Vice President Mondale to West Berlin.

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February 21 East Germany publishes air regulations controlling overflights by foreign military supplies and equipment and prohibiting reconnaissance by these aircraft. GDR gives verbal assurance to the Allies that the regulations are designed for north-south flights to south by Scandinavian aircraft.

February 22 Public East German confirmation of discontinuance of the Berlin Verordnungsblatt.

February 25 East Germany imposes road tax on non-allied drivers entering East Berlin effective March 1; similar requirement already exists in East Germany, thereby removing another distinction between East Berlin and East Germany.

March 9 East German border guards attempt to confer with commander of US freight train during a two-hour delay at Potsdam.

March 10 Soviet ambassador Abrasimov at a press conference in East Berlin says that the Quadripartite Agreement is relevant only to West Berlin and that military rights of three Western powers do not exist in the eastern part of the city. Moscow claimed subsequently that the ambassador was misquoted, and that he had said only that a special eastern sector of Berlin did not exist.

March 11 French troop train detained because of East German demands for paperwork which train commander refuses to present.

March 19 Group of Soviet Forces Germany alters its air defense structure to allow a greater East German military role.

March 29-30 Numerous aircraft penetrate the Berlin Control Zone. Soviets admitted a navigational error on March 29, but denied the plans were Soviet on the following day.

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- April 9 East German Foreign Minister Fischer discussed Berlin with Soviet counterpart Gromyko during Moscow visit. They reached "complete agreement" on all issues discussed, including "strict observance and implementation of the Quadripartite Agreement."
- April 15 Demarches delivered to the US, UK, and France on the cessation of Allied flag patrols in East Berlin.
- April 16 Soviet party official Kapitonov and GDR representative Grueneberg declare at the West Berlin Socialist Unity (Communist) Party congress that the Quadripartite Agreement had eased tension in Berlin, but it must be strictly observed.
- April 18 Soviet Consul General in West Berlin, Bykov, tells CDU Bundestag deputy Alois Mertes that it is his "personal opinion" that it would be "very dangerous" if the CDU came to power in West Berlin.
- April 18 Unidentified helicopter from East Germany penetrates air space over American sector of West Berlin.
- April 19 US Mission Berlin reports the East Germans have recently enlarged the automobile control area at their control point opposite Checkpoint Charlie. Significance of this may be that it is easier to separate and isolate Allied military traffic in the event of an incident in the checkpoint area without delaying the flow of other traffic.
- April 25 Soviet spring troop rotation airlift begins.

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April 25

April 26

April 29

Neues Deutschland announces that traditional May Day military parade will now be held on October 7, the GDR national holiday. A non-military parade is still scheduled for May Day.

Unidentified helicopter penetrates the air safety zone and possibly the British Sector in West Berlin in violation of four-power flight rules.

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