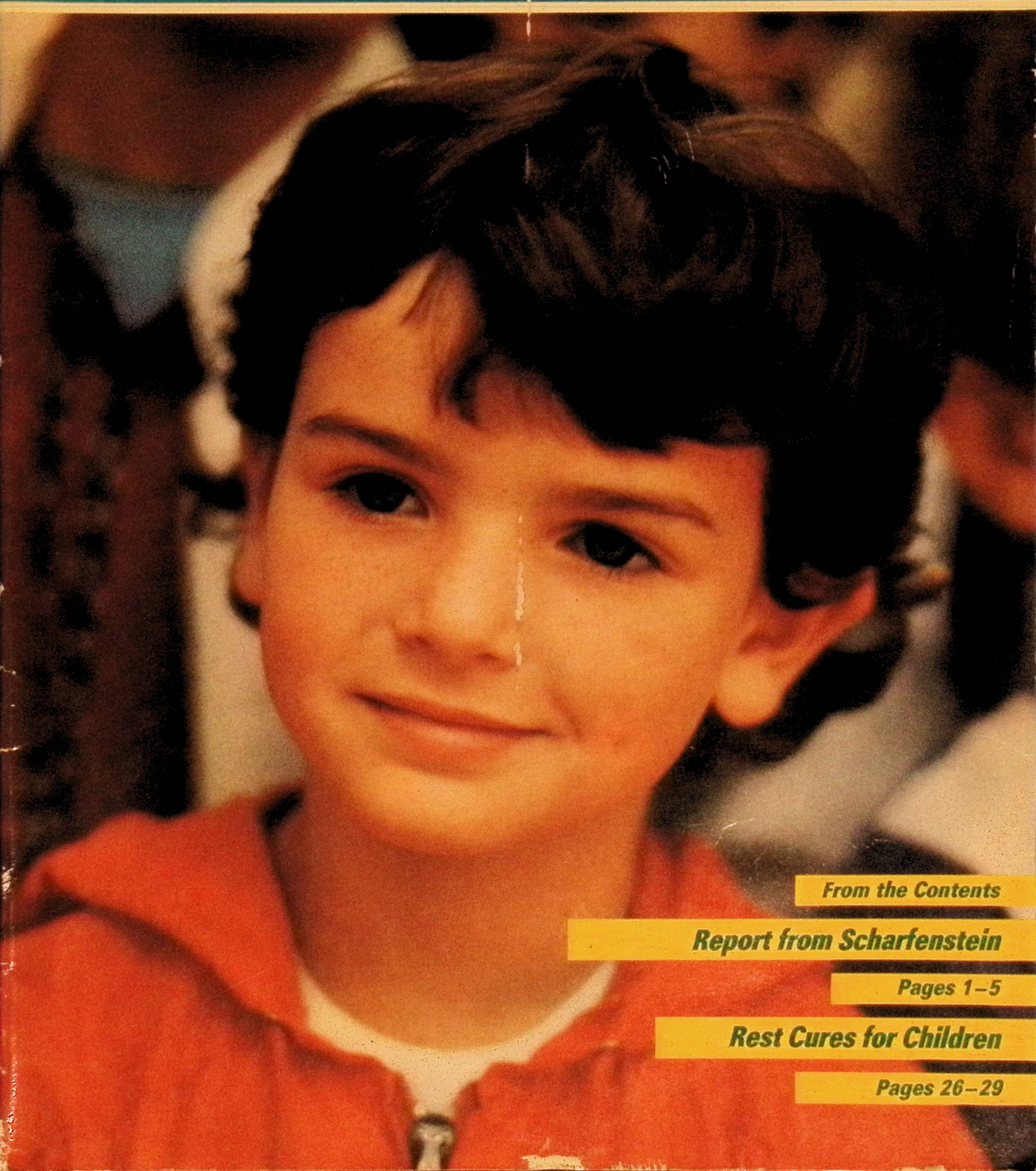


GDR REVIEW

MAGAZINE
FROM THE GERMAN
DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC

4/88



From the Contents

Report from Scharfenstein

Pages 1-5

Rest Cures for Children

Pages 26-29



The Overriding Concern and Our Everyday Life

THE ECONOMY

Rationalisation -- Everyone has a chance 1

POLITICS AND CURRENT AFFAIRS

Nuclear-weapon-free zones -- Steps towards a nuclear-weapon-free world 10
GDR exhibition in Madrid 18

VIEWES, OPINIONS, COMMENTARIES

Europe after the Washington agreement 17
Common home or European graveyard? 24

SPORTS

Short Olympic review 22

THE HEALTH SERVICE

Rest cures for children 26

CULTURE

Portrait of the actress and singer Jaldá Rebling 30
A committed puppeteer 40
10th Art Exhibition -- Scenery centre stage 49

PRESERVATION OF MONUMENTS

A Lusitan village under a preservation order 37

YOUTH

Young guides for an old town 56

SOCIAL WELFARE

Life doesn't end at retirement 60

REGULAR FEATURES

Replies to readers' questions 6
Kaleidoscope 34
From science and technology 36
Youth roundup 52

CONTACTS -- FROM LAND TO LAND 41

RECENTLY I took part in a peace meeting in the Dresden Hygiene Museum, one of the numerous peace demonstrations which brought women and girls together throughout our country on the occasion of International Women's Day. In deeply moving words the speaker recalled the horrors of the Second World War and she said: "If mankind were to honour each victim killed in that criminal war with a minute's silence, then our planet would be enwrapped in a pall of silence for 95 years." I think this statement had the same effect on many in the hall as it did on me: For years you believe that you have fully comprehended what a terrible crime against humanity World War II was and then a comparison like this brings home the true almost unimaginable magnitude of it all.

I left the meeting in a very reflective frame of mind and on my way home. In the icy wind of our late winter, I once again thought about the recent developments on the international political stage. Although not ignoring the shocking reports emerging from West Jordan, Chile and South Africa, I still felt a touch of optimism in view of the first steps towards disarmament brought about by the INF Treaty. I was also buoyed up by the knowledge that my country stands in the vanguard of those who are doing everything in their power to ensure that a deathly silence will never envelop our entire planet. It is for this reason that the GDR numbers among those who will not permit anyone to halt the disarmament process, the commencement of which required such great endeavours. I thought, for example, of the many voices from all over the world which have welcomed the international meeting on nuclear-weapon-free zones which is to be held in June in Berlin.

However, in our country we are not only concerned with safeguarding the basic human right of living in peace. After all, what kind of life would that be without everything else we cherish? No, our social system, in which everyone benefits from our economic achievements, forms a very stable foundation for the realisation of those other human rights.

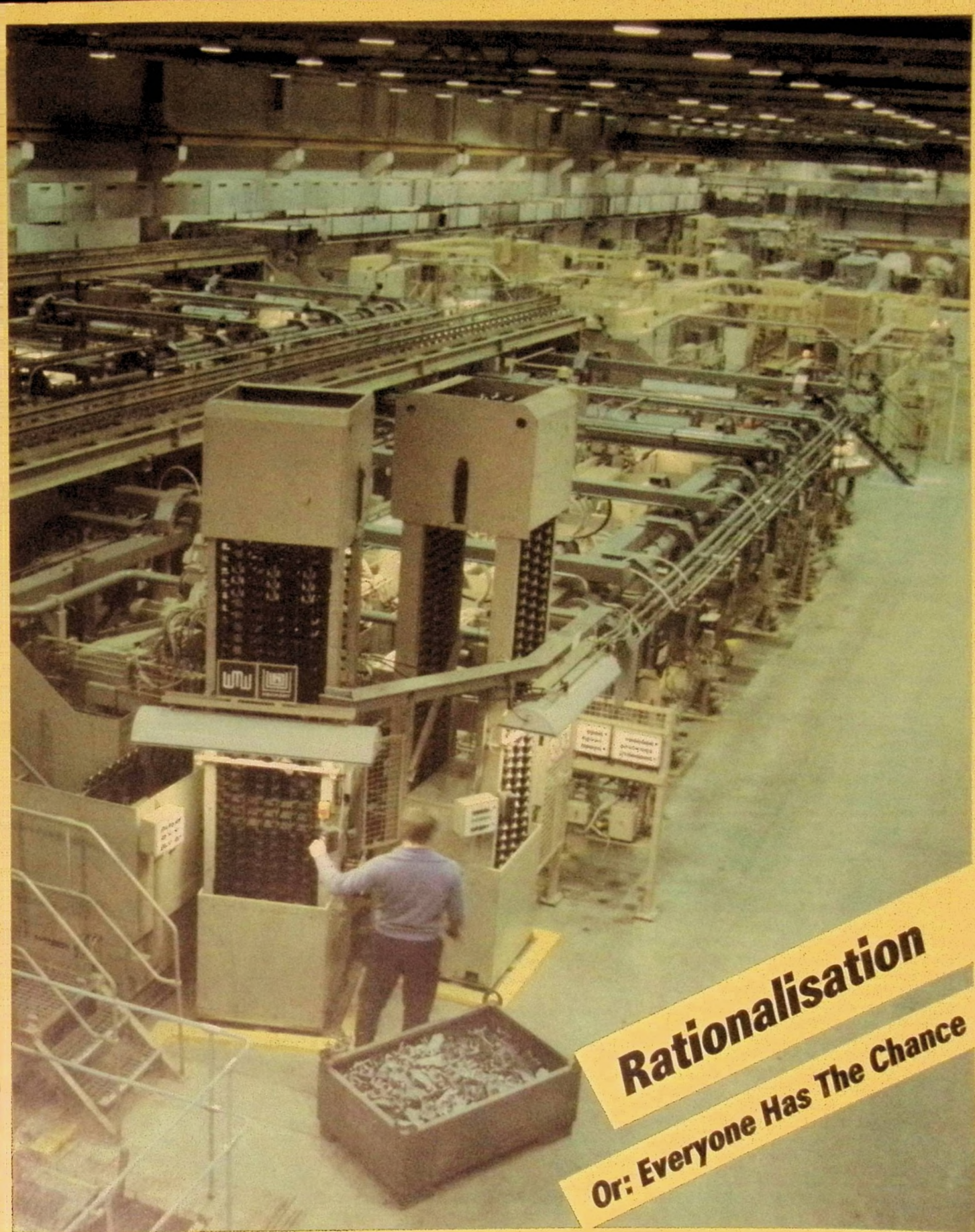
For instance, the Dresden Hygiene Museum--the venue of the peace meeting I at-

tended in March--is now, in April, hosting a session of the World Health Organisation (WHO). We regard this, too, as a sign of the international recognition and esteem enjoyed by our state's good health policy. Let us say a few more words concerning the right to health care. This is so much part of our everyday life here that we rarely think about it. Every worker--and there is no unemployment in our country--pays a monthly contribution to the social insurance scheme; the amount varies according to salary but the maximum is 60 marks per month. This covers not only the worker but also his children and wife, if the latter doesn't work herself. Needless to say pensioners are also covered without having to make any contribution. This is the only financial outlay for the worker who now receives all treatment free-of-charge, ranging from pills to complicated operations or a lengthy stay in hospital. Basic health care is also assured in both town and countryside by the provision of doctors' surgeries or polyclinics in the neighbourhood. GDR is no "Cockaigne" and our social system is still much too young to have already overcome all problems. For instance, there is still a shortage of personnel in the health service, because many young women make use of their right to the paid "baby year". There are also cases of thoughtlessness or even unfeeling behaviour. For example, you can get worked up, if you sometimes have to wait hours to see a doctor.

However, as said before, in our country the basic foundations are very stable and therefore we have no worries about being able to overcome any problems. Of course this will require a lot of talking with each other. For our aim is not only to avert the still existing threat of global nuclear annihilation but also, at the same time, to enrich our peaceful life together with more and more contentment and laughter.

Inge Tost

Inge Tost



Rationalisation
Or: Everyone Has The Chance

A SMALL DEVICE, a compressor for refrigerators, has for two years been occupying everyone's thoughts at the nationally-owned enterprise dkk Scharfenstein and in the community of Griesbach. Why? Compressors have been produced in Scharfenstein for almost 40 years, so it's nothing unusual. Not even when we are talking about a new generation of refrigerators with a compressor miles ahead of its predecessors in terms of energy economy. So what has made the compressor the subject of almost every conversation—right down to family level? What is keeping the mayor of Griesbach on his toes and causing a good few people sleepless nights or previously unknown "first-night butterflies"?

The reason is no sensation; it is quite simply: rationalisation. The more efficient compressor is to be manufactured in a new way. On ultra-modern machinery which represents the very latest state of the art in technology. The old Scharfenstein works was not up to this automation boom. The new compressor needed space, large work halls, a new factory. And workers who know how to handle the modern technology. This doesn't mean an elite workforce though—everyone has the chance. This means 23-year-old Jens Horn just as much as 52-year-old Dieter Wetzel and 64-year-old Max Kunis, workers from the engineering department.

*

The area around the low-level work halls is still a building site. The builders are still in action, geodesists continue to measure the foundations for the drilling of bore holes, the machinery still stands in its crates. But nearby the plant manufacturing cylinders and piston rods is already buzzing steadily. Trial operations began at the end of last year. The casual observer finds it difficult to distinguish between the fitters, electronics engineers and the future operators. Each manipulation is recorded, every detail is scrutinised closely. Together the search is carried out for the causes of any problems which arise. The monitor screens, operator's desk and the control room are a hive of intensive activity. Each movement of the tool is followed like the breathing of a new-born baby.

Jürgen Ellenberger had been working on the piston machine for the past two weeks. His training was to last a few days more and then he would return, for the time being, to his previous workplace on an automatic lathe. The next worker would then come to train on the new machinery. The compressor works will start production in the autumn. Then Jürgen Ellenberger will move workplaces, and jobs.

From lathe operator to plant operator—what did Jürgen think of this promotion? "It's exciting," he said and immediately began to tell us the whole story. "The plant is like a mosaic, it takes a while before you understand all the different parts. At first I didn't know what to do with all the figures. It is so

different from working on a single machine. For the first week I just observed, like a lynx watching its prey, and picked up what was going on from the others. And then we were told: On Monday you will be starting up the machinery on your own. There were three of us. I didn't sleep a wink all night. An actor must have the same feeling before a premiere. I had real butterflies. We all proceeded step by step, and each of us kept his eye on a particular part of the machinery. I'm not ashamed to say that I had the operating instructions in one hand while I was pressing the buttons with the other."

But what about when everything is understood—doesn't working with this automatic system become boring and monotonous? Jürgen Ellenberger reacted with a smile to our display of ignorance and said: "My previous job on the automatic lathe, now that was really monotonous—put the workpiece in, press a button, take the workpiece out and place it to one side. And always standing in one place. That is strenuous. Here you have to put in effort of a different kind, it's more meaningful. Here I have to use my head, all my skills. I have to know what the individual buttons, keys and figures mean, I have to understand every movement made by the machinery. I am operator and mechanic rolled into one. It's never boring here. Furthermore, I am always on the move, checking the performance and machine speed, watching the measuring instruments, calculating the deviation on the digital display and noting the quality control parameters. Just on the part of the machinery for honing, the very fine grinding, there are over 90 operating buttons." You notice that the future machine operator is looking forward to his new job.

The situation is no different in the case of his colleague Rainer Haase. He, too, waits tensely for the start button to be pressed. There is no way he would exchange his new workplace for the old one at a drilling machine. He likes the overall view of things which is necessary here, the dialogue with the monitor displaying the start conditions and any error messages. "I've worked in the enterprise for 20 years, but I've never had such a varied job as this," he said. "When I was offered it I didn't hesitate to accept." That the two men need to use their brains on this new machinery, that they needed to re-train, is seen by them as a positive thing. "We can do more than we thought," they said, and: "We enjoy being tested mentally. On the old machines we used to wait for the next break to arrive. Here we sometimes even forget to take our tea-break."

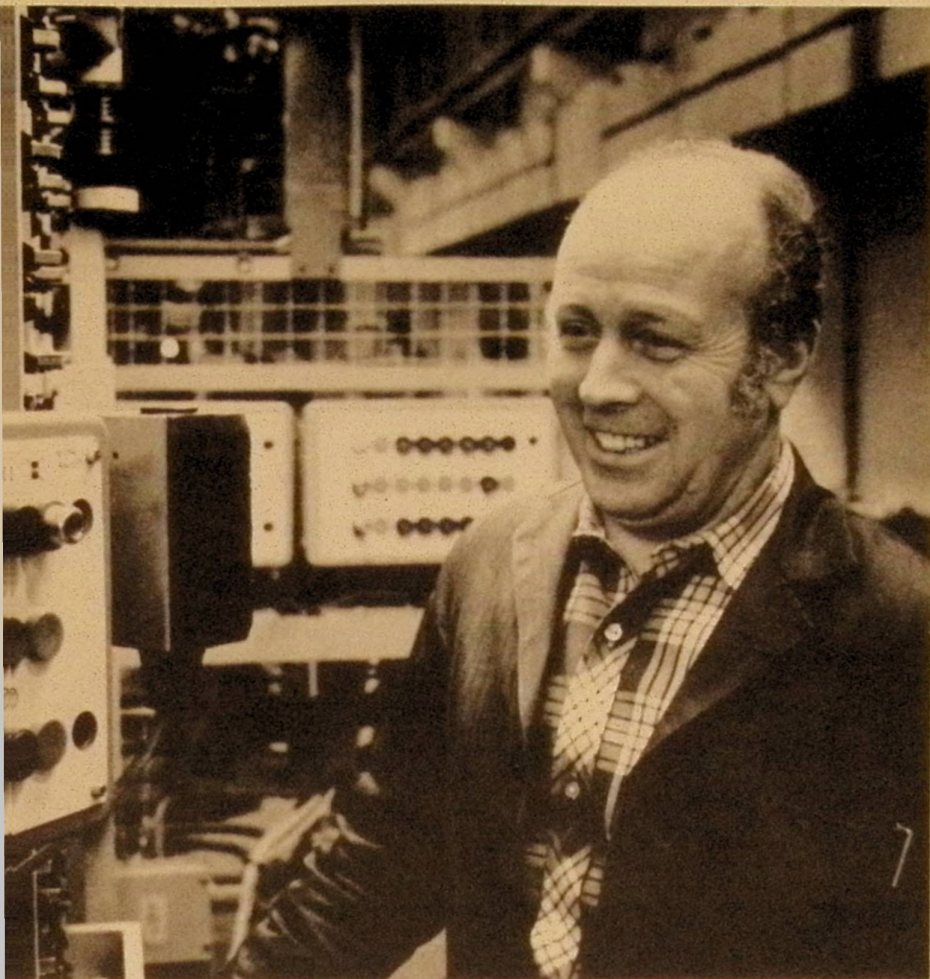
During our visit the fine-boring cutting tools had to be changed for the first time. Jürgen Ellenberger and Rainer Haase were at the height of concentration. Would they manage it? Their faces and their gestures showed it: "First-night butterflies"

Everything revolves around the worker

Refrigerators and freezers are consumer goods in demand both at home and abroad. The Scharfenstein workers are still unable to satisfy all the demand for their products. For this reason the rationalisation measures are aimed at achieving a significant increase in production. The old factory will not be disappearing. It will continue to produce certain types of compressor.

When the new works starts production around 70 of the workers in the engineering department of the Scharfenstein enterprise will have moved from their former work place. Right from the very beginning everyone was informed by the management and the trade union about the where, how and when of the new compressor production. This was naturally of most interest to the lathe operators, milling shop workers and machine setters: What will happen to me? Will I be considered for a new workplace? Will I master the new conditions? What will be required of me? One question which nobody asked, however, was: Will I lose my job and end up on the streets? And that despite the fact that everyone knew that this was a large-scale rationalisation project. This was, though, rationalisation with the workers and not against them. Their needs are high on the list of priorities. In our society economies are never made at the expense of the workers.





Dieter Wetzel has good cause to be happy: each day brings him a better understanding of the new technology.

Mastering ultra-modern technology is a challenge especially for young people. Jens Horn (left) is also training for the new works—and in a new job as a foreman.

Left: Günter Köhler doesn't work shifts for health reasons and so he is keeping his old job on the working machines.



Many were prepared to move jobs straight-away. Some hesitated and a few said "No". When Max Künis was asked he said: "At my age I don't want to retrain. The new factory is nothing for me, I would like to carry on my work here." At that time he had just over a year to go before retirement. Günter Köhler and Rolf Findeisen, who have both worked in the department since the beginning of the fifties, would also prefer to stay at their old workplaces. It is not that they are afraid of the complicated technology or the fact that they would have to retrain which holds them back. But the new works is to operate on a three-shift system and both Günter and Rolf work a single-shift rota for health reasons. Their workplaces have been specially tailored to them. "I've no fear," said Rolf Findeisen, "that one day someone will come and say that I am in the way. It's a matter of course in our country that everyone has a job corresponding to his physical abilities."

A meeting was held with each individual about the future, even before the first plant was installed in the new compressor works. Training programmes were agreed upon with those who were prepared to become operators. "We are doing everything we can to smooth the workers' way into this new territory," said Dietmar Grimm, who is responsible for adult training. "Everyone receives a standard payment for the time he spends on training outside work. Travel expenses are refunded and text books are free-of-charge. We also take the family situation into account. Whether there are small children to look after, or sick relatives to care for, or whether the person concerned is just in the process of house-building. The training was arranged to suit each individual."

Since last year training has been taking place on the machinery. Always for a week at a time. All those over 50 years of age are given more time for training. One of them, 52-year-old Dieter Wetzel, is able to smile today when he remembers how awkwardly he operated the cylinder machinery just a short while ago. The machine is a real giant: over 30 metres long, 16 processing stations, and endless buttons and lamps. "At first I was totally lost, it was all so confusing. It's not something you can grasp overnight. But I took things slowly. There's no need to rush here. I've got plenty of time to get used to the machinery."

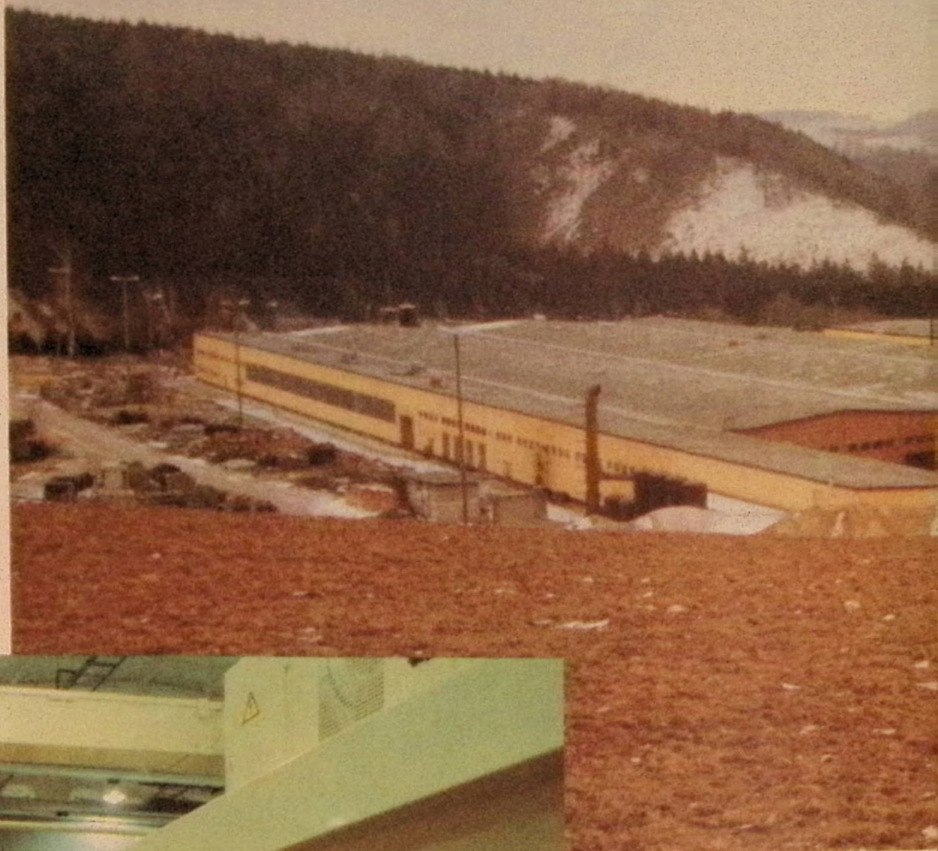
And what are the advantages of the new technology for him? Most important in his opinion is that the work is not only more interesting, because it is more varied, but also cleaner and less physically demanding. And something else: "As a lathe operator or machine setter I always worked alone. But now, because of the integration of the machines, I am part of a team. We work side by side and complement each other. That is much more pleasant."

During his training Dieter Wetzel will receive his average salary from his old workplace. He is not sure exactly how much he

will be earning on the new machinery. He said: "I know, though, that it certainly won't be less. That is not possible in this country."

Not only economy counts

A new factory was built. Like hardly any other industrial enterprise it is situated almost picturesquely on a hillside in the densely wooded valley of the River Zschopau not far from Griessbach, the neighbouring village to Scharfenstein. But what might be picturesque for some, can send others into a flurry. A factory in our dreamy little village? Is that the end of our rural solitude?—Hardly anything in the 600-year history of the village caused as much of a stir as the compressor works. Not that the villagers of Griessbach had been left in the dark about the plans, or that suddenly a factory had been sprung upon them. Because long before the first bulldozer went to work on the site the inhabitants of Griessbach were informed about the project. The enterprise manager, the chairman of the district council, the mayor and the village council sat down at



The new compressor works, which is fitted with the latest equipment for the protection of the environment, will help to better satisfy the demand for refrigerators and freezers. Scharfenstein's products are also in demand in Italy, France, Belgium, Austria, the Netherlands, the Federal Republic of Germany and in Great Britain.

The future operators Jürgen Eilenberger (right) and Rainer Haase still have a few things to learn.

Photos: Olaf Hansen



a table together and discussed which benefits the factory could bring to the people of Griessbach. They worked out a whole programme of measures, presented it to the people and gained their interest and their approval. "It began with the reconstruction of the roads and also included the connection of the whole area to the enterprise's waste treatment plant and the creation of new shops and service outlets. Furthermore there were provisions for sport, a youth club and a new medical centre," explained Herbert Schulz, a council member and resident of Griessbach. He knows only too well what changes the new factory will bring to the lives of the villagers, how it will influence the atmosphere of the village. "For this reason we will not be satisfied with half-measures. Here, in our country, we don't just consider the economic aspects. And it is precisely because that is so, that shortcomings are treated so seriously."

This explains why some things still have to be smoothed out. The mayor's office is still

bustling with concerned visitors. Many want to know when the barrier to cut out the noise from the road will finally be erected. It was supposed to have been ready at the same time as the halls were completed. Projects should also be presented for the planting of trees and bushes, but the missing barrier is holding things up. "Such delays create unnecessary friction," said Herbert Schulz. "What we want is cooperation between the enterprise and the community, not confrontation."

One feature which is not visible from outside is the fact that the whole enterprise has been designed with the environment in mind. "From the very beginning we aimed at building a factory which would have as little negative effect on the environment as possible," confirmed investment director Gunter

Wienhold. "Particular importance was attached to waste-free technologies and closed cycle systems. With ultra-modern testing technologies, for example, a helium leak checking system, with oil separators which suck off the oil fumes, filter them and guarantee absolutely clean flue air, with equipment to reclaim heat and in the future also to reclaim solvents, the burden placed on the environment is already reduced to a minimum within the production process."

But that is not all. A waste water treatment plant ensures that the process water is thoroughly purified, special precautions are made in the storage tank area to protect the ground water and it can be taken for granted that there are smoke desulphurisation and dust-removal systems ...

A healthy environment also means health for the people living in it. Refrigerators and freezers from Scharfenstein ensure that the benefits from their function are not lost on the method of their production.

Brigitte Riedel

GDR REVIEW

ANSWERS
READERS' QUESTIONS

What is the state of cooperation between Finland and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA)?

Pertti Pyykkonen, Kuopio, Finland

For 15 years now there have been relations between Finland and the CMEA. On May 16, 1973, an agreement on cooperation between the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance and the Republic of Finland was signed. It was the first multilateral accord concluded by the CMEA member states with a country having a different social and economic system. Under this agreement a special commission was set up to make recommendations and to monitor them after enterprises or economic associations had adopted them. Representatives of all the CMEA countries and Finland sit on this commission. To carry out its tasks, the commission formed standing and temporary working groups dealing with foreign trade, mechanical engineering, the chemical industry, transport, scientific and technical cooperation, etc.

1987 saw a considerable extension of existing relations through the signing of 12 additional agreements bringing their total number to 116.

Only recently the commission has recommended 72 new joint projects in the areas of industry and research, primarily in the food industry, powder metallurgy, power conversion, transport, the processing of plastic materials, hoisting machinery and automation technology.

What is meant by strategic weapons, a 50 per cent reduction of which is now being negotiated?

Andrew Collins, Birmingham, Britain

Generally speaking, the strategic offensive armaments of the USSR and the USA comprise all those weapon systems with nuclear warheads which are capable of reaching the territory of the other side and destroying strategically important targets such as military installations, command centres, industrial complexes, cities and major transport junctions.

Strategic offensive weapons include land-based ballistic missiles with a range exceeding 5,500 kilometres (the shortest distance between the USSR and the USA across the North Pole), submarine-launched ballistic missiles and also aircraft serving as delivery vehicles for such weapons and having a wide radius of action.

Numerous types of land and sea-based ballistic missiles are armed with multiple warheads, each flying on a trajectory of its own after launching. This means that one missile can have several targets.

At the time of the Reykjavik meeting in October 1986, the Soviet Union had 2,480 carriers of strategic offensive weapons with 10,000 nuclear warheads, whereas the USA possessed 2,208 carriers with 14,800 nuclear warheads.

Strategic armaments represent the bulk of the nuclear arsenal in the world. Their destructive capability is 25 times greater than that of medium-range missiles. Hence it is important that the negotiations on reducing their number be successful. During their meeting in Washington Gorbachev and Reagan agreed to have a draft treaty on a 50 per cent cut of these weapons prepared by the time of their next summit in Moscow.

What is the role of nuclear power stations in the GDR's electricity supply?

J. Klein, Eindhoven, the Netherlands

The main part of electricity needs in our country is covered by lignite-fired power stations (82.4 per cent in 1986). As the most available fossil fuel in the GDR lignite will continue to be the main source of energy in the years to come. However, the GDR's lignite reserves are finite, thus it is important for our country to increasingly meet the rising electricity consumption through nuclear power. In this area the GDR is closely cooperating with the Soviet Union and the other CMEA countries. To promote the joint construction of nuclear power stations, the CMEA formed the International economic association "Interatomenergo" of which the GDR

is a member. In our country efficient nuclear power stations have been built with Soviet scientific and technical assistance in Rheinsberg and Lubmin.

While in 1970 nuclear power accounted for less than one per cent of electricity production in the GDR, this share rose to eleven per cent by 1985 and is to reach 15 per cent during the current Five-Year-Plan period ending in 1990. At the same time preparations are being made for the building and commissioning of more nuclear power stations in the years after 1990. Thus in 1991 the Stendal nuclear power station is to become operational.

Is the GDR one of the countries importing natural gas from the Soviet Union?

Nils Svensson, Jönköping, Sweden

Yes, it is. 1972 saw the beginning of Soviet gas imports which amounted to 21.6 billion cubic metres from 1976 to 1980 and has exceeded six billion cubic metres annually over the last few years. The natural gas is transported from Orenburg to the CMEA countries through a 2,750-kilometre long pipeline which was jointly built by the USSR and the GDR. The two countries have also long been closely cooperating in the development of gas fields and the construction of projects for the Soviet gas industry. This cooperation is regulated by a government agreement covering the years up to 1993.

In 1986 work teams from our republic, predominantly youth brigades, started work on a new,



GDR REVIEW

ANSWERS
READERS' QUESTIONS

4,000-kilometre-long gas pipeline from the Arctic Circle to the western border of the Soviet Union. It is planned to carry natural gas as early as 1989.



In January in Paris, UNESCO launched a "World Decade of Cultural Development" campaign. Is the GDR planning to take part in it?

Denise Berger, Paris, France

We are not only planning to do so. In February a National Committee was founded in the GDR to coordinate all measures related to the World Decade campaign. During the relevant ceremony the Minister of Culture Hans-Joachim Hoffmann referred to culture as "the intellectual and material attributes of a society in their entirety." Consequently, in addition to the arts and literature, he listed as cultural aspects the people's way of life, basic rights, system of values, traditions and convictions. The minister also referred to culture as being closely linked with science, education and the health service.

Appropriately, the GDR National Committee comprises eminent personalities from very different spheres of social life, for example: Professor Manfred Wekwerth, President of the Academy of Arts; Professor Günther Heldorn, Deputy Minister for Higher and Technical Education;

Gisela Steineckert, a writer and President of the GDR Entertainment Committee; Heinz Langer, a senior consultant and chief physician of a clinic for internal medicine and rheumatology in Dresden.

The basic concern of the World Decade campaign is to contribute to mankind's welfare and peaceful coexistence through cultural development. This is fully in line with the principles of cultural policy pursued in our country. In June the Committee will adopt a working plan envisaging concrete schemes related to the four declared aims of the campaign. These are: to take into account the cultural dimension of development, to acknowledge and enrich the cultural identity, to broaden the people's participation in cultural life and to promote cultural cooperation.

The GDR can offer rich and manifold experiences in the cultural field. We need only refer to the close link between the right to work which, in our country is guaranteed to everyone, and the participation in cultural life. Besides such observations on theoretical aspects, we can also point to very concrete schemes. For example, the prestigious annual arts festivals in Berlin, Dresden, Leipzig and other cities are to be specially dedicated to the World Decade campaign once in its ten-year run.

It is already to be foreseen that the World Decade of Culture will not only provide considerable experience and practical support for the developing countries but also an exchange of numerous impulses for the highly

developed countries in, for instance, Europe. Major celebrations such as the 200th anniversary of the French Revolution, preparations for which are underway, are already having a far-reaching impact. Thus the GDR composer Siegfried Matthus, for example, is working on an opera on this theme. There is great interest in our country for an Austrian project to study the position of man in the media world.

One may take it for certain that the World Decade campaign, too, will open up many more opportunities for dialogue and cooperation over the following years.



What happened to the Nazi and war criminals on the territory of today's GDR after 1945?

Isao Ashiba, Tokyo, Japan

In accordance with the generally recognised rules of international law, war crimes as well as crimes against humanity and against peace do not fall under a statute of limitations in the GDR. Immediately after the defeat of the Nazi regime the newly formed antifascist investigative

and judicial bodies in the then Soviet zone of occupation in Germany—today the GDR—began the systematic exposure and investigation of fascist crimes and the prosecution of the perpetrators. Since 8 May 1945 a total of 12,876 people have been tried and convicted on the territory of the GDR for their participation in war crimes and crimes against humanity. These included fascist informers, members of the fascist state apparatus, people who held leading positions in the Nazis' war and armaments industry and former officials of national and local authorities in Nazi Germany. The fact that by 31 December 1950 sentences were passed on 12,147 criminals (almost 95 per cent of the total number) corroborates the consistency with which the GDR pursued the process of denazification.

An important step for the extirpation and overcoming of fascism was the removal of its economic foundations, above all of monopoly capital. At the same time, all traces of the fascist ideology—the anticommunism and chauvinism which it had sown in people's minds—were eradicated.

All those cases of Nazi and war crimes which have been tried in the GDR in the last two decades concerned individuals who through various manipulations had managed to adopt a completely new identity or at least to cover up their one-time membership of certain fascist organisations and their participation in Nazi crimes.



MAY DAY 1988—

***Together for
further disarmament steps
on the road to
a nuclear-weapon-free
world!***

Photos: Olaf Hanns, Klaus Rose, Manfred Nitzschke



The Disarmament And Negotiation Proposals Of The Warsaw Treaty

● Conclusion of an agreement on a fifty per cent reduction of the strategic offensive weapons of the Soviet Union and the United States, with observance of the ABM Treaty in the form signed in 1972 for an agreed period of time

● Total ban on nuclear weapons testing as a priority measure aimed at ending the development, production and perfection of nuclear weapons

● Elaboration of an international convention for the banning of chemical weapons, the elimination of existing stocks of such weapons and the destruction of the industrial basis for their manufacture

● Mutual and simultaneous reductions in forces and conventional armaments in Europe to a level at which each side can guarantee its own defence but has no means to carry out a surprise attack or offensive operations in general.

As a first step in this direction: at the beginning of the 1990s the reduction by 25 per cent of land forces and tactical-strike air forces.

The elimination of imbalances and asymmetries in individual weapons types through reductions by the side holding the advantage

● Confidence-building measures (in the run-up to negotiations on arms reduction in Europe):

■ Reduction of the concentration of forces and armaments at the dividing line between the two military alliances.

■ Removal of the most dangerous offensive weapons from this area.

■ The creation of a 300 kilometre-wide nuclear-weapon-free corridor (150 km on either side) in Central Europe.

■ The formation of nuclear and chemical-weapon-free zones and zones of reduced arms concentration and increased confidence in other parts of Europe.

■ Consultations between experts on the military doctrines of the two alliances, in order to reduce suspicion and mistrust and to guarantee that they are based on principles of defence

● Strict verification of all disarmament measures through the linking of national technical means and international methods, including the creation of appropriate international organs, the exchange of military information and the carrying out of on-site inspections

GDR REVIEW COMMENTS

Ambiguity In Brussels

THE WITHDRAWAL from the territory of the GDR and Czechoslovakia of the Soviet missiles of shorter range began at the end of February. The withdrawal of these SS-12 missiles was carried out earlier than planned—still before the INF Treaty came into force. With this gesture the socialist countries proved once more how seriously they take the matter of disarmament, and that they stand consistently by agreements and treaties which have been concluded.

At around the same time as this was happening on the Eastern side a summit meeting took place in Brussels of the heads of state and government of the 16 NATO member countries. Anyone who had hoped to note a constructive approach here, too, was once more disappointed. Even the bourgeois newspaper *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* (FRG), otherwise immediately ready to seek out a scapegoat in the East when there is a lack of movement on the disarmament front, saw itself forced to make a surprisingly clear assessment. "Desirable as it would be that NATO should make well-thought-out proposals in response to Gorbachev's initiatives—the situation looks rather different." With the best will in the world one can no longer conceal which of the two military blocks is dragging its feet on disarmament and (so far at least) simply going round in circles, preventing progress.

It is true that the leading representatives of the NATO countries in Brussels once again welcomed the Soviet-American treaty on the elimination of land-based medium-range missiles. There was also positive talk of

the proposed halving of the strategic offensive weapons of the Soviet Union and the United States. And of the world-wide elimination of chemical weapons. Of reductions in conventional forces. Of a verifiable reduction in Soviet and American land-based, short-range nuclear missiles with equal upper limits.

But despite all the support for disarmament and security NATO still spoke out for the maintenance of the so-called strategy of deterrence, founded on the hackneyed lies of a threat. And from this the next step is to derive unrealistic demands: unilateral reductions by the East. And that although there is an approximate balance of forces and although NATO has a clear advantage in air assault forces and battle helicopters, for example.

But above all: There is no "threat from the East" anyway. Socialism needs peace and wants peace. Its disarmament programme does not exclude a single type of weapon. Who or what, therefore, is to be deterred?

It is time NATO overcame the ambiguity of its security concept. There is a clear alternative to "deterrence", with all its risks and economical and political stresses: Security through determined progress along the road of disarmament, through peaceful coexistence and mutually beneficial cooperation between East and West.

A. G.

Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones – Steps towards a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World

An "International Meeting for Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones" is to take place in the capital of the German Democratic Republic, Berlin, from 20 to 22 June 1988. In February a GDR National Preparatory Committee was formed and Erich Honecker, General Secretary of the SED Central Committee and Chairman of the State Council of the GDR, became its patron. The committee issued an appeal to the world public asking for support for the preparation of this meeting. The following documents some of the responses to this appeal:

Greece

In an interview for GDR television Karolos Papoulias, the Greek Foreign Minister said, "We are very interested in the GDR idea to hold a meeting for nuclear-weapon-free zones in Berlin in June. Greece will be contributing in Berlin with proposals of its own for a further such zone on the Balkan peninsula." He added that this subject had been one of the most important aspects of the talks in January between Andreas Papandreu and Erich Honecker. The Greek government also welcomed wholeheartedly the early withdrawal of Soviet medium-range missiles from the GDR.

Soviet Union

The spokesman for the Soviet Foreign Ministry, Gennadi Gerassimov, announced that the Soviet Union supported the GDR initiative

to convene an "International Meeting for Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones" and would make a contribution to the holding of the meeting. The Soviet Union had noted with interest the appeal signed by Erich Honecker. The Soviet Union is in favour of the creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones. Gennadi Gerassimov emphasised that an exchange of opinions and experiences on this problem by representatives of various countries was both useful and appropriate to the present time.

Zimbabwe

The President of Zimbabwe, Robert Mugabe, who is also the current chairman of the Non-

Aligned Movement, said that both the Movement and the Government of Zimbabwe gave emphatic support to Erich Honecker's initiative for an international meeting to deal with nuclear-weapon-free zones. Robert Mugabe paid tribute to the GDR's active peace policy and described the international meeting for nuclear-weapon-free zones as a significant event within the framework of the worldwide efforts to preserve peace and maintain the disarmament process.

Denmark

On behalf of his party the security affairs spokesman of the Social Democratic Party of Denmark, Lasse Budtz, welcomed the conference on nuclear-weapon-free zones to be held in Berlin in June, which had been initiated by Erich Honecker. At a conference of the International Centre of the Danish Work-



ing-Class Movement in Svendborg dealing with security questions, Lasse Budtz said it was a good thing to convene such a meeting at a time when everything had to be done to further the disarmament process begun with the Soviet-American INF Treaty. The Danish Social Democrats, he stressed, were ardent supporters of nuclear-weapon-free zones and of a nuclear-weapon-free corridor in Central Europe. Currently they were working actively on a project for a nuclear-weapon-free Northern Europe and would participate in the Berlin meeting with a high-ranking delegation, including the long-standing former Danish Prime Minister, Anker Jørgensen.

United States

The whole world has welcomed the signing of a treaty between the Soviet Union and the United States on the elimination of their nuclear missiles of medium and shorter range in Europe. Those people opposed to an end to the cold war and the arms race, however, have now thrown up the demand for the modernisation of NATO's nuclear weapons, whereby the INF Treaty would be undermined and the danger of a nuclear war enhanced instead of reduced.

In this connection the movement for the creation of nuclear and chemical-weapon-free zones in Europe is of extraordinary importance. Prof. Mark Solomon, the Co-Chairman of the United States Peace Council, said the Berlin conference of peace forces from 20 to 22 June would be a significant contribution to educating and mobilising the world public to commit themselves to nuclear-weapon-free zones and to defend progress towards peace and disarmament.

Italy

The Italy-GDR Society came out strongly in favour of the "International Meeting for Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones" proposed by Erich Honecker. A statement signed by the Society's President, Senator Tullia Romagnoli Caretoni, emphasises that this initiative is yet another step towards peace undertaken by the Government and the people of the GDR. From a political point of view it is especially opportune at a time when the hopes for peace of all peoples in the world have been increased by significant moves in this direction. The Italy-GDR Society is preparing for the dialogue with great expectations and hopes the meeting in Berlin will be a great success.

Sri Lanka

A peace seminar in the Sri Lankan capital, Colombo, attended by representatives from 15 countries, welcomed Erich Honecker's proposal to hold an international meeting for

nuclear-weapon-free zones in Berlin. In a resolution passed by the seminar, which took place on the theme "Peace, disarmament, development and cooperation in the Asian-Pacific region", the initiative was described as an important stimulus for the creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones in all parts of the world.

GDR Initiative— An International Talking Point

Federal Republic of Germany

Speaking in Bonn, Egon Bahr, a member of the Presidium of the Social Democratic Party (SPD), emphasised the importance of the international meeting for nuclear-weapon-free zones which had been called for June in Berlin. In this context the proposal made by the SED and the SPD for the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free corridor in Central Europe would attain new topicality in the coming months. The value of this proposal, he said, would still not be reduced if the corridor were to be viewed as a transitional solution or a first step towards further nuclear disarmament. Precisely the objective danger arising from nuclear battlefield weapons could be quickly and simply eliminated by a nuclear-weapon-free corridor.

Great Britain

Charles Godden, a member of the National Executive of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and of the CND West Midlands Committee, said that in Britain there were hundreds of self-established nuclear-weapon-free zones at local level, including his own borough of Nuneaton and Bedworth. The historic INF Treaty signed on 8 December last year in Washington by Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev was the first step on the road to a nuclear-weapon-free Europe. He said the pressure for a completely nuclear-weapon-free Europe—including Britain and France—had to be further strengthened by the European peace movements. No proposal which aims at creating a peaceful world should be ignored or overlooked. A meeting of representatives from all over the world in Berlin in June to discuss the creation of ever increasing numbers of ever more extensive nuclear-weapon-free zones following the Washington agreement would, in his opinion, be a further important step towards a nuclear-weapon-free world.

New Zealand

In a letter to Erich Honecker, the Friendship

Society New Zealand-GDR noted that, through determination, powerful measures were gradually being introduced which promoted a positive peace programme. The call for a broad meeting in Berlin on the subject of nuclear-weapon-free zones had further strengthened the peace forces. The South Pacific Forum could only welcome this initiative. Peace campaigners in the Society and all over New Zealand would support the appeal. Copies of the appeal had been sent to members of parliament and to others who shared a duty to prevent a nuclear war.

Sweden

Pär Granstedt, a member of parliament for the Swedish Centre Party and a member of the Jørgensen Committee (the Northern Parliamentarians' Group for the Creation of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone), said of the GDR proposal: "I generally welcome every dialogue which leads us further along this road. This question is so important that it must be discussed by everyone concerned—the neutral states and countries tied to an alliance East and West alike. Not in a propagandistic manner but in an objective and constructive atmosphere, so that results will be finally achieved."

Egypt

President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt announced in Cairo that his country supported the efforts to set up nuclear-weapon-free zones in various parts of the world and welcomed the meeting to be held on the subject of such zones in Berlin in June. President Mubarak described the elimination of nuclear weapons in the world as the central issue for disarmament and the preservation of world peace.

United Nations

The United Nations Secretary-General, Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, described the proposal made by the General Secretary of the SED Central Committee and Chairman of the State Council of the GDR, Erich Honecker, for an international meeting for nuclear-weapon-free zones as extraordinarily appropriate to the present time. This new, important GDR initiative was a logical component of the struggle of the international community for peace and disarmament, as had also been shown by the preparations for the United Nations General Assembly's Special Session on Disarmament.

The UN Secretary-General emphasised that in the nuclear and cosmic age security could no longer be achieved and maintained against each other, but only by working together. Every state must make a contribution, whether large or small, whether in possession of nuclear weapons or not.

Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones—Steps towards a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World

Fully in Agreement with the Peace Endeavours of Our People

by Prof. Lothar Kolditz,

President of the National Council of the National Front of the GDR, Member of the GDR State Council, Member of the National Preparatory Committee for the "International Meeting for Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones" to be Held in June in Berlin

The proposal made by Erich Honecker in Moscow on 4 November 1987 at the meeting of parties and movements on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution that important leaders and politicians supporting the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones be invited for an international conference to be held in the GDR in 1988, met with unanimous, positive response among our people. We know this from our contacts with people from all walks of life. Such an initiative is regarded as a topical and additional commendable step by our socialist state within the overall policy agreed upon with the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries.

This broad response entitles me to declare here that the parties and mass organisations united in the National Front of the GDR give their full and unqualified support to the convening of the International Meeting for Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones to be held in Berlin from 20 to 22 June 1988. We are convinced that the exchange of views on the usefulness and importance of nuclear-weapon-free zones and the total elimination of nuclear weapons will mobilise even more people for a speedy continuation of the disarmament process. It is fully justified to say that this proposal is entirely in agreement with the peace endeavours of all classes and strata of the population.

The political and community activities of the National Front of the GDR have always been based on the principle enshrined in our Constitution that war must never again emanate from German soil. It is in this spirit that our committees in towns and villages are committees for peace which embrace hundreds of thousands—party members, men and women not affiliated to any party, young and old people—who work together so that they and future generations will be able to live without fear.

When NATO started with the deployment of Euromissiles in 1983, people in this country took up the appeal of the 7th session of

the SED Central Committee to be more active for peace than ever before by doing the best they could every day, thus strengthening the GDR. Now we can say that our struggle proved its worth, that no effort was wasted.

This encourages us to make even greater efforts to ensure that the first agreement on disarmament is followed by others, thus achieving a major breakthrough. My personal impressions of last year's Olof Palme Peace March for a nuclear-weapon-free corridor in Europe are still fresh in my memory as impressive proof of the joint peace activities of various political, social, ideological and religious forces.

Regardless of opposing political and social systems, we Europeans in particular—due to the bitter experiences of two world wars in this century—have started to learn the lessons of history. We wholeheartedly support the goal of extending nuclear disarmament in Europe to other areas without delay, because it is mainly the GDR and the FRG which are direct targets of nuclear weapons systems with a range of below 500 kilometres.

The letter Erich Honecker wrote to FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl on 16 December 1987 is also imbued with the sense of responsibility both German states have for the preservation of peace in Europe. It contains the proposal "to reduce tactical nuclear weapons together with troop strengths and conventional armaments" and finally bring about a denuclearised Central Europe. This today is both the leitmotif of the European peace movement and a serious issue discussed among influential political quarters in Western Europe. We expect a positive response



to this letter. This would also be in keeping with the spirit of the Joint Communiqué published after Erich Honecker's visit to the FRG.

The early removal of missiles from the GDR furnishes further proof of the Soviet Union's serious desire to maintain peace.

The very fact that there are short-range missiles and battlefield nuclear weapons deployed along the dividing line between both alliances, the Warsaw Treaty Organization and NATO, heightens the importance of the proposal made by the GDR and Czechoslovakia in favour of a nuclear-weapon-free corridor in Europe. Its establishment would be an important confidence-building measure benefitting peaceful coexistence in our common European home. The proposed international meeting will undoubtedly lend new momentum to the movement for nuclear-weapon-free zones in Europe and other regions of the world and will involve many new forces.



For a nuclear-weapon-free corridor in Central Europe—this was the main motto of the Olof Palme Peace March held in September 1987. The citizens of Stralsund marked the commencement of this peace campaign on GDR territory with a rally.

Photo: ADN-ZB

Everyone visiting the German Democratic Republic and its capital during the meeting will be able to see with their own eyes that socialist construction here is the concern of all people, that we need peace to attain our goals, and that with our construction efforts we are also giving guarantees for peace. I should like to assure everyone that the National Front of the GDR will leave no stone unturned to make the meeting of political representatives a great success, indeed make it a further impressive proof of our predictable policy of dialogue, common sense and peace.

Nothing will move unless we push...

by Hermann Kant, President of the GDR Writers' Association, Member of the National Preparatory Committee for the "International Meeting for Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones" to be Held in June in Berlin

IT IS ONLY logical that the Writer's Association declares its boundless readiness to take as active a part as possible in the preparations for and holding of the meeting in June. This stems from the traditions of our Association, from the fact that this Association has from the very outset not only been an association of literary people but always an association of peace champions.

As everyone knows there are, occasionally, differences of opinion within our ranks

and fierce arguments—at which we, incidentally, are least surprised—but there has never been hesitation, indifference, passivity or, worse still, rejection when it came to using literary abilities, writers' ingenuity and the possibilities offered by literature in the cause of peace.

This is certainly not as matter of course as it may sound. It cannot be said of every writers' association in the world that it fully agrees with the peace policy of its country

Translated by Intertext

and its government, with social practice in which this policy is translated into reality. But this we can say so of the GDR Writers' Association. It has never been a point at issue in our arguments. Or, to put it in a positive way, it established the common ground to which we were able to adhere even in times of disagreement.

The international, all-European or bilateral encounters with writers which have taken place over the past few years prove my statement. Writers from the GDR, all of them very

different and not at all at one in many respects, joined hands at a very early date to advocate a line in favour of disarmament and liberating the world from means of mass destruction, a direction in which a part of political matters in the world's arena now seem to be moving. We do not presume to claim that these first successes were a direct result of our efforts—even our self-confidence has its limits—but we do not let ourselves be talked out of the fact that without the word of culture which is always to be heard, without the

complaint, the accusation, the warning, the demands and proposals to be heard from the ranks of artists we would not have arrived where we are now. And without this word we will not be tomorrow where we have to be tomorrow.

I would like today to talk solely about this, about our duty to continue speaking in favour of peace again and again. The inertia of the armour-clad conditions is almost discouraging. Nothing will move unless we put our greatest effort into moving. Nothing we do

Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones—Steps towards a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World

Chronicle of Initiatives for the Creation of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Europe

1954. Throughout the whole year the Soviet Union—supported by the other socialist states and a broad protest movement against the Paris treaties in the West European countries—undertook great efforts to prevent the admittance of the FRG into NATO and with it the country's further remilitarisation and endeavours to deploy nuclear arms on West German territory. As an alternative to such a development the USSR put forward a draft proposal for an "All European Treaty on Collective Security" at the conference of the foreign ministers from the four victorious powers held in Berlin between 25 January and 18 February 1954.

In addition to this initiative the Soviet Union—in the interest of European security and in a bid to avert the division of Europe into opposing military blocs—sent a note to the three western powers on 31 March asking for admittance into NATO. However, its request was turned down as was the proposal for an agreement on collective security.

Following this rejection and, above all, the signing of the Paris treaties in October 1954 as well as their coming into force in early May 1955 the socialist states set up the Warsaw Treaty organisation on 14 May 1955.)

30 January 1954. On behalf of the GDR government Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl addressed a letter to the four foreign ministers who were meeting in Berlin at that time. This letter suggested an overall concept for the resolution of the German question. Among other things it stated: "No means of mass destruction, such as nuclear and bacteriological weapons, are to be developed, produced or deployed in Germany."

27 March 1956. The Soviet Union submitted to the UN Disarmament Commission the first concrete proposal to set

up in Central Europe a zone of limited armaments, subject to inspections, and not to site nuclear weapons in this zone. It repeated this proposal on 18 March 1957.

3 April 1957. In a government statement to the People's Chamber Otto Grotewohl warned of the further accumulation of nuclear arms on the territory of the FRG. The GDR renewed its call to the government in Bonn under Chancellor Konrad Adenauer that the two German states should, separately or jointly, advocate the prohibition of all kinds of nuclear weapons on German soil. Several more such appeals and proposals—for example, the note to the FRG government on 30 April—went unheeded.

2 October 1957. Taking up the Soviet proposals of March 1956 and 1957, the Polish Foreign Minister Adam Rapacki further expanded them at the 12th UN General Assembly. He stated that in the event of the two German states agreeing to a prohibition of the manufacturing and stockpiling of atomic and thermonuclear weapons on their territories, the Polish People's Republic would follow suit and issue such a ban for its territory.

On the same day the Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Vaclav David announced that his country would take the same step.

In a telegram on 5 October 1957 to the President of the UN General Assembly Foreign Minister Dr. Lothar Bolz gave the GDR's assent to the Rapacki Plan, under which name it became known.

In the following months the Rapacki Plan was modified several times to accommodate Western arguments. This notwithstanding, it was discarded due to

not push—and in the case of a writer this means describing it with fitting words—will move off the spot. If we allow ourselves to take a breather the things that could take our breath away will spread again. And if we just treated ourselves to the luxury of devoting our energies to other struggles, energies which we would rather need in the struggle for peace, we would wrong our readers, our profession, ourselves.

With the important meeting in June in mind we will address all our colleagues

throughout the world, asking them to do all they can under their conditions and according to their possibilities to encourage the governments in their countries to take part in establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones or, even better, to inspire them to do so. We would like to say from the bottom of our hearts on the argument that it is not only nuclear-weapon-free zones that are desirable but a world without such weapons: This is what we also want, but—and our own simple experiences sum it up—none of our

dreams of a great novel have ever come true if we did not write a few sentences every day.

As to the dream of a nuclear-weapon-free world I would like to say in the name of my Association: We will make our contribution day by day to make it come true!

Translated by Intertext

the opposition of the then governments in Washington and Bonn. Instead the USA undertook enforced efforts at this very time to make the Federal Republic of Germany the territory with the highest concentration of nuclear weapons in the world.

Although in the following years the idea of the creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones didn't lead to any results in its place of origin, Europe, it lost none of its vital force.

8 December 1982. Proceeding from a paper elaborated by the Palme Commission—which comprises security and disarmament experts from the East and West—the Swedish government under Olof Palme undertook a new initiative for the creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones in Europe. It addressed a letter to all member states of the Warsaw Treaty and NATO as well as to Finland, Ireland, Yugoslavia, Austria and Switzerland putting forward the proposal that they advocate the setting up in Central Europe of zones free from battlefield nuclear weapons.

4/5 January 1983. In their Prague Declaration the Warsaw Treaty member states too came out in favour of nuclear-weapon-free zones in different regions of Europe.

27 January 1983. The official reply of the GDR government to the Swedish letter said that the GDR was prepared to make available its entire territory for such a zone provided the principle of equality and equal security was observed.

4 February 1983. Erich Honecker informed FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl about the stance of the GDR and suggested that the FRG act in the same way.

17 February 1983. Chancellor Kohl replied that his government did not see itself in a position to support the Swedish initiative. In that same year the FRG decided in favour of the deployment of Pershing-2 missiles despite massive protests from the peace movement and the parliamentary opposition.

19 September 1985. During a meeting in Berlin Erich Honecker and Willy Brandt agreed to expand the talks of the joint working group from the SED and SPD, which had already submitted a draft treaty on a chemical-weapon-free zone in Central Europe, to the elaboration of an analogous document concerning nuclear weapons.

22/23 October 1985. At their Sofia meeting the highest representatives of the Warsaw Treaty member states reaffirmed their unqualified support for the initiatives to create nuclear-weapon-free zones in different parts of Europe.

21 October 1986. After several discussion rounds the delegations of the SED and SPD, which were headed by Hermann Axen and Egon Bahr respectively, presented to the public their "Principles for a nuclear-weapon-free corridor in Central Europe" during an international press conference in Bonn. The proposed corridor would have a total width of 300 kilometres and encompass territory of the FRG, the GDR and Czechoslovakia from which all nuclear arms and dual capability systems would have to be removed. The expansion of the corridor to a Central

European nuclear-weapon-free zone was left open.

23 October 1986. The Communist Party of Czechoslovakia declared its accession to the SED-SPD initiative which it supports wholeheartedly.

3 April 1987. Erich Honecker and Lubomir Štrougal, head of the Czechoslovak government, sent letters to the FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl proposing immediate inter-governmental negotiations on the establishment of the nuclear-weapon-free corridor.

10 April 1987. In Prague Mikhail Gorbachev underlined the Soviet Union's willingness to remove its nuclear arms from the proposed corridor and to guarantee its status, provided the other side pledged the same.

4 November 1987. During the Moscow meeting of political parties and movements on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the October Revolution Erich Honecker announced the GDR's intention to host an international meeting of eminent figures, who advocate the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, in the GDR capital in 1988.

18 February 1988. A National Preparatory Committee for this meeting was constituted in Berlin. It consists of representatives of all classes and sections of the GDR population. The Committee submitted the proposal to convene the "International Meeting for Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones" from 20 to 22 June 1988.

Talks and Meetings



Norwegian Foreign Minister in the GDR

Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer and his Norwegian counterpart Thorvald Stoltenberg held official talks in Berlin at the beginning of March. The politicians discussed the further development of relations between the two states and had an exchange of views over basic questions in the international situation. They agreed that with the commencement of nuclear disarmament, brought about by the medium-range missile treaty, a chance had been created to make the process of disarmament and dialogue a lasting and irreversible one. The two foreign ministers stressed that in the nuclear and space age security could only be achieved by working with one another. These prospects must not be undermined by a constant arms race or so-called compensatory armament measures. On bilateral relations it was said that the resources of both countries offer great possibilities for cooperation in all fields. The Norwegian guest was also received by Willi Stoph, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the GDR.



Meeting with Miloš Jakeš in Berlin

A cordial meeting took place in Berlin on March 10 between Erich Honecker, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the SED and Chairman of the GDR Council of State, and Miloš Jakeš, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia. The general secretaries praised the close and fruitful cooperation of the SED and the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia which is based on mutual trust and offers a sound foundation for the all-round further development of relations between the two countries and peoples. Strong interest was expressed in making ever better use of economic cooperation as a growth factor in the two countries' national economies through constructive collaboration and concentration on selective spheres of high technology. Both representatives attached special importance to the extension of contacts between the youth of the GDR and Czechoslovakia. Erich Honecker and Miloš Jakeš stressed their countries' exceptional interest in a consistent continuation of the disarmament process.

Photos: ADN-ZB



Greek Minister of Culture Visits the GDR

During the latter part of March Melina Mercouri, Greek Minister of Culture, paid a visit to the GDR which lasted several days. She inspected a series of cultural establishments in the capital (our photo shows her in the Schauspielhaus Concert Hall) and had talks with Alfred Neumann, First Deputy Chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers, as well as Dr. Hans-Joachim Hoffmann, Minister of Culture. During her talks in the Council of Ministers Melina Mercouri handed over a personal letter from Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou addressed to Erich Honecker, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the SED and Chairman of the GDR Council of State. Alfred Neumann expressed great esteem for his guest's personal commitment in supporting all peace-promoting activities, especially those of the Greek cultural workers, which represent an important and valuable contribution to the safeguarding of peace. The Greek minister was clearly impressed by the cultural life and the fostering and preservation of historical-cultural values in the GDR.

Europe After The Washington Agreement



By Prof. Max Schmidt
Director of the Institute for International Politics and Economics,
Chairman of the GDR Council for Peace Research, Member of the National Preparatory Committee for the "International Meeting for Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones" to be held in June in Berlin

AT THE END of January I had the opportunity to speak before a British audience on the GDR's current position with regard to disarmament questions. This took place within the framework of the Second Round Table Discussion Great Britain-GDR in the Royal Institute for International Affairs in London. In the lecture it was emphasised that the people of our country, just like the people of other European states, have great expectations for the current negotiations on a 50 per cent reduction in the strategic nuclear arsenals of the United States and the Soviet Union, the strengthening of the ABM Treaty in its 1972 form and on steps toward a nuclear test ban and a convention on chemical weapons.

Detailed treatment was to be given to the GDR's position on the question of how things should continue in Europe after the INF Treaty. The task of injecting dynamism into the arms limitation and disarmament process, of permitting no pauses in disarmament, as the GDR State Council Chairman, Erich Honnecker, said, appeals to the political responsibility of Europeans in a special way. We are not just spectators; we are directly involved.

In Europe the two military coalitions face each other with the greatest concentrations of nuclear, chemical and conventional arms in the world, though in practical terms these can no longer be used against each other. This is not simply due to the destructive capabilities of today's weapons, but to an underestimation of the situation when seen from another angle.

On our continent there are around 200 nuclear power station blocks and other nuclear plants, whose safety systems are designed for a wide range of malfunction situations, though not for the consequences of war. On top of this there is a wide-ranging network of chemicals works. Chernobyl and the Sandoz affair in 1986 have made it clear, if we consider such experiences from a military viewpoint, that even in a conventional conflict a modern industrialised country could be turned into a nuclear and chemical desert. Military planning which does not take this into consideration is irrational and, in the end, suicidal.

For this reason alone the view which has been heard more frequently again since the INF Treaty is simply false, namely, that the "denuclearisation of Europe," (i.e. nuclear disarmament), would be the equivalent of transforming the European sphere of the (NATO) alliance into a theatre of war for conventional forces. At the level of de-

velopment which has already been reached in modern industry, there is no way for Europe to turn back to the past—to the era of wageable and winnable conventional wars!

It stems from this—and here we speak with particular emphasis as a country directly on the dividing line between NATO and the Warsaw Treaty—that there have for a long time been objective, system-independent security interests for the states of Europe, as well as within the general framework of East-West relations, the most fundamental element of which is the preservation of peace through disarmament.

In our view there are two things which are now important with regard to Europe: **first** to progress further with the reduction of short-range nuclear weapons (with a range of less than 500 kilometres) and **second** to achieve concrete measures to reduce conventional armaments and forces from the Atlantic to the Urals. We are in favour of dealing with tactical nuclear weapons in Europe in a complex with conventional armaments and forces, because alone by virtue of the systems with dual capability there is a close connection here.

For this reason we also consider the idea of a nuclear-weapon free corridor in Central Europe, which was initiated by Olof Palme, taken up by the SED and the SPD and proposed in concrete terms by the GDR and Czechoslovakia, to be an important link between the INF Treaty and future solutions for the reduction of tactical nuclear weapons and conventional armaments and forces.

Where conventional disarmament is concerned, the main goal should be to tailor the present military potential of the two sides in Europe in such a way that the risk of war and threats are minimised.

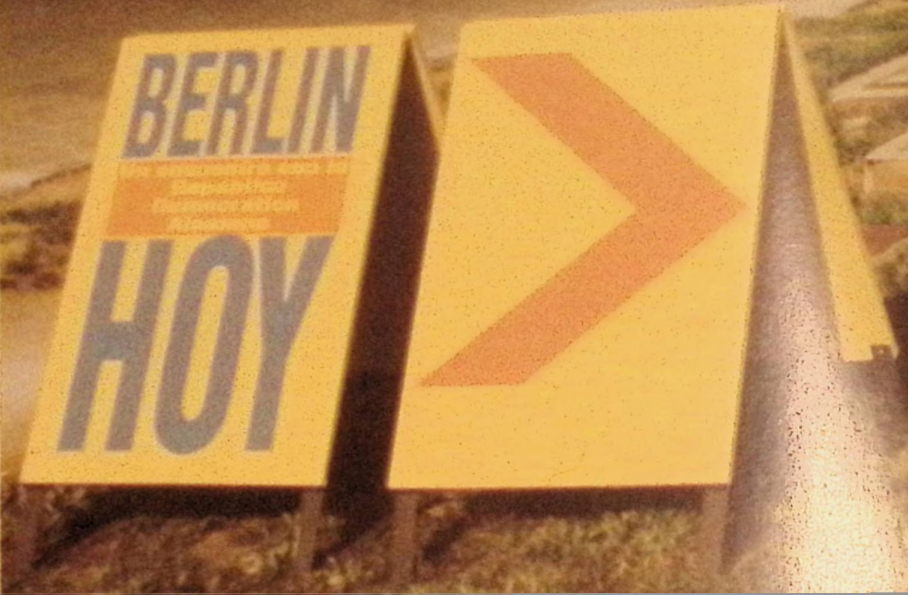
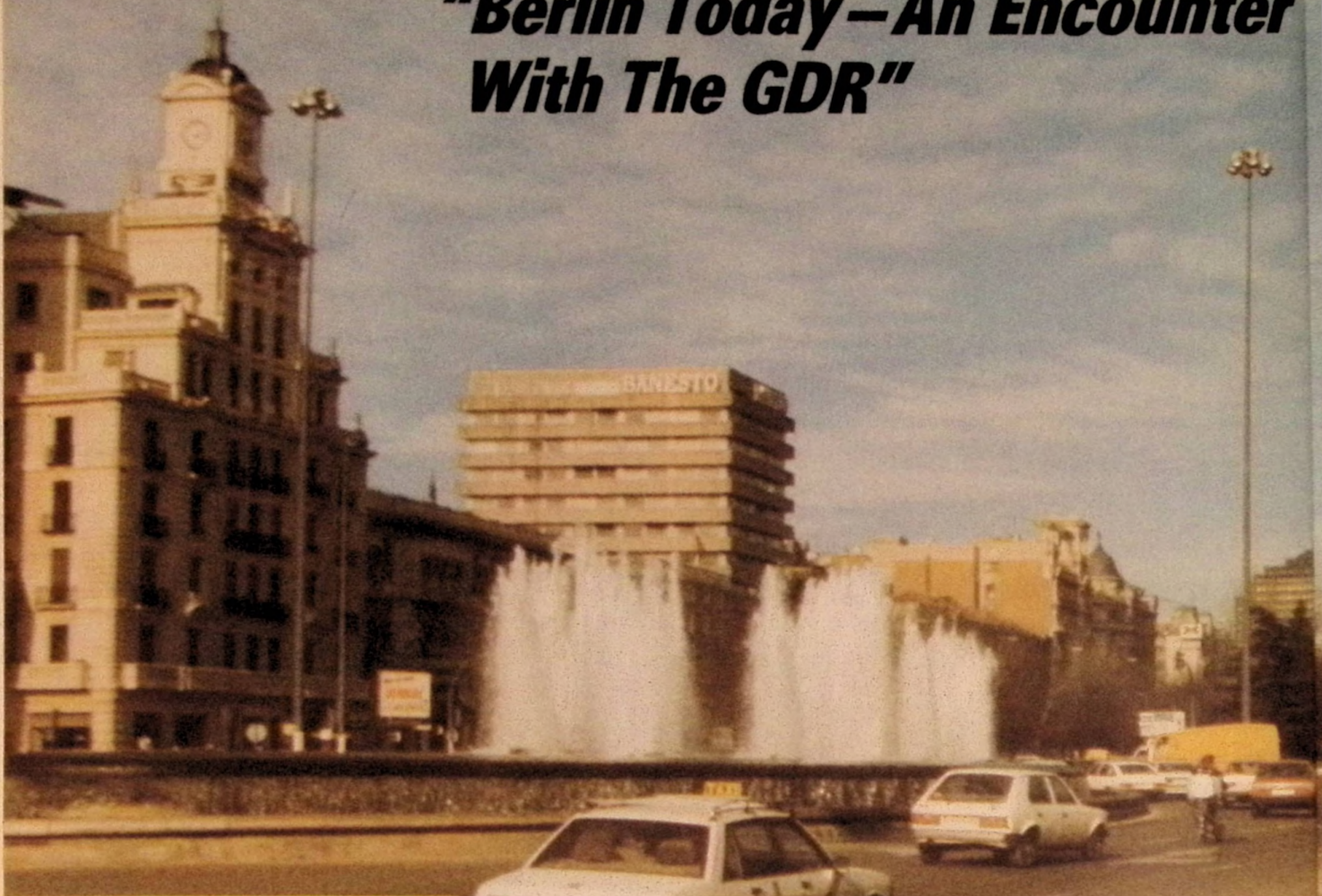
In order to avoid another figures marathon, as has been going on for almost 15 years at the Mutual Balance Force Reduction negotiations in Vienna, upper limits should be agreed to achieve a similar disarmament on both sides, with the reduction beginning simultaneously and subject to verification, as with the INF Treaty. If the arms race is to be ended, the currently standard practice of correcting asymmetries through an arms build-up must be consistently reversed so that the side with an advantage makes the necessary reductions and permits the other side to check this.

Special emphasis must be given to those weapons systems which have particular offensive

Continued on page 24

Exhibition in Madrid:

"Berlin Today – An Encounter With The GDR"



The mayors of Madrid and Berlin, Juan Barranto (right) and Erhard Krack, opened the exhibition.



IF YOU WANT to make discoveries, this is generally connected with a long journey. If a Spaniard wants to "discover" the GDR, well over 2,000 kilometres separate him from his destination. But in January and February this year this distance was reduced to practically zero, at least for the inhabitants of the Spanish capital, Madrid. They were able to discover the GDR on their doorstep, so to speak, at the Madrid Cultural Centre, the Centro Cultural de la Villa on Plaza de Colon. The Columbus Square with its monument to the man who discovered America is in the centre of the city. Around ten years ago the municipal authorities in Madrid erected a modern, generously proportioned cultural centre here. Behind the curtain of water of a fountain, along the front of the building, the visitor descends to the exhibition halls, café, theatre and concert halls directly beneath the Columbus Square.

*

"Berlin Today—An Encounter With The GDR" read the large blue and yellow letters in front of the centre from 20 January to 7 February 1988, and indeed on posters and advertising boards all over the city. The exhibition was



Left page: The children's drawing competition;
Above: Interest for the model of the Berlin city centre;
Left: Various daily events attracted good audiences.



organised by the Madrid authorities with support from the Berlin Municipal Authorities and the GDR League for International Friendship. The mayors of the two cities, which have been linked by a twinning agreement since 1983, Juan Barranco and Erhard

Krack, opened the exhibition. In this context Juan Barranco recalled the desire which had been expressed at the signing of the twinning agreement, namely to make a contribution to a deepening of the European process of détente and to the safeguarding of peace.

"This exhibition is an expression of our desire for understanding and cooperation," he emphasised. "I am sure it will help to strengthen our friendly ties even further." The Berlin Lord Mayor described the exhibition as an expression of the deepening relationship between Berlin and Madrid and of the continuously developing cooperation between the GDR and Spain. "It is," Erhard Krack said, "living proof of how the twinning of two cities can make an effective contribution to better understanding, a deepening of confidence and mutual respect."

Over 100,000 residents of Madrid and visitors to the Spanish capital took the opportunity to get to know the GDR. For most it really was a case of making a discovery. "I am interested in everything to do with cultural progress in the GDR, I knew nothing about it before. I hadn't thought, for example, that art presented so many problems or that it was so differentiated. I had imagined it to be uniform and slogan-like." That was the comment of a white-collar worker after a visit to a special part of the exhibition, in which the National Gallery presented about 60 works of contemporary painting, sculpture and graphic art. An economist said: "I was in Berlin in October. I've just seen the big model of the city centre and looked out all the places I visited. I also liked the section with photos and a summary of post-war history, about the founding and the development of the GDR. No-one knows such things here." The opinion of an electrician: "I was interested by the lifestyles in the GDR. Matters of technology are bound to be more or less the same everywhere, at least in Europe. That's why I found the information about life in the GDR to be most attractive." A young metalworker was very surprised to learn that there is no unemployment in the GDR. "It's almost unbelievable," he said. There was a similar surprise in store for the visitors who took part in a quiz and placed a cross next to the answer "1" for the question as to the number of political parties in the GDR, when they discovered that the correct answer should have been "5". Visitors who concerned themselves more deeply with the selection of GDR books on display were also surprised to find, among other things, a significant number of publications of a religious nature from several publishing houses specialising in this field. There was an endless series of questions concerning the model of the Berlin city centre. Are they really all homes? Is there really so much green in the



Above: Forum with the Deputy Minister of Culture of the GDR, Peter Lorf;

Left: Testing health and fitness on exhibits from the Hygiene Museum in Dresden;

Right page: The model railway layout was an ever-popular magnet for visitors.

Photos: Hubert Slonina

town centre? The low level of rents in the GDR, the training opportunities for young people, the support given to young families—that and much, much more—was reason for the visitors to be surprised. The exhibition did not only offer visual materials with which to get to know the various aspects of life in the GDR. Numerous competent discussion partners, such as the Deputy Minister of Culture, Peter Lorf; the Vice-President of the GDR Peace Council and Deputy Chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party, Gerhard Lindner; Olympic champions Dr. Margitta Gummel and Rüdiger Helm; the producer Günther Rucker; and the City Architect of Berlin, Roland Korn, answered visitors' questions. Prominent artists from the GDR, including Gisela May, the singer and actress best known for her Brecht Interpretations, gave concerts. One of the highlights was without doubt the evening on which Gisela May joined many well-known Spanish singers and actors on the stage of the Great Hall in the Cultural Centre. This performance, which met with an extraordinary response from the public, was to mark the 90th anniversary of Brecht's birth.

During his three-day visit to Madrid at the end of January the GDR Foreign Minister, Oskar Fischer, took time off from his official talks and meetings with King Juan Carlos I. and Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez to visit the exhibition with his Spanish counterpart, Francisco Fernández Ordóñez. The Spanish Foreign Minister paid tribute to the success of the GDR exhibition, which, he said, was one of the best and most extensive which had been seen here.

The public, too, had the opportunity to "take part" in the exhibition. Around 30,000 visitors took part in a general knowledge quiz about the GDR. Many also took the opportunity of putting questions to an information computer, printed their own copy of Berlin's oldest city seal, tested their health and their fitness on apparatus from the Hygiene Museum in Dresden, tried their hand at chess against an international master from the GDR or sparred with a boxing robot. On two Sundays the exhibition's organisers arranged a children's drawing competition. Favourite subjects were the puppeteer and his marionettes, who had earlier captivated the young audience, and the Berlin Television Tower. A model railway layout and demonstrations by a glass-blower and a carver interested both children and adults. For the latter the fashion shows of the GDR Fashion Institute, which were put on several times a day, were a particular magnet. At the exhibition the prizes were also presented to the winners of a schoolchildren's competition for essays and drawings on the subject of



peace. They came from the "Prince of Asturias" school, which belongs to the Independent University of Madrid. "A colleague and I," said one of the teachers, Mariano Garcia del Olmo, "visited the GDR last year and we learned a lot there about peace education. We think it is very good to come with our pupils to this interesting exhibition. After all our children should get to know the world the way it is. The annual competition on the subject of peace is based on the idea of the unity of the peoples, in this case, to be more concrete, unity with the people of the GDR." "It is the year 2134," it says in the essay of a 13-year-old girl. "The inhabitants of the Earth have been living together in peace for many years. I was born in times of peace, but I have read reports on former times. Many books describe terrible wars. Did the people then really not know that it is possible to live together in peace?"

The encounter with the GDR was not restricted to the exhibition at Madrid's Columbus Square. In the Filmoteca Española cinema, film buffs had the opportunity to get to know a series of films from the GDR, including "The Flaccée" by Günther Rucker and Günther Reisch, "Till Death You Do Part" by Heiner Carow, "The Stay" by Frank Beyer

and "Solo Sunny" by Konrad Wolf. A series of lectures and forums were held at the Universidad Complutense and at other educational institutions in the Spanish capital. GDR festivals were held in many industrial towns near Madrid and in other Spanish cities.

*

"This exhibition will certainly be a fascinating encounter with a country which is practically unknown here, and will help us to discover it." This prognosis by Juan Antonio Hormigóns, the President of the Spanish "Wilhelm von Humboldt" Society for the Better Understanding of the GDR, has been proved accurate. The President of the GDR League for International Friendship and Deputy Chairman of the State Council of the GDR, Gerald Götting, was able to note during his visit towards the end of the exhibition that "the peoples of the GDR and Spain have, like all peoples, one thing in common, namely the desire, or better the strong determination, to live in peace and security, free from the threat and danger of nuclear destruction. Our encounters in Madrid have confirmed this desire and at the same time, through dialogue and getting to know each other's ideals, life styles, achievements, experiences and plans for the future, have promoted understanding and made us all aware that we can get on well with each other and live together in confidence. In this spirit we want to continue what we have begun here, in the interests of a peaceful world and for the future of mankind."

Dr. Helma Harrington



The GDR scored a double victory in the 1,000-metre speed skating event. Runner-up Karin Kania (left) congratulates team mate Christa Rothenburger on her victory.

Successful in Calgary

André Hoffmann became Olympic champion over the 1,500-metre distance with the new world record of 1:52.06 min.

SEVERAL WEEKS have passed since the days of the 15th Olympic Winter Games. However, the participants and also all of us who watched on TV will long remember them as a festival of world sports, as a meeting of the top winter sports people from 57 countries.

The sportsmen and women from the GDR were as successful as during previous Winter Olympics. They returned home from Calgary with nine gold, ten silver and six bronze medals in their luggage. Among the most successful of the 56 competitors from the GDR were the biathlete Frank-Peter Roetsch with two





victories and the speed skaters Christa Rothenburger and Uwe-Jens Mey with one gold and one silver medal each.

The figure skater Katarina Witt and Steffi Walter in the women's luge succeeded in defending their titles from Sarajevo in 1984.

The Olympic Flame has been extinguished. But in a few months the sports youth of the world will meet in Seoul for another peaceful competition at which to determine, in the spirit of international friendship and true to the Olympic ideals, the best in the Olympic summer sports disciplines.

Photos: ADN-ZB

He won two gold medals: Frank-Peter Roetsch excelled over his competitors in the biathlon both in the 10 and 20-kilometre events.



Behind their team mates Wolfgang Hoppe and Bogdan Musiol, Bernhard Lehmann and Mario Hoyer took bronze in the two-men bobsleigh.



Katarina Witt enraptured the spectators with her Carmen interpretation and earned the gold medal.

Olympic luge champion Jens Müller and silver medallist in the women's event Ute Oberhoffner viewing a slide of the presentation ceremony.

capabilities. This includes, for example, tanks, tactical air forces, air assault and amphibious troops and artillery. The aim must be to reach a level at which each side can guarantee its own defence but is not able to carry out a surprise attack or offensive operations in general.

Along this path nuclear, chemical and other weapon-free zones in the area of the dividing line between the two military alliances assume enormous importance. There can be no doubt that, for the first time, the so-called early warning times would increase many times over.

It is in this context, too, that we should view the GDR initiative to organise a meeting in Berlin in June for representatives of various countries who especially support the creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones as an effective next step towards reducing tension and finally to disarmament.

We are certainly all well aware that, in view of the complicated material, differing interests and historical developments and experiences, the way to greater security and disarmament is, by its very nature, extremely arduous. We must become even more concerned when direct opposition arises. With this I mean above all the attempts to offset and basically to undermine the INF Treaty through various forms of rearming and arms build-up. The demand made by the current NATO Supreme Commander, namely that all armament steps should be undertaken which are not forbidden in the INF Treaty, for example, the modernisation of short-range systems or the acquisition of new, sea-launched medium-range missiles, is hardly witness to high political morals in respect of the spirit of international agreements.

At the present time, when all reasonable forces are considering how we can prevent a nuclear inferno, I can only describe this as a perverted way of thinking. It is up to all of us to oppose it.

Common Home Or European Graveyard?



NO SOONER had the third summit meeting between Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan opened the way for the elimination of Soviet and American medium-range and operative-tactical nuclear missiles than the opponents of disarmament within NATO stepped up the arms race with regard to short-range nuclear systems, conventional weapons and not least chemical weapons—naturally, as always, portraying this as an “offsetting measure” in the face of “total Soviet superiority”.

Instead of using a famous victory for common sense and realism, this first breakthrough to the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, to defuse, step by step, the dangerous European powder keg and thus maintain the habitability of the conti-

nent, we can witness the traditional pattern of behaviour, which Erich Honecker described at the meeting of the leading representatives of the Warsaw Treaty states on 11 December 1987 as: influential forces, “who want to stop the transition from confrontation to detente”, by calling for “disarmament to be offset by an arms build-up in other areas”.

In view of the committed peace policy of the Soviet Union and its allies, it is becoming more and more difficult to justify this. Sure, these people say, Mikhail Gorbachev doesn't want a war against Western Europe, but even so, he's still a Communist and you can never be sure ... In any case one must demand that he make further “prior concessions”.

The eternal men of the past, the self-appointed "liberators of Eastern Europe", the arms profiteers and militarists will thus take refuge in even more sophisticated demagoguery, more subtle lies and excuses, in order to camouflage their true intent. For this they can use a technically highly developed media apparatus. The vigilance of all peace movements and democratic forces, the consistent and convincing presentation of the truth, the real situation, therefore becomes all the more urgent, indeed a precondition for further disarmament steps.

This also applies fully to the question of the elimination of all chemical warfare agents.

Negotiations on a worldwide ban of chemical weapons have been going on in Geneva since 1969. The results have provided alternately good news and bad. A final agreement is by no means certain. The joint statement made at the Washington summit welcomed the recent progress at the Geneva negotiations and stressed the support of the two countries for "intensive negotiations leading to the conclusion of a genuinely worldwide and verifiable convention covering all states which are in a position of being able to possess chemical weapons".

The Soviet Union has halted the production of chemical weapons and there is none on the territories of the other Warsaw Treaty countries. The inspections in 1987 of destruction plants for chemical weapons in the Soviet Union, the Federal Republic of Germany and the United States by international and Soviet experts, the visit by representatives of the Pugwash movement to the chemical works at Schwarzhöhe in the GDR in March 1987 and the public declarations of leading politicians from the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy and other countries in Western Europe have all given the peoples hope and confidence in recent months.

It is indeed not an exaggeration to speak of the final phase of the Geneva negotiations, assuming good will on all sides. Important parts of a convention to eliminate all existing stocks of chemical weapons within ten years are already agreed. But there is still no agreement on certain not insignificant aspects. The United States' representative, Ambassador Friedersdorf, is demanding, for example, that the Soviet Union, to whom he attributes—and what else—a "crushing superiority" in chemical weapons, should before the conclusion of an agreement reveal its amounts and sites

of its stocks, whereas the American stocks should remain a "secret". The call of the socialist countries for the strictest verification of a convention banning chemical weapons worldwide is suddenly no longer desirable. It is rejected namely by the private American chemical weapons producers.

It is, however, above all the start of production of the American 155 mm binary shells and the "Big Eye" bombs (approved on 16 December 1987) which could endanger or seriously hamper a possible successful outcome to the negotiations. The start of production of these chemical weapons, which are indeed "safe" in storage though in use just as terrible as all other chemical weapons, speaks volumes, coming as it does shortly before the Geneva negotiations produce positive results. The American representative described this chemical arms build-up, which will have catastrophic effects because it can no longer be reliably checked, as "modernisation". It is necessary because the Soviet Union has produced chemical weapons in the past 18 years but the United States has not. We must guarantee a "chemical deterrence" and by means of "compensatory arming" force the Soviet Union to serious negotiations.

Instead of a "zero option", the most responsible of all solutions, which is so near and would banish the chemical threat for all sides and for all time, we have the currently so fashionable "trick" with "compensatory arming". The Soviet Union is not producing binary weapons, so why is the United States? Well, the new American binary shells are not intended for a war in North America or in Australia, but for the US artillery units in Western Europe and especially in the Federal Republic of Germany. The "old" stocks, it was claimed in Congress in the face of opposition to the production of chemical weapons, are in the process of "decaying". The new, "safe" systems, according to the fateful resolution of the NATO defence ministers on 22 May 1986, are to be stored in the United States

and only brought to Western Europe "in a crisis situation" (who is supposed to check this and how?).

The Netherlands, Denmark, Greece, Iceland and Norway immediately registered their protest at the possible deployment of the American binary weapons on their territory. In the meantime, in December 1987, Belgium too has refused to accept American binary shells.

With regard to the Federal Republic of Germany, it was agreed between President Reagan and Federal Chancellor Kohl at the Tokyo summit of the Western industrial countries in May 1986, that the enormous stocks of "old" chemical weapons should be withdrawn from the Federal Republic of Germany by 1992. Chancellor Kohl, in return, had to agree to the deployment of the new American binary weapons in the Federal Republic of Germany in a crisis. This all happened apparently to reassure the population of the Federal Republic of Germany and to undermine and limit the effectiveness of the proposal put forward by the SED and the SPD for the creation of a chemical-weapon-free zone in Central Europe. This is also the reason for the constant repetition of the argument that a regional solution would hinder the "so close" global solution. The fact is, though, that in May 1987 the House of Representatives in the United States voted by 417 to 0 against the withdrawal of chemical ammunition from Western Europe, "unless it is replaced by binary chemical ammunition, which is to be deployed on the territory of at least one European member of NATO". In other words: Retention of the old or deployment of the new American chemical weapons on the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany.

The characteristics of chemical weapons require that they are stored as close as possible to the potential theatre of war (artillery, short-range missiles, tactical air forces), i.e. near the border with the GDR and Czechoslovakia. These weapons systems are offensive surprise weapons in conjunction with conventional and nuclear battlefield weapons. Thus all those who seek to reduce and eliminate invasion capability, those who genuinely want to see a common European house and not a common European graveyard, must at last work actively to counter the chemical arms build-up.

*Dr. Manfred Uschner
Reproduction: archives*


THERE ARE 25 children's sanatoriums and 63 children's rest homes in our country.

Annually close to 21,000 small patients, mainly children suffering from diseases of the respiratory tract and of the skin, receive—as a rule—six-weeks' spa treatment in a sanatorium during which their state of health is improved. We've also got sanatoriums that treat children with diseases of the urinary tract and kidneys, with speech defects, heart and other diseases, as well as those suffering from spastic paralysis. In addition to this 4,400 children take four-week prophylactic cures in the rest homes annually.

We visited such a home in Bad Muskau in Cottbus County and would like to report about it here. Boys and girls of predominantly pre-school age can stabilise their state of health there through frequent exercises in the fresh air, cold showers, brush massages and visits to the solarium.

Now read our article

Rest Cures for Children



It was Tuesday. The newcomers had slept their first night in the children's rest home. Their personal belongings were tidily packed into the cupboards, and the cuddly toys had got their places on the beds. The youngsters were beginning to make friends with each other, and the daily routine at the home could begin. Full of expectations and yet surprisingly calm the children waited for what was to come. We mixed with the "yellows". That was what we called them because their rooms were located on the yellow-painted floor. In order to make orientation easier for the children every floor of the four-storey building has been done in a different colour.

The children's rest home at Bad Muskau was opened one and a half years ago. It accepts per course 72 children from all counties of the GDR who are susceptible to infectious diseases, suffer from postural defects or developmental disturbances. The youngsters can recuperate during these prophylactic cures, gather new strength and toughen



themselves against colds, etc. Many of the small patients are five or six years old and will soon start school. These prophylactic cures are intended, so-to-speak, to strengthen their backs for the school satchels and prevent lengthy absence from school through illness.

The past months were a period of constant reflection and trial for the teaching and medical staff at the new home. In a way, every course seemed to be a new beginning since there were always some changes. At the other homes the recuperation aspect is to the fore, but Senior Consultant Dr Huss also sets great store by medical treatment during these prophylactic cures. That's why, in addition to 18 educational staff, there are also one physician, five nurses, one physiotherapist and one assistant dietician to look after the children. "After a thorough medical examination at the beginning of the cure we determine an individual programme for every child which combines both recreation and therapy," we were told by Dr Huss. This

sentence is easily read, but in practice it involves a great deal of effort and commitment.

Incidentally, in our country the costs for spa treatment and rest cures—in this case 645 marks per child—as well as the fare to the resort and back home are borne by the Social Insurance. Parents don't have to pay anything.

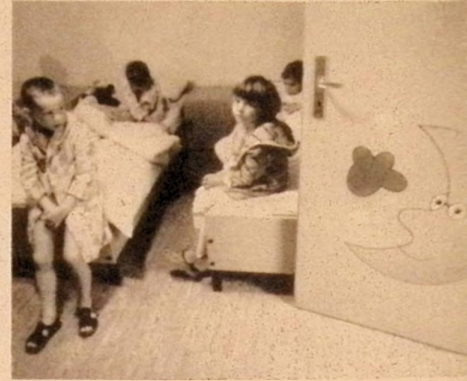
*

After the second breakfast it was our "yellows'" turn for the medical examination. There was hardly enough space in the medical room for the 18 children. And it isn't always easy for Dr Kristina Okasa not to allow herself to be confused by this lively crowd. Even so, she prefers this method because it is the best way to compare the children with each other: Which "paleface" has the greatest need of artificial sun-ray treatment in the home's solarium? Who'll have to do special exercises to correct bad posture? Whose

appetite has to be curbed? And who could do with eating a bit more?

A lengthy rest at noon which although healthy is not equally popular with the children, is followed by the most important part of the therapy: the excursion into the fresh air. Three hours per day are "prescribed". The beautiful, densely-wooded landscape is ideal for discoveries. Rare trees with unusually long needles, the open-air theatre, the old castle, the medicinal spring—all this inspires a child's imagination. Our group stopped at the open-air theatre in the forest. Those who wanted could sing a song for the group. While the usually lively Maralke stayed shyly in the background, Anja was not in the least embarrassed to sing in a loud voice in front of the others. Courage was again required when the children reached the medicinal spring which contains sulphur and iron. Who could bring themselves to drink from the peculiarly smelling water? Stefante screwed up her face but Oliver didn't mind. Tastes are different, even among children. They

Photos: Katja Worch





were told that adult people undergoing spa treatment come there every day to have a glass of this water which helps to relieve their pains in the joints and bones.

Back at the home, our 18 young friends spent the time until supper in the cosy playroom. There are many corners where they can retreat alone or in twos. The educational staff take great care that the youngsters have enough quiet periods after the outdoor excursions. The children like to play games together or listen to stories and music. The staff have plenty of ideas for these hours. A magician was invited and the "Rainbow" Puppet Show was due to come. The children also had great fun during the preparations for their final fete, for which they rehearsed songs and dances and learned short poems.

At the time of our visit all the children still had supper together in the big dining hall. However, the educational staff have arrived at the conclusion that it would be more desirable if every group had their evening meals in their own common room. This would be

more intimate and the day's excitement would subside more easily.

*

The time had come when the effects of the eventful day were beginning to show and our "yellows" could hardly keep their eyes open. High time to clean their teeth and have their shower. Afterwards, wrapped in their bathrobes, they sat waiting for their good-night story.

A short time later, when we had a look into the sleeping rooms, they all had settled down for the night. Only here and there did we hear quiet murmurings or a suppressed giggle. Contrary to our expectations we heard no child quietly crying for mum or dad. It is the parents who'll have probably most missed their offspring rather than the other way round. However, the first post-cards with greetings from their children will have dispelled any anxieties.

Astrid Lehmann

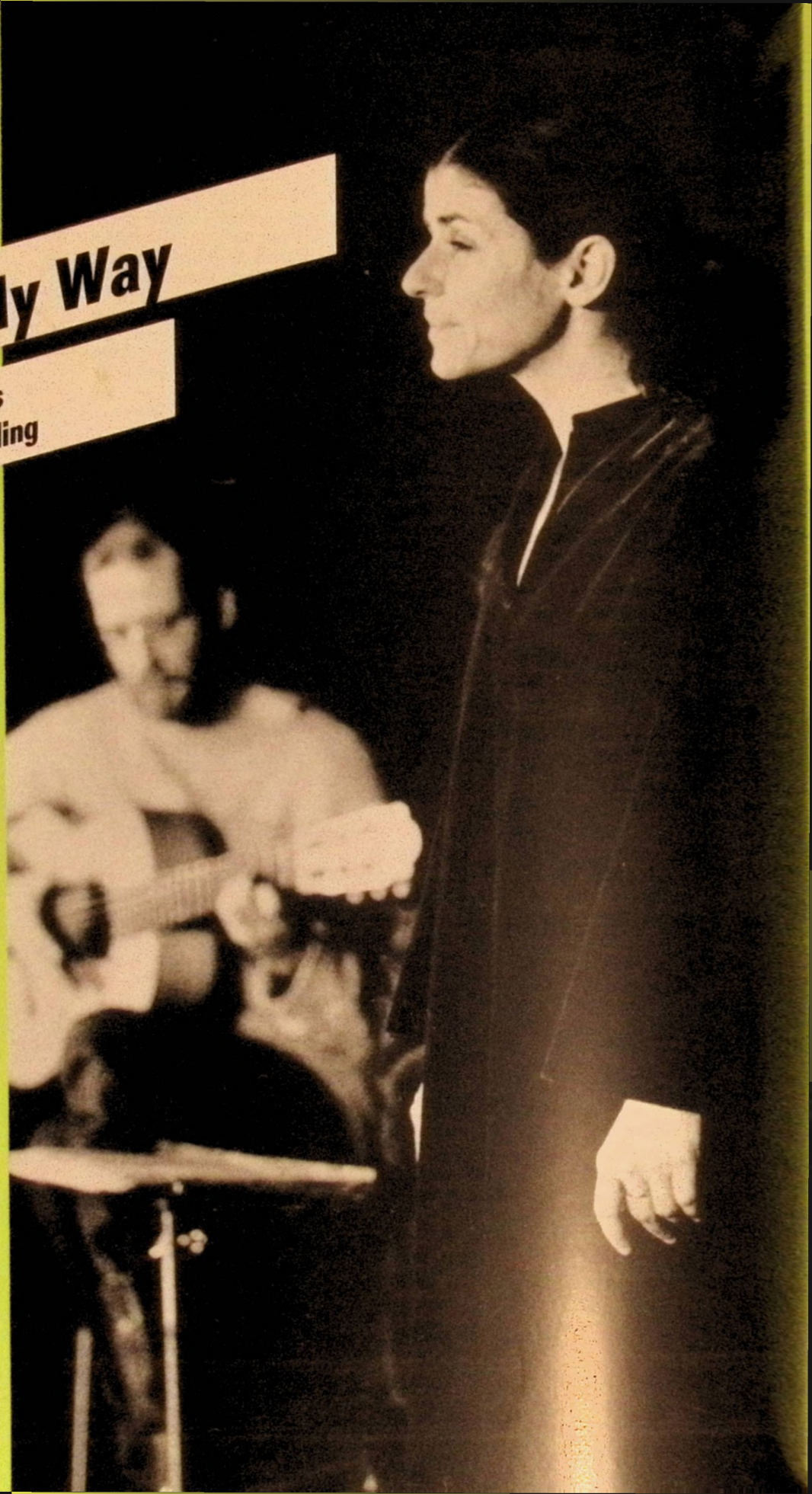


I Am On My Way

Portrait of the Actress
and Singer Jalda Rebling

Jalda Rebling. On the stage in a simple, dark dress which only allows freedom for the gesturing play of her hands. And her face. A beautiful, astoundingly versatile face with big, brown eyes, which can display sorrow and unbridled *joie de vivre*, charm, kindness, despair and always hope ... Jalda sings, dances, acts—yes, she lives Yiddish songs, the songs of the East European Jews. With her programme she has been attracting attention both at home and abroad for many years.

In the following article we would like to introduce her and her artistic career.





IF YOU WANT to write about Jaldá Rebling you cannot avoid getting to know her parents, too. Lin Jaldati, the great, today, already legendary Jewish singer, and Professor Eberhard Rebling, who for decades has accompanied his wife on the piano for their joint concerts. Both have led a turbulent life full of privations, which also took them through the hell of fascism. Driven underground, persecution, concentration camp for Lin—she survived by the skin of her teeth ... in 1952 she emigrated with her then 11-year-old daughter Kathinka and one-year-old Jaldá from Amsterdam to Berlin the capital of the young GDR ...

Jaldá always wanted to go on the stage and finally she became an actress. Her jobs at various theatres must have been a period of emotional ups and downs: in seventh heaven, because she at first set her sights on provincial theatre, came, saw and conquered and in her early twenties believed that she knew how the world had to be modelled; in the depths of despair, because things did not always go according to plan at other theatres. But time and again she pulled herself together. Frieder Kranz, her husband and as producer to this day her sharpest critic, helped her. Ten years ago they moved back to Berlin with their one-year-old Tobias and three-year-old Jakob. Work on radio, television and in synchronisation studios followed, but Jaldá never really felt completely at home in the work with this fast-moving medium.

Living Past

In 1979 her father asked if she would like to take part in a programme remembering Anne Frank, the Jewish girl who was murdered in a fascist concentration camp and whose heart-wrenching diary later became known all over the world. Jaldá agreed straightaway. But singing as well—no way! She had too much respect for her mother's skills in this genre. But then the doubts were finally replaced by the wish: "I'll give it a go! Jaldá did not only learn many songs and im-

merse herself in Hebrew and Yiddish, she also began to ask more questions about the past. "The name Anne Frank was well known to me even as a child. From Lin I knew Jewish songs and about many of my parents' experiences. But I felt the urge to ask about things which had been concealed from me," she recalled. "What did I know about their fears, the dangers, their deep depression during the dark years of fascism?" She wanted to fill in these gaps: to learn more about her parents' life in hiding, about the sad existence of her sister; the three-year-old who was similarly sought by the Nazis was separated from her mother and father for a long time and was looked after by friends. Lin was deported to the concentration camp at Auschwitz and later to Bergen-Belsen, where one day she was only able to wrap Anne Frank's emaciated, lifeless body in a blanket ...



Jaldá delved into a past from which she could not tear herself free. Nightmares plagued her for nights on end ...

But she consciously chose a way back to yesterday. Lin Jaldati reproached herself bitterly for having burdened her children, and thus also her grandchildren, so heavily with the past. Jaldá sees it differently: "I believe these are things which we cannot and should not keep from our children. Is it not better that they live through the fears in a time in which we can still comfort them? Perhaps in this way we make them more sensitive to the misery in the world and the need for togetherness in everyday life."

The programme for Anne Frank, who would have been 50 in 1979, was a great success. The Reblings presented it over a hundred times in English, German and Dutch between New York and Jerusalem.

On One's Own Two Feet

From then on Jaldá knew that she would continue in this branch of the arts. And so parallel to the programme with her parents, which her sister, too, joined in 1982 as a violinist, she built up a programme of her own with Yiddish songs and stories. In 1981 she joined up with two excellent guitarists, Stefan Maass and Hans-Werner Apel. She performed her "Jewish Festival Songs" in public and started a lively discussion. "The people were stimulated to reconsider their own attitude to life," said Jaldá. "What has become of celebrating festivals in some places? Shopping, cooking, cleaning—stress! We should get back to the origins of celebrations, which are after all in the first place a pleasant break from everyday life and the coming together of friends. What do people say: 'There's a time for everything ...' We should take this time more often for our friends, for our children. Since this programme I have also lived more intensively, because if you work with Jewish culture you either do it wholeheartedly or not at all."

At that time there were already many people who expected to find a second Lin Jaldati in Jaldá. Lin too sought herself in her daughter. At first she found it difficult to understand Jaldá's different choice, interpretation and presentation of her songs. But Jaldá no longer wanted to be led by the hand. She wanted to find her own way. Many nights were spent in thought and she burrowed in anthologies of poetry and books of songs. Above all she did not want to limit herself to Yiddish culture. Then she came across the linguistically bizarre and colourful songs of West European Jews, the Sephardic romances. This programme too has since reaped great applause.

"That was the turning point and my final, artistic break from Lin," said Jaldá. It was a step she had to take, and at the same time it bonded the two women even closer together. Jaldá is pleased at that, because she loves her mother more than anything, for





her openness, her untiring commitment and an honesty, "with which you can look in a mirror completely without shame." Jaldati would like to be like her and already has much of her outward appearance and her character. And: "From her I have received a piece of Jewish tradition which not only belongs to worship but also to everyday life," she explained. Jaldati enjoys the Saturday afternoon gathering in her parents' house. She needs the holiday trips with her children and her husband, which remind her so much of the wonderful summer trips of her childhood. She loves nature, with which she can feel at one in quiet moments—that too is part of her religiosity. And she likes the tours with her parents and her sister, the long conversations in the car; they travel together as they used to earlier. None of them can remain without the others for long. "It's overwhelming what we've been able to experience together. It was a highlight for Lin to put on the Anne Frank programme with us in Jerusalem, for example, and to rediscover

Amsterdam three years ago on the 40th anniversary of the liberation from fascism ..."

A few months ago Lin Jaldati was 75. "For Kathinka and me it is a good feeling to be at her side and for the four of us to still be able to give many concerts together."

There Must Be Peace!

Jaldati considers Lin's criticism of her artistic work very important indeed. "I look for it," she said, "because she possesses such a wealth of experience." Lin visits some of her concerts. She has accepted her daughter and her artistic individuality. "I had to approach the Jewish songs differently," explained Jaldati. "As a Jew and anti-fascist Lin had to differentiate sharply between black and white during the Nazi period, she had to

seek confrontation and call for struggle with her songs. I don't have to do this now. At the end of my concerts I symbolically stretch out my hand to the audience. Because, in this world, if people with different ideas do not come together and at least feel united in their desire for peace, terrible things can happen!" Jaldati finds it good that the young generation born in the GDR, which did not experience fascism and the persecution of the Jews, is now beginning to delve into the causes and background of this phenomenon. That they are beginning to ask questions of history again in the awareness of the nuclear dangers of the present day. The idea of peace is not only to be heard at Jaldati Rebling's concerts in songs such as "Scholem sol sajn" ("There must be peace!"). Jaldati presents a message of peace in all her songs, which reflect the centuries of suffering in the history of the Jews, their everyday life and their longing for peaceful life in equality.

The public, both young and old, streams to Jaldati Rebling's concerts. The halls and an



appointment diary full to bursting speak for themselves. She agrees to give concerts whenever it is at all possible. Only her holidays with her children are "sacred". She knows she can rest assured when she is away on tour because there are three very capable men to look after the family home.

She has no favourite audience, though "the people must be Inquisitive." There are some performances she never forgets: "One day Hans-Werner, Stefan and I came to an agricultural college. In the evening the young people wandered into the hall, being very loud and acting totally 'cool'. I always get a bit of stage fright but this time I really felt like running away. But then as soon as I came on stage and the music began, everything went absolutely quiet, until the very last song. And then the boys and girls bombarded me with questions: about Jewish history and culture, Jews in the GDR, about my own career ..."

New Dimensions

Jalda would like to achieve an even broader effect with Jewish art. For this reason she had the idea of initiating a "Festival of Yiddish Culture". In January the festival was held for the second time in the Cultural Centre in Berlin's Ernst Thälmann Park under the motto "The song has remained ...". Jalda describes the festival as an "attempt at rapprochement", because: "Anyone who takes an interest in Yiddish culture today can no longer rely on their own experience. They largely depend on the intellectual heritage of murder victims without descendants."

This year, too, the festival brought together all the prominent artists who have devoted themselves to Yiddish culture in the GDR over the past few years. "Later the concerts will take place in the synagogue in Oranienburger Street, which was rebuilt after being destroyed," Jalda said. "It shouldn't remain a dead museum, but rather become a Jewish cultural centre and meeting place for all kinds of activities, with a library for the Jewish Community, teaching rooms, lectures, concerts, films and, above all, living Jewish festivities." She also hopes to invite artists from abroad, in order to prove that Yiddish is alive, that it "has not spoken its last word".

Jalda mentioned the upsurge of Jewish culture which has become evident in this country especially in the last two or three years. She feels needed with her programmes and her work as festival organiser, and she has many, many friends at her side. That is one reason why she feels so at home in our country; she is able—as she puts it—to "take part and get fully involved". Thus it has for her for a long time been two sides of the same coin to be Jewish and to be a member of the Socialist Unity Party. It is at the same time loyalty to her parents' ideals.

*

Jalda still has many plans. She is literally bursting with ideas. She wants to better portray the immeasurable variety of Jewish culture. She is constantly searching for new songs and stories. She is also attracted to other music, for example the music of the French troubadours of the Middle Ages. She is awaiting the production of a record with her "Sephardic romances". Eventually she would like to expand the "Festival of Yiddish Culture" into a monthly series of events ...

Jalda Rebling is on her way. But there is still a long way to go.

Text: Petra Simon



Top left: Lin Jaldatl and Jalda Rebling.

Jalda Rebling with her parents and sister in a joint programme.

Photos: Hanns (4), Rödiger

GDR REVIEW

KALEIDOSCOPE

Albert Schweitzer Committee

At the beginning of this year the GDR observed the 25th foundation anniversary of the Albert Schweitzer Committee. This organization, which is affiliated to the Presidium of the GDR Red Cross Society, coordinates the material assistance rendered to the Albert Schweitzer Hospital in Lambaréné and makes great efforts to keep alive the legacy of this famous jungle doctor and humanist. To date the Committee has dispatched 46 supply consignments to Lambaréné amounting to a total value of two million marks. It has also gained international recognition for the continuation of the ideals cherished by Albert Schweitzer.

Road Safety Training

In the GDR road safety training is a major subject of education in our kindergartens. To this end many kindergarten teachers assist the members of the People's Police as voluntary helpers. Together—as seen here in Glauchau—they teach the youngsters, for example, how to cross a road safely.



Crafts

The woodwind instrument maker Gunter Küttner from Erfurt has dedicated himself to a rare trade. He is the only one in our republic who makes panpipes. What at first used to be a leisure-time pursuit for him has become his trade since March 1986. As raw material he uses



walnut veneer or matured reeds. After the pipes of different lengths have been assembled by hand, they are exactly tuned with each other and sealed with beeswax. Finally the panpipe is varnished in order to improve its appearance.

Porcelain

The range of products of Europe's biggest manufacturer of decorative porcelain, the nationally-owned Vereinte Zierporzellanwerke Lichte in Suhl County, encompasses 20,000 different items. There is a great demand abroad for its figures and series, which are partly new designs or, if desired by its customers from 35 countries, replicas of historical models. Imitations of the classical style, to which the "big hunting procession" (photo) belongs, also owe their revival to wishes expressed by customers.



University Cooperation

Recently the rectors of Berlin's Humboldt University and Madrid's Complutense University signed an agreement in Madrid on their institutions' future cooperation. It is envisaged to intensify and expand to further areas their scientific cooperation which has proved successful during the first five years since its inauguration. An exhibition about the Humboldt University was opened at the Complutense University on the day the agreement was signed.

For example, as a result of collaboration between scholars of Romance languages and literature from both universities a Spanish grammar textbook for use at universities has been compiled. Currently they are preparing a dictionary of basic Spanish

GDR REVIEW

KALEIDOSCOPE

vocabulary. German language scholars and mathematicians from the two universities have given guest lectures in and paid study trips to the GDR and Spain.

Toy Makers

The married couple Gina and Reinhard Carl from Leipzig have specialised in the making of didactic-therapeutical toys for blind children and those with impaired sight for many years now. The range of their products, which they expand time and



again, testifies to their inventiveness. It includes, for example, a wooden picture book with figures to touch for very small blind children.

Specialised Library

With 290,000 volumes of educational literature and books on related disciplines the Comenius Library in Leipzig, which was founded in 1871, is the second largest library of this kind in the GDR after the Pädagogische Hauptbibliothek Library in the House of Teachers in Berlin. The Leipzig library is also one of the oldest in the world.

School and kindergarten teachers as well as student teachers will find there an almost complete collection of all the GDR's publications relating to the field of education; from textbooks, curricula and specialised literature for the individual subjects at school right up to belles lettres. Its stock also encompasses 140 topical and 300

historical pedagogical periodicals. The *Pädagogica rara* special catalogue lists some 4,000 works of classical bourgeois education theory covering the years from the end of the 16th century up to 1928. They include the first editions of writings by such renowned education reformers and educationalists as Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi, Jan Amos Comenius and Friedrich Fröbel.

Pigeon Market

This year's first pigeon market attracted hundreds of breeders, prospective buyers and curious onlookers from all parts of our country to the Market Square in Naumburg. These markets in this town in Halle County are annually held in the first two months of the year and have a long tradition. The first took place as early as 1869.



Biotechnology

The development of the fundamental principles of biotechnology, especially genetechology, and its use in industry, agriculture and medicine, was the subject of discussion at a three-day congress in Neubrandenburg in mid-January, which was hosted by the Biochemical Society of the GDR and the Society for General and Technical Microbiology. 530 scientific workers and technicians, including guests from Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Japan, Yugoslavia, Austria, the Soviet Union, the USA and West Berlin, deliberated on new findings in the fields of gene, cell and immunotechnologies. Other subjects on the agenda were factors that influence the metabolic processes.

UN Children's Fund

As every year numerous events, including concerts, readings, drawing and poster competitions as well as an auction of graphic works, were held in the GDR in 1987—in favour of UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund. At the end of last year artists, children with their parents and representatives of the fair trade city met again for a big children's festival in the rooms of the Moritzbastei Youth and Students' Club.



Photos: ADN-ZB

GDR REVIEW

FROM SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY

Multispectral Camera— Ten Years On

ONE OF THE NEW SCIENCES which have evolved over the last few years and are benefitting many countries is satellite cartography. It is being used in more and more areas of the national economy. This development was considerably furthered over the last ten years by the MKF 6 and MKF 6-M multispectral cameras produced at the nationally-owned Carl Zeiss Jena Enterprise and installed in Soviet spacecraft.

Photographs taken with these cameras and coupled with other remote sensing data are now being evaluated in the GDR in 20 different fields of data acquisition and presentation, with some having already found practical application. Maps drawn up on the basis of such photographs are utilised, for example, to assess specific regions from a geological point of view. This makes drilling operations and other

costly subterranean explorations more economical. Multispectral photographs, as distinct from ordinary ones, reflect the subtlest physical and chemical conditions of the earth's surface and thus depict ground formations in a way enabling the location of potential raw material deposits. In geological surveys, for instance, even trace elements affecting plant metabolism can be identified. An accumulation of such elements may suggest the existence of ore deposits.

Photographs shot by multispectral cameras mounted in satellites or aircraft are also used in the GDR to monitor lignite mining operations, to make harvest forecasts and other estimates of vegetation growth, to define amelioration measures, plan construction projects and monitor the environment. Looking at such photos, one can distinguish sick trees from healthy ones, and also make out the currents in various waterways.

Multispectral photography is based on the principle of making visible the smallest differences in the spectral composition of the light which is reflected by the earth's surface. The MKF 6 camera does this by photographing an area six times simultane-

ously in six different narrow spectral ranges. Later several photographs are put into special projectors and are coloured and combined by means of filters. In this way pseudo-coloured pictures are produced. These bring out differences which do not appear on ordinary photographs. This process produces, in an economic way, topographic material of hitherto unknown quality.

Welding with an electron beam

This vacuum-electron-beam welding unit at the parent factory of the "Fritz Heckert" Machine Tool Combine in Karl-Marx-Stadt can weld or temper



components with unprecedented precision. Surface refining operations carried out with this apparatus take just nine minutes as against three-and-a-half hours using conventional methods. The new technology was developed by the "Manfred von Ardenne" Research Institute in Dresden.

Photo: ADN-ZB

We Recall

Ulrich von Hutten

ULRICH VON HUTTEN, the son of a knight of the empire, was the most militant of the German humanists of the early 16th century.

His life only spanned 35 years from April 21, 1488 to August 29, 1523. It took a course completely different from what his father, who had destined him to be-



come a clergyman, wanted. At the age of 17 Ulrich von Hutten fled from the Benedictine abbey at Fulda in order to acquire secular learning. He roamed the German countries as a student, mixed with humanists in Erfurt and Vienna, and continued his studies in Padua and Bologna.

Ulrich von Hutten, whom Emperor Maximilian I crowned "poet laureate", in 1517, was second to none in identifying and using words as a political weapon. While he wrote his first polemical treatises and verses against princes and clerics in Latin, he soon realised, even before Luther's translation of the Bible, that poetry and prose writ-

ten in Latin was bound to only influence a limited number of highly educated people. Hutten wanted to wrest power from the hands of the princes who were responsible for the fragmentation of the empire and to transfer church property to the secular domain. His endeavours were aimed at breaking Germany away from the grip of Rome.

Ulrich von Hutten's militancy, his share in moulding the German language, his thirst for scientific knowledge and findings, his search for the truth—all these things place him among those people who helped to smooth the path towards social progress.



OBERCUNNERSDORF in Upper Lusatia, a friendly little village where most of the houses were built more than 100 years ago, some even 200 years ago. But the people who live in them also want to have an easier and more pleasant life than that of their parents and ancestors. That is why the housing construction programme in our country also effects such old houses: the key words are modernisation and reconstruction.

But what if a specialist comes and tells me that my house is worthy of being preserved in its original architectural form? Well, first of all he has to explain to me exactly why. And even if I understand his motives, what becomes of mine? Are there points where our interests meet? Is it perhaps even possible for citizens, the local authorities and the Office for the Preservation of Historical Monuments to tread a joint path?

These questions were answered in Obercunnersdorf and since not just one but about 300 houses have been placed under a preservation order here, we thought it might be worth while having a closer look around.



A Village under a Preservation Order

Our first question is: why are these houses "monuments"?

In the 15th century the first houses combining German and Slavic traditions were built in this region: originally the house consisted of a log-constructed living area with an adjoining kitchen and stable whose walls were built of stone. Later people needed more space, however, the wooden dwelling would not have supported an upper floor. The solution was to set up strong wooden pillars around the dwelling which supported the upper floor as well as the roof. This unusual style of architecture alone justifies the preservation of these houses as monuments.

The facade, often with timber-framed elements, is protected against the weather by blue and white slate tiles. The windows are subdivided by cross-bars into six small sections. Everything is functional and harmonises with one another.

In the course of time more and more of these houses were demolished or transformed beyond recognition through extensions or alterations ... However, since the 1970s the most beautiful of them have been placed under a preservation order.

We were accompanied through the village by Martin Mehlhose, a master builder who is responsible for modernisation and maintenance in the Löbau District Council. At every bend in the road a new vista opened up. Every house had its own character. Here an ornamental border in the slate tiling of the facade, there little curved windows in the sloping slate roof, elsewhere carved pillars and doors.

"Many had simply no idea that even such details represented cultural values," said Martin Mehlhose. "In order to preserve these things a group of interested people in the village got together—within the framework of the League of Culture. They devoted their leisure time to these 'monuments', spoke with the owners and asked them to treat their houses as objects of historical value. This couldn't simply be ordered from above, since up to ninety per cent of the houses in our village are private property. The object of talking with these people was not just to obtain a signature. We patiently explained to them over and over again that a house placed under a preservation order can be modernised inside as it suits the owner but that its original external appearance must be preserved." But what if somebody had planned building a porch on the side facing the street or installing windows without cross-bars which were easier to clean? "Sometimes it wasn't our arguments about the cultural value of the houses and their significance for local history that convinced them but rather the offer of favourable state loans," recalled Martin Mehlhose with a grin. They also arranged for tradesmen to come.

Naturally there were some problems, for it was a matter of restoring things to their historical appearance. To be sure the Office for

the Preservation of Historical Monuments supplied blueprints and exact instructions, however, it required considerable time and some inventive ideas to obtain the original paint type and the slate tiles.

In the interim it is not only the Mehlhose family who have installed central heating and a water immersion system. Today many people in the village like their modernised homes much better than a flat in town.

*

Obercunnersdorf extends over three kilometres in a valley formed by a brook. We decided to stop at a small café. On its facade was the characteristic blue-and-white shield identifying it as being under a "preservation order".

Inside a picture on the wall shows that this building was a mill until 1860. The owner, Bernd Müller, told us about this and its later history as a bakery. Bernd, who was formerly an electrician in a craft cooperative, is well informed about this for some relatives of his used to live here.

"The idea to open a café in this spacious, almost abandoned house came to us out of the blue during an afternoon walk through the village. We spoke to the mayor and he discussed the idea with the village council. I quickly obtained their permission and a licence for, after all, such an establishment makes our village even more attractive to the numerous holidaymakers. However, we really let ourselves in for a tremendous amount of work."

Bernd Müller dismantled the old oven in the former bakery with his own hands. Then tilers, oven builders, carpenters and other tradesmen came to help. The former dwelling is now an attractive café. It has the traditional small windows, but with modern technical features which make it possible to tilt them. One can see that Bernd Müller puts heart and soul into his café.

*

The Roth married couple, both of them teachers, decided to make do without favourable state loans. "We prefer to rely on our own resources," they said. They are delighted with the many small rooms upstairs, in which they can store their numerous books, and they collect old cupboards and chests, which Hans-Joachim Roth restores and paints with great skill and dedication.

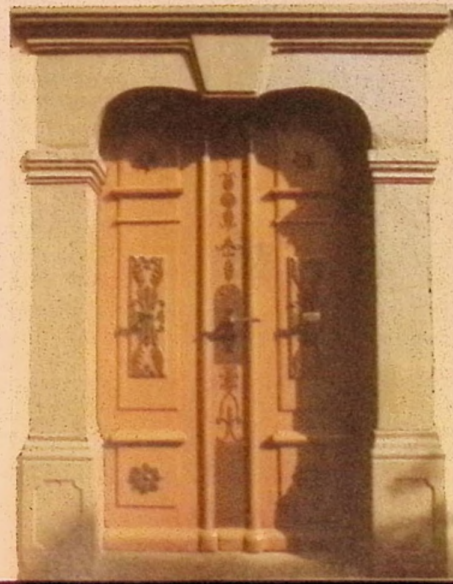
Before they moved in the house belonged to a bag-maker whose small shop, attached to the front side, completely marred its appearance. Hans-Joachim Roth put a lot of



work and material into restoring the timber structure and facade to their original condition. While repairing the floor he found coins, dating from the years 1763 and 1812, under the boards. His wife discovered some curious metal objects when she was digging the garden—weights from an ancient handloom. A former window-apex stone—inscribed with the date 1694—now impressively decorates a white wall in their hallway.

Hans-Joachim Roth, who teaches art appreciation, also runs a drawing hobby group. He has already infected many of his pupils with his enthusiasm. One of the subjects which he teaches in the 7th grade is "Beautiful Buildings in Our Homeland". During these lessons he opens the children's eyes to the beauties of their own village.

Eva-Ursula Peterleit



The basketmaker—a man much in demand in the village.

Extreme top: Today this old mill is an attractive café.

Far left: Hans-Joachim Roth practising his favourite pursuit.

Beautiful details on every house.

Photos: Siegfried Thlenel

A Committed Puppeteer



HE HIT UPON THE IDEA when the UNO declared 1981 to be the Year of the Handicapped. What could one do for children and teenagers who are unable to ever visit a theatre? Have not they, too, the right to enjoy a show? The man who pondered these questions was Günter Gerlach, a young puppeteer. It was not long before he set up a small transportable theatre, a puppet theatre to be precise.

In the interim Günter Gerlach and his puppets have become well known in many places in the GDR. He has also entertained children in other countries such as Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, the FRG, Austria, Poland, Hungary, the Soviet Union and Spain.

Günter Gerlach studied at the puppet theatre section of the college of drama in Leipzig. After graduating in 1973, he started his artistic career as a stage designer. Later, at the

puppet theatres in Halle and Naumburg, he learned everything he needed to open a puppet theatre of his own. This happened in 1984. Since then Günter Gerlach has functioned as stage designer, choreographer, actor, theatre manager, property man, lighting and sound engineer, producer and narrator, puppeteer and even puppet-maker.

In the meantime the puppeteer has gained a great deal of experience and acquired a large repertoire. Günter Gerlach's 17 productions are outstanding for perfect acting and original ideas. He fascinates even adults with, for example, his version of the French fairy tale *Beauty and the Beast*. He also

stages miniature operas to the music of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Carl Maria von Weber. On less than a square metre of space, Günter Gerlach has staged *The Abduction from the Seraglio*, for example. His latest productions include *The Little Prince* based on the works of Saint-Exupéry and *The Foal* after a Japanese fairy tale.

At the meeting of the International Puppeteers' Union (UNIMA) in Dresden in the summer of 1984, Günter Gerlach was awarded a special prize for his poetic presentation of the puppet play *Jana and the Little Star* based on a children's book by the GDR writer Werner Heiduczek. The award was also an international acknowledgement of the work and commitment of this GDR artist.

Photo: Lutz Schmidt

With the first GDR Youth Delegation
in Japan

Reception by the Japanese Prime Minister



AT THE BEGINNING of last November the first youth delegation from the GDR went to Japan. Their fact-finding tour lasted 15 days. After their return home *GDR Review* asked the graduate forestry officer Dr Matthias Mihm from Dresden, who was a member of this delegation, for his impressions.

The high point of this visit was certainly your reception by Yasuhiro Nakasone in the prime minister's office. How did this come about?

During the state visit of Yasuhiro Nakasone to the GDR in January 1987 he and Erich Honnecker agreed on the exchange of youth delegations. Our encounter with him was further highlighted by the fact that we were the last delegation from abroad he received on his last day in office as prime minister. I'd got the impression that this was to underline once more the policy he had pursued and which was geared to peace and friendly encounters between the people, including those who live under different social systems. He told us that our visit was part of his efforts for contacts between the states and that he hoped the young generation would continue along this path.

What do you as a Dresdener think of such a metropolis as Tokyo?

Tokyo is a city of contradictions. On the one hand it has inconceivable proportions and yet little open space, but on the other there are, thanks to the mentality of its inhabitants, hundreds of mini gardens and parks where bonsai and other plants grow. All the ground is privately owned so that you can find a 20-storey skyscraper only a few

metres away from a small timber house.

What had you expected to see and what, in fact, did you see in Japan?

I had expected that the advanced technological progress would determine all spheres of people's lives. Yet we've met a society which, as far as we could see, although utilising the advantages of technology in everyday life, is anxious to keep alive its old traditions and customs.

We also had the opportunity of visiting a kindergarten. There we saw for ourselves that the youngsters are brought up to love nature. They tend small gardens and keep animals. There was another thing that struck us: The children are provided with very few ready-made toys, instead they are given raw materials from which, with skill and imagination, they can make their own. In Tokyo 90 per cent of all children attend a kindergarten in order to make the children familiar with life in a community, which is imperative in this city.

What do people in Japan know about the GDR?

Our conversations with students and local councillors revealed that, in general, people don't have any detailed knowledge about the GDR. On the other hand we also met people who've been to the GDR on several occasions, for example, to visit the Leipzig Trade Fair. We had to answer many interesting questions about life in our country, especially concerning aspects of our housing policy. This was understandable when you consider the fact that the average Japanese citizen has to spend almost half of his income on rent, electricity, etc.



The "Ginza", a spacious shopping and entertainment quarter, is probably Tokyo's most famous district.

Photos: ADN-ZB, private

During the reception of the GDR youth delegation in the prime minister's office.



In Dialogue with Brecht

International Forum in Berlin

BERTOLT BRECHT (1898–1956) made proposals. Has posterity taken them up? This question was discussed and experiences exchanged during an international meeting which was arranged by the GDR Brecht Centre to mark the 90th anniversary of the dramatist's and theatre producer's birth on 10 February 1988. Founded ten years ago, this Brecht Centre hosts international Brecht Dialogues every year in February.

Brecht's idea of helping people through art to cope with life was the theme of this year's dialogue: "Art and the Art of Living". In this question, as well as in his search for new art styles in a new time, in his aesthetic way of thinking, through which he radically broke with traditional concepts, in the combination of materialistic world outlook with artistic production, in his intellectual drive for new discoveries and his sensorial *jolie de vivre* he is still "the most topical among the topical", an "eternally youthful companion". These and such

like were the verdicts of the theatre people, academics, translators, authors and composers who came to the GDR capital Berlin from 47 countries to exchange their experiences in dealing with or on the results of research into Brecht's life and work, and to discuss his present-day impact. They had plenty of opportunity to do so, whether during the "Dialogue on Common Sense at the End of this Millennium", the discussion on "The Effects of Art in Electronic Communications", "Brecht on the Stage in the 1980s", on the significance of his ideas and working methods for "Artistic Productions Today", or during other of the approximately 60 events held within the framework of the 1988 Brecht Dialogue.

It was part of this year's National Brecht Celebrations in our republic. We in the GDR honour Brecht as an antifascist and peace champion whose life and work is inseparably linked with the revolutionary movements of this century, emphasised Dr Hans-Joachim Hoffmann, Minister of Culture, during a festive function of the GDR Council of Ministers at the Berliner Ensemble, the theatre which Brecht founded. And we don't do this only on special occasions: theatres throughout our republic stage his plays, publishing houses issue his writings, schools bear his name and teach his way of thinking. 19 theatre performances, a comprehensive film retrospective and several exhibitions gave the dialogue participants a detailed insight into the reception of Brecht in the GDR.



The Berliner Ensemble—it can look back on a total of 32 Brecht productions—was represented at these Brecht Celebrations with the premieres of two of the playwright's early works *The Fall of the Egoist Fatzer* and *Baal*, and with the now third production of his play *The Mother*. It was this latter production which brought out controversial viewpoints among the participants depending on the social system in their countries and especially the position of women.

A Brecht Monument by the sculptor Prof. Fritz Cremer, who had been a friend of the dramatist since 1936 and was influenced by him in his concepts, was unveiled in front of the Berliner Ensemble. The Aufbau-Verlag Berlin and Weimar (GDR) and the Suhrkamp Verlag Frankfurt/Main (FRG) issued the first three volumes of their joint publication, the *Grosse kommentierte Berliner und Frankfurter Ausgabe der Werke Brechts*, which is planned to encompass 30 volumes and will be the most

comprehensive presentation of Brecht's works so far.

Studying Brecht is dealing with ourselves, summarised Werner Hecht, Director of the GDR Brecht Centre. The mode of conduct, which Brecht had endeavoured to teach us, was one of effecting progress, especially at times such as the present when it is imperative to reach accord in the struggle for the maintenance of a peaceful world.

Waltraud Hannig

CONTACTS ★★★ FROM LAND TO LAND



The participants in this discussion round in the GDR Brecht Centre deliberated on connections between Brecht's works and topical international politics.

Photo: ADN-ZB

Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui. These and the other plays by Bertolt Brecht have lost nothing of their message.

Why did you come to the GDR capital for the Brecht Celebrations?

Claude Gavaille: Due to my profession as a journalist I'm always keen on learning something new, discovering interesting things. I've already been to the GDR several times and I always enjoyed it. Yours is an interesting country, not only from an economic point of view but also with regard to the social and cultural life. This time I wanted to concentrate on some cultural key factors in your capital, wanted to go to the famous Berliner Ensemble and see how they interpret Brecht there. For me Brecht is a dramatist whose plays cannot be produced and understood without reference to the present-day political situation. And I can already say that I'll be taking home to Paris with me extremely impressive discoveries and experiences from which I have gained very much.

Jean Louis Roqueplan: I was excited at the chance of exchanging views with colleagues from all over the world ... I haven't produced a Brecht play myself so far. You see, one needs more actors and actresses for Brecht's plays than I've got at my small theatre. But I would very much like to get to know this giant

among the German dramatists better. That's why I listened carefully and watched closely to what my colleagues from throughout the world had to say and demonstrate during this dialogue in Berlin. Together with theatre experts from your republic, from the Soviet Union, Mexico, Algeria, Austria and other countries I discussed the different conceptual approaches in reading and producing Brecht, the different ways of presenting his plays, and, of course, also practical questions. With all respect to theory, I have to admit that I was more interested in the practical aspect to these questions. The acting style of the Berlin theatres enjoys a good reputation in France—and, I believe, throughout the world. I wanted to study it, and had several opportunities to do so—at the Berliner Ensemble, the Volksbühne Theatre and in the theatre of the Palace of the Republic. Since I don't speak German, there were, occasionally, problems of understanding. But in the end we managed to make ourselves understood and together got a bit closer to Brecht.

Recollecting your one-week stay in Berlin what has impressed you most of all?

Claude Gavaille: I noted the difference between the audiences here in the GDR and in France. At home theatre in general and Brecht in particular is something for the minority, for intellectuals, for students, professors and experts. Average people, workers, hardly go to the theatre. And I don't see the reason for this only

in the fact that theatre tickets are much cheaper in the GDR and everyone can afford them here. I rather believe that this has something to do with the different educational concepts in our two countries. I've been told that children in the GDR even learn poems by Brecht in the junior grades. In fact, he has written highly imaginative, wonderful poems for children ... I've got the impression that youngsters are made familiar with the theatre at an early age. You don't have elitist audiences.

Jean Louis Roqueplan: As a man from the theatre I'm struck by the social and professional situation of actors and actresses in the GDR. It differs substantially from that in France. As a rule, the actors and actresses here enter firm engagements with a particular theatre company for one or several theatre seasons and need not constantly look for new parts. The theatres receive state subsidies which means for the actor or actress that he or she can fully concentrate on rehearsing his or her role. Moreover, they know that they are respected by the society in which they live and enjoy social security in cases of illness.

My first visit to the GDR was far too short to take in everything that was new and interesting for me. I'll certainly come back ...

The participants in this year's International Brecht Dialogue also included a small delegation of the France-GDR Society. Karin Herzog interviewed two delegation members on behalf of *GDR Review*.

What relationship do you have to Brecht?

Jean Louis Roqueplan: I'm a playwright, actor, producer and theatre director in one person in Le Puy en Velay, a small town in Central France. Naturally, under these circumstances, Brecht is not unknown to me. I've been an enthusiastic Brecht fan ever since I first saw a Brecht play in my youth. And not only of the poet, dramatist and theatre producer Brecht but equally of the man who was deeply committed to the maintenance of peace, who worked for the victory of truth, justice and reason. In this context I'm thinking of such plays as *The Life of Galileo*, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* or *The*

IN MID-NOVEMBER of last year the GDR League of Culture held a festival of Japanese culture in Schwerin County. It was inaugurated, in the presence of Ambassador Keizo Kimura and Karl-Heinz Schulmeister, President of the GDR-Japan Committee for the Promotion of Cultural and Scientific Cooperation, with the opening of an exhibition of Japanese art from the 18th and 19th centuries in the State Museum in Schwerin.

Focal point of this exhibition, which was on display until the end of last year, were 35 coloured woodcuts from the Edo and Meiji periods depicting portraits of women, actors and Samurai warriors as well as animals and landscapes. Among the valuable items of the close to 150 exhibits from the collection of the Karl-Marx-Stadt art historian Georg Brühl was a cylinder impression, Indian ink on silk, of the god of poets.

This was already the sixth festival of Japanese culture to be held in the GDR and its 25 events, which were hosted in ten towns in Schwerin County, offered a good insight into the arts, culture, history, politics and everyday life of this faraway eastern land. The programme included lectures on the Japanese language, script and literature, demonstrations of ikebana, the Japanese art of decorative flower arrangements, and of East-Asian martial arts as well as the showing of Japanese films.

Guest Performance in Berlin of the Kabuki Theatre

Last November the audiences at the Berlin Volksbühne Theatre experienced an unusual theatre art, full of exoticism, from the land of the rising sun during the 4-day guest performance of the Tokyo Kabuki theatre ensemble. It was the first appearance in the GDR of this world-famous troupe under its leader Ichikawa Ennosuke III. With *The Thousand Cherry Trees of Yoshitsune* the artists presented a classical 18th century play in an adaptation by the ensemble's leader.

The tradition of this theatre art goes back to the Edo period (1600-1868), to the time of Tokyo's development as the Imperial city, the emergence of the bourgeoisie



Grace and charm displayed by the dancers of the Shochiku Kageki-Dan dance revue from Tokyo.

and of a representative culture of its own, the chōnin culture of the town-dwellers and merchants. Kabuki turned out to be a unique synthesis of acting, dancing, acrobatics and singing combined with commenting recitals and music. The blaze of colours of the stage design and, above all, the magnificent costumes made the highly stylised performance an eye-catching spectacle.

Exhibition of Modern Japanese Ceramics

Unconventional ceramics from Japan were to be seen in an exhibition in the art gallery on Weidendamm in Berlin at the end of last year. The diversity of the use of materials and wealth of forms was exemplified by the over 50 richly varied creations in clay by 31 Japanese artists. In contrast to the traditional works from Asia, the exhibits, which were made in the early 1980s with the use of admixtures, emphasise, above all, the plastic aspect of ceramics.

Tokyo Dance Show in the Palace of the Republic

In mid-November of last year the Shochiku Kageki-Dan dance ensemble from Tokyo gave a four-day guest performance in Berlin's Palace of the Republic. In the first part of the show the ensemble performed traditional dances from this far-eastern country. The Shochiku revue, which was in the GDR for the second time, can look back on a 60-year history and is the largest and most prestigious of its kind in Japan.

Japanese Art in the GDR

An Insight into Culture, History and Everyday Life



A scene from the classical play "The Thousand Cherry Trees of Yoshitsune", presented by the Tokyo Kabuki theatre ensemble.

Photos: ADN-ZB

CONTACTS *** FROM LAND TO LAND

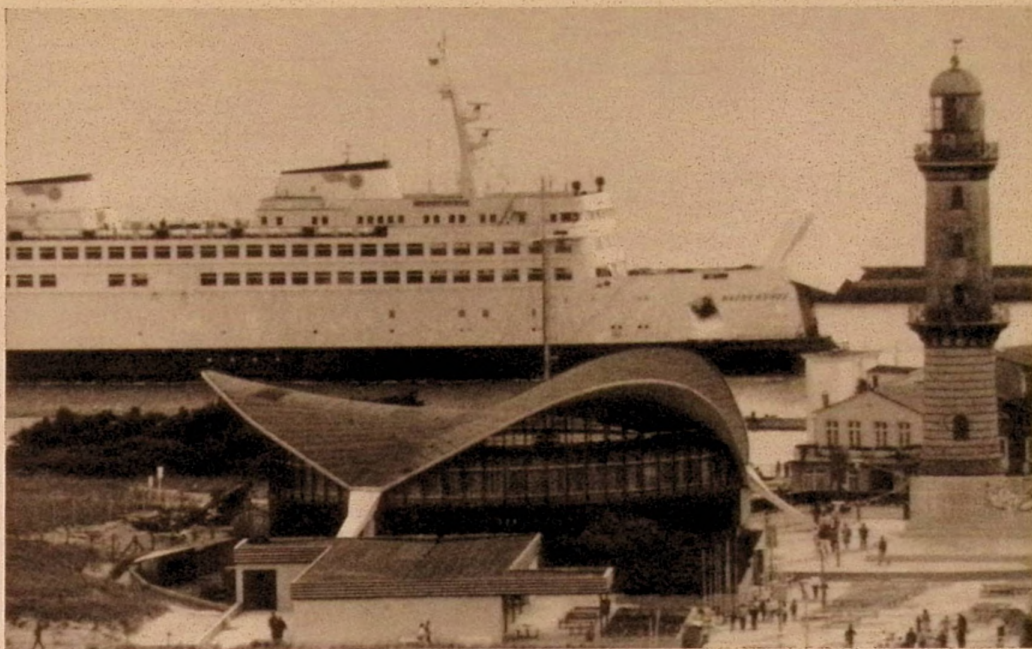
Information In Brief

Photographs from the USA

Works by the American photographer Paul Caponigro were shown in the GDR for the first time in 1987. The exhibition, which featured photographs from the years 1952 to 1982 borrowed from the International Museum of Photography in the George Eastman House, Rochester-New York, was jointly arranged by the US Embassy in the GDR and the GDR Ministry of Culture's Centre for Art Exhibitions. The total of 100 photos were on display in Berlin, Halle and Gera. Paul Caponigro sees wonders in nature and catches them in his works, depicting lonely landscapes, forest scenes, stones, flowers, tombs and temples. Everywhere he discovers something special, his photographs resemble meditational studies—they are mysterious, solemn, show nature in its majestic grace and have a profound meaning.

A Pictorial Volume about Berlin in German and Japanese

The representative pictorial volume *The Museum Island in Berlin*, which was simultaneously published by the Henschelverlag Publishing House and Iwanami Shoten Publishers, Tokyo, contains approximately 450 colour photos. The joint edition of the book, which is dedicated to the 750th anniversary of Berlin, was suggested by Erhard Krack, Lord Mayor of Berlin, during an international meeting of mayors in Hiroshima. Editions in the English and Italian languages are also planned.



A view of the Rostock-Schmarl newly-built district which blends harmoniously with the landscape around the port.

Coproduction GDR—Great Britain

Documentary film-makers from the DEFA Studio for Documentary Films and Amber Films from Britain chose "Rostock—Newcastle" as a working title for their first coproduction. The film gives an insight into the day-to-day life of the people in these two ports which, according to producer Winfried Junge, are not located far away in terms of the speed of a missile. Winfried Junge and his team researched

and filmed in Newcastle and Amber Films did the same for two weeks in Rostock. The British film-maker Murray Martin called the cooperation between the internationally known film, photo and video workshop in the port of Newcastle-upon-Tyne in north-east England with DEFA an undertaking which will produce direct effects conducive to international understanding. "British TV viewers will be struck most of all by the social stability and security of the Rostock shipyard

A walk along the beach at Warnemünde to the "Teepott" Restaurant and the mole has its attractions at all seasons of the year.

workers, fishermen, crane drivers and the many other inhabitants who we interviewed at their workplaces, in their homes and on their way to the public welfare facilities."

Radio Cooperation with Japan

At the end of 1987 Achim Becker, Chairman of the GDR State Radio Committee, and Ryolchi Tsuda, President of FM Tokyo, signed an agreement in Berlin on cooperation between the two radio organisations. It mainly envisages the exchange of recorded music.

Rousing Song Evening

In late January a full house at the Berlin Schauspielhaus Concert Hall greeted the internationally acclaimed soprano Jessye Norman from the USA with thunderous applause, ovations and cheers. This time, too, the American singer—who is known in the GDR from recordings and former concerts in Berlin and Dresden—proved herself a brilliant interpreter of German songs. Her comprehensive programme, which included compositions by Joseph Haydn, Gustav Mahler, Alban Berg, Johannes Brahms and Richard Strauss, provided an insight into the development and poetic connotations of classical German-language songs. Phillip Moll, a compatriot of Jessye Norman, accompanied her sensitively on the piano.



The guests from Japan received detailed information on the reconstruction and further development of Dresden.

Photos: ADN-ZB



Japanese Cultural Delegation in the GDR

To promote the cultural exchange between the GDR and Japan a Japanese delegation, which was headed by the composer Ikuma Dan, who is a member of the Japanese Academy of Arts, visited Berlin, Leipzig and Dresden at the end of last year. On the last day of their stay in the GDR they had a cordial meeting with the First Vice-President of the GDR League of Culture, Prof. Karl-Heinz Schulmeister. After this meeting the delegation went to the museum that is dedicated to the Japanese physician and one of the first exponents of modern Japanese litera-

The Japanese delegation, which was headed by the composer Ikuma Dan (3rd from left), was cordially received at the New Gewandhaus Concert Hall in Leipzig.

ture, Mori Ogal, who lived in Berlin during his studies in 1887/88.

The day before, the guests from Japan had visited the New Gewandhaus in Leipzig. In this concert hall, which was opened in 1981, they were cordially received by the conductor of the Gewandhaus Orchestra, Kurt Masur.

In addition to this, the delegation also visited renowned places that are associated with the work and life of Johann Sebastian Bach, including the Bosehaus which was officially opened in 1985 on the occasion of the 300th anniversary of the composer's birth. At the end of their stay in Leipzig the guests from Japan attended a performance by the Thomaner Boys' Choir of the *Christmas Oratorio* in the historic St. Thomas' Church.

Joint Colloquium of Historians

Last November a colloquium at Berlin's Humboldt University dealt with the results and problems of research into fascism in Germany. Historians from the GDR and the USA participated in the three-day discussions. Under the chairmanship of Prof. Kurt Pätzold from the host university and Prof. Konrad Jarausch from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, the experts deliberated on the origins of and driving forces behind Hitler fascism as well as the nature and functioning of the fascist dictatorship. It was agreed to continue this exchange of opinion in the USA.

Two one-time rivals met again in Berlin: the former long jumpers Robert Beamon from the USA and Klaus Beer from the GDR.

Photo: ADN-ZB

Robert Beamon Visited the GDR

Reviving Old Friendships and Making New Friends

IN ADDITION TO the candidates for the opinion poll "GDR Sports People of the Year 1987"—which was carried out by *Junge Welt*, the daily newspaper of the Free German Youth organisation—many sports enthusiasts and well-known athletes of past years attended the ceremony in Berlin's Sports and Recreation Centre at the end of last year, during which the winners were announced; the decathlete Torsten Voss, the sprinter Silke Gladisch and the women's national volleyball team. Also present as a guest was Robert Beamon from the USA, winner of the long jump at the 1968 Olympic Games in Mexico City. He granted us the following interview.

You received and accepted an invitation to attend the concluding ceremony of the "GDR Sports People of the Year" opinion poll. What do you expect from this visit to the GDR?

I've long harboured the desire to get to know the land of sports, about which I've already heard a lot but which I haven't been able to visit before. I was therefore overjoyed to receive the invitation from the *Junge Welt* and didn't hesitate to accept it. Of course, I was curious to learn which of the many outstanding athletes of your country would be elected "Sports People of the Year". I hope that there'll be an opportunity for me to meet again such good old acquaintances as Klaus Beer who was a great competitor almost 20 years ago in Mexico City and thoroughly deserved to win the silver medal. Finally, I'd like to revive old friendships and make new friends.

You are a member of the "Athletes United for Peace" campaign of US sports people. What do you think about the results of the Soviet-American summit meeting?

I've participated in this movement since 1983, and we were very satisfied to see in Washington that our struggle for the maintenance of peace has been worthwhile. This was a step in the right direction which, hopefully, will be continued. To ensure this we athletes—like all other people—have to continue to exercise pressure. In this context the Olympics are very important because we can demonstrate there that it is indeed possible to compete with each other in friendship. I could imagine this being the rule in politics, too.

Your long jump world record will be 20 years old on 18 October 1988. Did you think this possible at the time you became Olympic champion with it in Mexico City?

Not in the least, I'm surprised myself that it has lasted for so long. The training conditions, medical care and many other things have greatly improved since then, so that, strictly speaking, this world record should have long been broken.

For how much longer do you think, will your 8.90 metres survive?

They'll be surpassed soon, and there are several long jumpers who are capable of accomplishing this. Yet I do hope that the record will hold out to complete its 20 years, now that it is already so old ... This would add to the rarity of my record.

You have written a book. Has it increased your popularity in the USA?

The book describes my life and my 8.90-metre jump. Concerning popularity, I might have had some, if I'd been a professional football, basketball or baseball player. But as it is, my neighbours ask me if I ever used to do any sports. Luckily, it's different in other countries and that's one reason why I'm so glad that people in the GDR still remember me.

(Translated from the German.)



AS OTHERS SEE US

A Music Tour of the GDR

DEDICATED MUSIC LOVERS drawn from the Torbay Gramophone Society and their counterparts in the Bristol Society have recently returned from a music tour of the German Democratic Republic with many new impressions and experiences. This was the second group tour to the GDR, which I had coordinated as Chairman of the Torbay Gramophone Society.

Whilst in Dresden we were taken to the Carl Maria von Weber Museum at Hosterwitz where the composer worked on his three best known operas, *Euryanthe*, *The Marksman* and *Oberon*; and to the Wagner Museum at Graupa where a large part of the opera *Lohengrin* was composed.

As recording enthusiasts, two of us made our way and with permission gained access to the Lukaskirche, a church converted into a recording studio and the scene of many superb recordings made by the world-famous Dresden Staatskapelle. Our Dresden stay culminated with a visit to the gloriously restored Semper Opera House where we were thrilled by two ballets: *The Legend of Joseph* by Richard Strauss and *The Firebird* by Igor Stravinsky. No superlatives can adequately describe the stage, decor and beautiful acoustics, not forgetting the magnificent Dresden Orchestra.

We went on to Berlin, the GDR capital, in its 750th anniversary year and couldn't believe



The summer concerts in the garden of Carl Maria von Weber's former house in Dresden-Hosterwitz are very popular.



The house in Halle where George Frederick Handel was born was turned into a museum in 1948.



The Leipzig Opera House.

Photos: ADN-ZB

the advances made in that city over the last two years. We all heard an organ recital in the sumptuously restored Schauspielhaus Concert Hall, consisting mainly of works by C.P.E. Bach and Mendelssohn. Some of us went to see *Die Fledermaus* by Johann Strauss, and we were lucky to have an impromptu organ recital in St. Hedwig's Cathedral.

The last stage of the tour began with a trip to the Sanssouci Palace in Potsdam and was followed by a visit to the Handel birth place museum at Halle with a recorded commentary in English interspersed with excerpts from Handel's compositions finishing with the *Hallelujah Chorus*. The final two days were spent in Leipzig. A conducted tour of the city included a visit to the new Bach Museum in the Bosehaus and to the St. Thomas' Church where J. S. Bach was Cantor for 27 years. We were lucky to witness a wedding with two boy choristers and organ accompaniment with horn obbligato. It was a moving experience. In the afternoon we listened to an organ recital in the same church. This musical escapade was completed with a marvellous performance of Mozart's *Don Giovanni* in the Leipzig Opera House.

This trip, especially the Dresden stay, was a personal homage for some of us who only too well remember the dreadful night of February 13/14, 1945. Our guide and driver throughout were both friendly and efficient, and all the GDR people we encountered were dedicated to their daily tasks and, like us, all they want to do is to live in peace and we all tried to make a small contribution towards the improvement of international relations.

John J. Davis

CONTACTS *** FROM LAND TO LAND

GDR REVIEW

Magazine from the German Democratic Republic

Dear Reader,

Use this opportunity to obtain a free trial copy of GDR REVIEW for your friends, acquaintances, neighbours and colleagues! We will send trial copies, completely free and without obligation, to those addresses which you give us.

Just enter the addresses on the order form alongside and we will take care of everything else. We thank you in advance.

Please send trial copies of GDR REVIEW, free and without obligation, to the following addresses:

| | ① | ② | ③ |
|-----------|---|---|---|
| Full name | | | |
| Address | | | |
| Country | | | |

(Please use BLOCK letters) (Please cut here)

GDR REVIEW
Subscription
Advantages:

- direct to your home
- post free
- a set of thematic postage stamps at the beginning of each year
- a coloured wall calendar on subscription renewals

Order Form **GDR REVIEW**

I order a subscription for
1 year 2 years 3 years

In the English, German, Danish, Dutch, Finnish, French, Greek, Italian or Swedish language edition.

(Please underline language and duration desired)

Subscription Number:
(renewals only)

Full name

Address

Country

Signature

(Please use BLOCK letters)

*Read GDR REVIEW and
be informed about life in the GDR!*

From:

Full name of person ordering

Address

Country

VERLAG ZEIT IM BILD

Werbeabteilung

Postfach 61

Dresden

DDR-8012

Our agent in your country will be happy to deal with your subscription order.

You will find their addresses on the inside back cover.

GDR REVIEW

*Magazine
from the German
Democratic Republic*

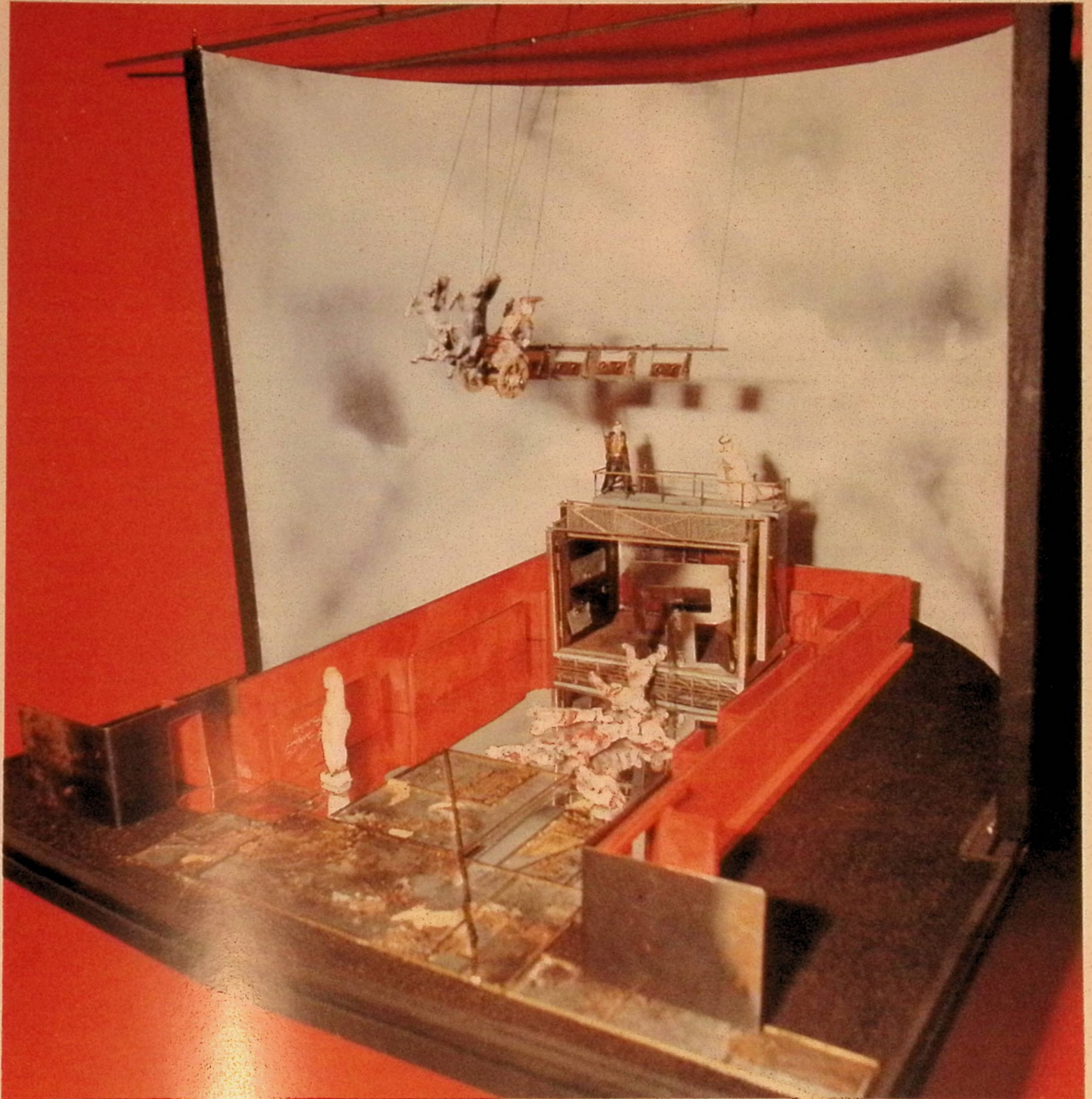
Please write to either of the following addresses with any enquiries about conditions of supply:
VERLAG ZEIT IM BILD,
Postfach 61, Dresden,
DDR-8012
BUCHEXPORT,
Volkseigener
Aussenhandelsbetrieb der
Deutschen
Demokratischen Republik,
Leninstraße 16,
Postfach 160, Leipzig,
DDR-7010

We request all subscribers to indicate their subscription number (printed on the wrapper containing GDR REVIEW) when writing to VERLAG ZEIT IM BILD about changes of address and similar matters.

SCENERY CENTRE STAGE



Set Design At The 10th GDR National Art Exhibition



Franz Havemann: Stage set model for Volker Braun's play "Siegfried—Women's Testimony—German Furore" for the German National Theatre in Weimar, 1986.





*Hans Scheibner:
Puppets for "The
Firefighter" by
Martin Morgner
after Hans Christian
Andersen for the
State Puppet
Theatre in Wismar,
1985.*

*Volker Pfüller:
Arrangement
drawing for
Heinrich von
Kleist's drama
"Penthesilea" for
the Münich
Kammerspiele
Theatre (FRG), 1987.*



IN ONE WAY or another just about everyone comes into contact with the work of set designers—at the theatre, at the cinema or at home in front of the television.

Puppet makers, stage and costume designers, film and television set designers, however, tend to remain quietly in the background of events. Their names are generally little-known. That is definitely unfair, though, because they create indispensable conditions for a play as a model of reality, to move many people, to enthrall them, to encourage them to think, laugh or cry—make them participants in strange fates.

The scope for the work of set designers in this country is great. The curtain is raised each evening in 183 theatres and other theatrical venues; a good 1,000 productions are put on each year—drama, operas, musicals ... About half of them are of foreign origin. The rest are split among works from our heritage and contemporary GDR works.

The vast majority of theatres today have their own set and costume workshops. On top of this there are many demanding tasks to be solved for film-makers—especially in the case of fantasy, utopian or historical films. And let's not forget the mass medium

of television. The designers' skills are required every day. With imagination, sparkle and esprit they create ever more attractive settings.

From all this you could gain the impression that set design is a subservient art form, subjugated to its purpose, to a deeper significance. But at the latest since the 8th GDR Art Exhibition (1977/78), when the set designers formed their own section of the exhibition for the first time, we know that the work of these artists possesses a wonderful aesthetic value of its own. When the visitor to the gallery views the models of stage sets, costumes, stage designs, marionettes and stick puppets from the most varying masters of their art, he cannot help but feel his imagination welling up as if by magic. Often it is not necessary to know the play or film in question—he can still gain astonishing experiences and insights. The costumes and props are enough to recall stories. Design drafts are given aesthetic dimensions.

*

At the 10th GDR Art Exhibition in Dresden the work of the set and stage designers formed an integrated special exhibition in the Rähnitzgasse Gallery, a spacious Baroque museum building. Many visitors found their



Eberhard Kelenburg: Costume designs for Calpurnia in Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar" for the City Theatre in Leipzig, 1986.
 Photos: Günter Ackermann (3), archives

way here; parents and children were able to admire together the imaginative and, in part, fantastic creations in wood, fabrics, cardboard, paper or synthetic materials, as well as drawings, costume samples and photographs.

Traditional visual approaches to art were overtaken, for example, by the results of a video workshop, which was founded by the GDR Television Authority in conjunction with the Visual Artists' Association. Optical information is here transformed into electronic signals, stories are played with lasers and an "animator" helps with the production of

aesthetic information. On two video screens the visitors in Dresden could witness several experiments, some still rather clumsy and for some visitors perhaps confusing. But this is one important avenue for future television design work, because, compared to conventional recording techniques, video offers a greater variability for combining, fading, transforming and recreating pictures.

*

Now a few words on some of the individual works on show. An extensive section of the exhibition was taken up by sets and stage

models from theatres all over the country. Franz Havemann (born 1932), for example, created a stage set for the German National Theatre in Weimar for Volker Braun's new play

"Siegfried-Frauenprotokolle-Deutscher Furor" (Siegfried-Women's Testimony-German Furore), which has particular show qualities and can be viewed as an independent work of art. A large, gaudily coloured tin box with doors and windows is, at the beginning of the dramatic piece, a cave in which the performers recall Siegfried's encounter with the dragon—at the end it is a bunker, the scene of the bloody destruction of the Burgundians. As also in the other models you can see here how the traditional allocation of the scenes to inside and outside rooms is broken down. Or another example: The Gothic cathedral in Odense (Denmark) was the setting for the 1986 drama "Canute the Holy" by the Dane Svend Age Madsen—produced by the Odense Theatre. Annemarie Rost (born 1924) from Berlin designed the set and costumes, which were on display in Dresden. She cleverly used the cathedral setting for the optical framework of the historical drama. The stern white church interior with its splendid 1520 altar presented, in a particular fashion, a kind of "natural backdrop" for this story about the last of the Viking kings, Canute.

Especially popular with both young and old are marionettes, stick and glove puppets, theatre masks and other props made of paper-mâché. What adult can honestly say he has no time for fairy tales and horror stories?

In the courtyard of the Gallery a knight's castle could be admired, a model from a successful DEFA children's film of recent years. And the youngest visitors had an area in the courtyard where, with coloured chalks, blackboards and easels, they could try their hand at designing a set of their own.

*

Visitors to the 10th Art Exhibition, who, alongside the paintings, sculpture and graphic art in the Albertinum Museum and the applied arts in the Fuellplatz Exhibition Centre, also took the trouble to visit the set designers in the Rähnitzgasse Gallery were well rewarded. There was also a sales stand with hand puppets, costume designs, sketches and posters, as well as regular puppet shows.

Set design—in the GDR long since freed from the restraints of the stage or screen. Each year it moves closer and closer to the interested museum visitor.

Norbert Landsberg

YOUTH ROUNDUP



Campaign" is a challenge for everyone to give of his or her best for our republic's birthday present. Everybody is called upon to put forward proposals for, as Eberhard Aurich, First Secretary of the FDJ Central Council, said at a recent meeting: "Everyone is to feel that he or she is needed, we don't leave anyone behind." After all, it's characteristic of our policy that people have a say and can co-determine things.

The latest youth campaign also envisages the following

facts: by the time of the GDR's 40th anniversary a further 45,000 young-married couples are to receive a home of their own through the reconstruction and modernisation of old buildings. And at least 146 new youth clubs in newly-built town districts and in villages will be ready to welcome their visitors to discos, fashion parades, quiz programmes and many other events ...

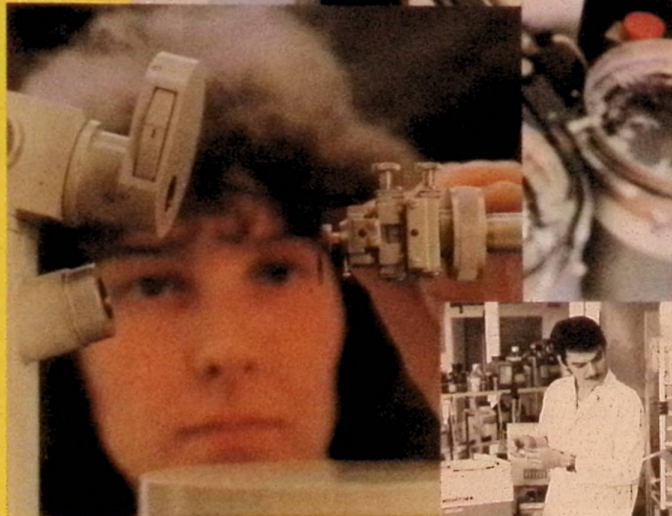
It goes without saying that in preparation for the GDR's 40th birthday our young people will not only start the ball rolling on the building site, in the laboratory, at the lathe or the computer. For example, there'll be something on at Whitsun this year, when high spirits will prevail during the numerous FDJ meetings at historically important places, at sightseeing attractions and the most beautiful regions in our country. In keeping with the tradition of past national youth festivals and the two World Festivals of Youth and Students in Berlin in 1951 and 1973, another big Whitsun meeting is planned to be held in our capital in May 1989. And it can surely be taken for granted that there'll be a lot happening then. We promise to inform you about it through words and pictures in our magazine.

Yours, *Petra*

DEAR FRIENDS,

It made headlines in our mass media at the end of January: the Eighth Session of the Free German Youth's Central Council decided on the "GDR 40 FDJ Campaign". You wonder what this means? Well, it is, so to speak, a huge birthday present. For on 7 October next year our republic will be 40, reason enough to celebrate. And as it is before a birthday—you make plans and have your hands full preparing for it. Hence our youth organisation thought hard how to contribute best to this big event.

As you will know, we've had lots of ambitious projects in our country for many years now, which are being implemented by the young people on their own or in which they are playing a prominent part. It is on such projects that the main emphasis continues to lie. Within the framework of the "FDJ Berlin Initiative" young people beautify our capital city, they help to electrify railway lines across the country, are responsible for the introduction of thousands of industrial robots, afforest and tend thousands of hectares of woodland, lay pipes in all weathers on the GDR section of the natural gas pipeline in the Soviet Union, design fashionable clothes for young people, develop new recorders ... With these and many other tasks the young men and women want to continue the good results attained in the past years. Hence, the "GDR 40 FDJ



Participating: the high-spirited Jocelyn Bernadette Smith from the USA ...



"Youth in the Palace"

Festival

Should I listen to this group or another? You were constantly confronted with this decision during the "Youth in the Palace" Festival with 100 groups and soloists presenting a 200-hour programme in all halls and foyers of the Palace of the Republic. And this not counting the attraction which was exercised on the total of 60,000 visitors by the studios set up by art colleges and schools on the ground floor or the sales booths on all the upper floors of the building. Moreover, there were also theatre and pantomime performances, film shows, fashion parades ...

This new event, a joint undertaking by the FDJ Central Council, the General Management of the Committee for Light Entertainment and Berlin's Palace of the Republic, held from 15 to 24 January, was especially arranged for young workers, school and university students. Owing to the fact that it was very well received by the young people, this new function will take place at two-year intervals. In the interim year the "Rock for Peace" Festival will be staged.



... and from our republic the rock group "Silly" (left) and the group "Frustrschutz".



Holiday Tip: Leipzig

Most of you will know Leipzig as a city of trade fairs. However, it has further epithets: it has been a city of books for 500 years owing to the many renowned publishing houses that are located there. As a city of music it is associated with such names as Bach and Mendelssohn Bartholdy, Schumann and Wagner, it is the home of the Gewandhaus Orchestra and the Thomaner Boys' Choir. The annual documentary and short film week "Films of the World for Peace in the World" made it a city of films. Furthermore, Leipzig is a sports, university and industrial city ...

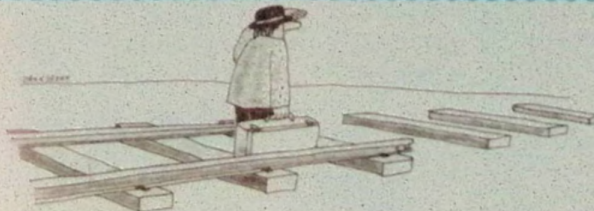
Those who would like to visit this metropolis in the heart of our republic should write to the travel agency of the "Volkstouristen", Postfach 101000, DDR-1000 Leipzig.

DDR-1026. Among other hotels, it can arrange accommodation for you at the youth tourist hotel in Leipzig-Grossdeuben. This hotel complex, which was opened in 1978, consists of two buildings offering single, twin and three-bed rooms and 19 bungalows accommodating 4 people each. The whole complex is located in a large park. The hotel has a disothèque, cellar bar and various sports facilities. If requested the reception can obtain tickets for museums, theatres, guided tours of the city, etc.

What can be recommended in Leipzig? For instance, a visit to the St. Thomas' Church, home of the 750-year-old Thomaner Boys' Choir and the last resting place of Johann Sebastian Bach.



Or the imposing Monument to the Battle of the Nations and the Russian Church which were both erected in commemoration of the fallen soldiers of this battle which raged there in 1813. Or the Auerbachs Keller Restaurant, well known from Goethe's *Faust*. And what about the "Kaffeebaum" Coffee House, the oldest remaining cafe dating from 1694 in which Robert Schumann used to be a regular customer ...



Reed Roofs

THATCHED HOUSES are part of the unique coastal landscape in our latitudes. The north of the GDR is no exception. Specialists even say that the best reeds in Central Europe grew there along the shores of the Strelasund, the Peenestrom, the Boddengewässer and the Haff, the Fischland and the Darss as well as the Mecklenburg lakes. This soft, raw material has been used for thatching from the earliest times. A thatched roof—also called a “soft” roof, because of its elasticity—is like an airconditioner, keeping the house warm in the winter and cool in the summer. While thatched roofs defy even the strongest coastal gales, they are, for example, vulnerable to such things as flying sparks. On average a thatched roof lasts from 70 to 80 years. Since thatching such a roof requires many thousands of bundles of reeds, great attention is devoted to the annual reed harvest. It begins in December when the banks of the rivers, bays, etc. have frozen over. The reeds are then cut with





short, strong scythes or with machines resembling big lawn mowers. Since 1984 reeds have also been cut by floating combines in suitable waters, thus enabling annual harvesting of this valuable raw material from an area of over 2,000 hectares. The more regular the yearly reed harvests, the higher the quality, say the thatchers. While the combines cut and throw out the reeds in bundles, what has been cut manually has to be bound by hand. Wire, stones and occasionally discarded fishing nets hold the skilfully arranged reed sheaves together. It is only after they have undergone a year's seasoning that the reeds can be used for thatching. The bundles are individually wired to the roof latens. Particular skill is required in thatching gables and gable windows.



However, there are reeds and reeds. Some are hard, as thick as a finger and brittle, while others are pencil-thick and pliable. Reeds unsuitable for thatching are woven into matting in special mills. Every year 200,000 square metres of such matting is produced in the GDR which, because of its outstanding thermal-insulating qualities, is in great demand especially in the building industry, road construction, farming and horticulture. Occasionally reeds are also to be found as supporting frameworks in colourful, evergreen flower arrangements.

Manfred Zielinski

*Photos: Manfred Zielinski (3),
Carla Arnold, Frank Ihlow*

YOU HAVE TO GIVE IT to them, they can certainly tell you an interesting story or two. For example, about the little boy squatting on the pedestal of a monument on the market place in the centre of town. A bit cheeky, not too-cheeky though, but still cocky and self-confident. And that was supposed to be the town's most famous son—Johann Sebastian Bach?! But it was indeed, in bronze on marble—just as surely as it was the old town of Arnstadt, in which we made this unusual, and amusing discovery: one of the most prominent venerable figures in a very out-of-the-ordinary monument pose.

The storytellers—members of the working group “Young Town Guides”—were school pupils from Arnstadt, a town which, with its first documented mention in the year 704, can pride itself on being the oldest in the GDR. Furthermore, the hobby guides are able to inform their visitors in vivid detail about Bach's years in Arnstadt, that from 1703 to 1707 he had his first appointment as organist at the Neue Kirche Church here, today the Bach Church, and that in his youthful boisterousness he happily caused all kinds of to-do. This also explains the original motif for Prof. Bernd Göbel's monument on the market place.

This district town of 30,000 inhabitants is idyllically situated in the forehills of the Thuringian Forest, and with its 1284 years it is



Talking About History

Young Guides
For An Old Town



The young Bach, on his pedestal in the market place, and his friends, the hobby town guides of Arnstadt, always know what is going on in this the oldest town in the GDR—from the carefully restored town hall and the narrow streets, which have been returned to their former splendour, to the tiniest detail of the original facade designs.





naturally rich in both history and architectural sights. Gates, towers, churches, half-timbered houses in narrow lanes and part of the old town wall form an ensemble of listed buildings, attracting a never-ending stream of visitors, especially since much has been restored in recent years and presents itself in fresh splendour. It is impossible to overlook, though, the continuing work of the busy building teams.

Even though the above-mentioned attraction means that Arnstadt's town guides urgently need new blood, the now 5-year-old working group—one of 25 at the local Pioneers' Centre—aims in the first instance at providing educational leisure activity, at deepening feelings of attachment to one's home town and interest in history. Of course, the knowledge of the young guides is much in demand, though it carries the restriction that, until their 18th birthday, they are only allowed to act as guides for school groups, generally guests at the local youth hostel. The pupils are not allowed to pursue their hobby on a commercial basis. Sadly, one is tempted to say, when you experience, as we did, the knowledgeable, enthusiastic and stylish manner in which the members of the group seem to know their town right down to the last tiny courtyard and unmistakably feel closely linked to it.

For Monika Schertling (36), the group leader, it was a kind of experiment when she started the idea. Born near Berlin, it had a special appeal for her to have to get to know in depth the history of her adopted town. "Of course," she said, "I approached the task from a different viewpoint to that of a local. I was able, for example, to include various interesting details in my plans for tours of the town which the people born and bred in Arnstadt found so 'usual' that they never really noticed them." Together with the pupils she first set up an archive of pictures of monuments and historical buildings, and arranged a card file with historical facts and figures, names, events and other interesting anec-



notes. This card file is the young people's basic tool. It is constantly being extended, revised and brought up to date. A further achievement of the working group has been a series of pictures under the motto "Do you know your home town?" for schoolchildren in the lower classes. The series can be borrowed from the Pioneers' Centre by the eight schools in Arnstadt, or else the children can use it for a meaningful recreation activity at the Pioneers' Centre itself. During the five years of the group a "tourist game" has also been produced with which boys and girls can get to know their home town while playing.

In the routes followed by the hobby guides there are special places for the history of the founding of the town, the development of the guilds and famous citizens of the past. The question remains as to where the knowledge of the members of the group stems from. Above all they have many helpers in the town, who assisted them in gathering so many facts, in order to be able to make their tours interesting and also attractive for other youngsters. When they meet each week for one-and-a-half hours this is not always just in the Pioneers' Centre; they also undertake many "excursions into the past". They are, for example, proficient users of the town's archives, whose head, Peter Unger, is always happy to help them with advice, documents, books and other reference materials. They have a similarly friendly relationship to the director of the Bach Memorial, Hartmut Fuhrmann. At the moment this is all the more important because the group is in the process of working out a thematic tour of the town entitled "In Johann Sebastian Bach's Footsteps". They want to find out which buildings in the town are connected with the name Bach, whether any of his descendants are living in Arnstadt, what proof there is and what memories people still have. This is quite an extensive task, especially when you consider that 17 Bachs have been born, 8 married and 25 buried in Arnstadt. They can also count on the support of Alwin Friedel, Arnstadt's church music director. The young people will be able to profit in many ways from his boundless knowledge. And he is eager to lend a helping hand.

Another person on the group's side is Ulrike Püschel, who runs the Arnstadt Tourist Information Office. She always has the latest material available, because she is the first person tourists and guests turn to. She is always up-to-date and on top of that she is very friendly.

When asked why they take part the members of the group all mention first their love for their home town. Holger Karnahl, 15 years of age, talkative, open and unmistakably proud of his hobby, said: "You can gather knowledge. I'm mad about historical statis-

tics and history in general. Of course I feel attached to my home town. And furthermore it is fun to be able to tell other people something and to notice that they, too, are interested in something you have helped to discover yourself!" Monika Schertling confided to us that Holger is also a passionate genealogist.

The youngest in the group, Silke Schröder, 13 years old, is rather quiet, which doesn't seem to fit in with her chosen hobby. But she, too, gets a lot out of the group: "I'm very interested in the history of Arnstadt because it is the oldest town in our country. And in history at school, where I didn't used to be very good before, I am now a lot better. Really, through the group here I've become much more interested in history in general!"

Thomas Friedrich, a pert, clever lad of 15, who is always ready for fun and tricks, found perhaps the most important reason for taking part: "Perhaps it's a kind of urge to make discoveries which brings us here. And it's romantic as well. Personally I find it really exciting to dig around a bit in history."

In the foreground of the tours are not tiring lists of figures but rather anecdotes from history. And there are several favourites. For example, about the big fire which destroyed 378 houses in the town in 1581. It just happened to be the mayor who caused the fire because, despite all warnings, he insisted on lining his roof with hot tar during the scorching hot weather. As quick as a flash the house caught fire and the gusting wind at the time did the rest, reducing everything to ashes and rubble in no time at all.

And a second favourite story: During a wedding in the Neideck Castle in 1560 a truly "marathon" feast was held. On this occasion the kitchens provided 1,000 sheep, 200 sides of bacon, 2,700 geese, 120 deer, 1,850 rabbits and 40 oxen. This meal was washed down with 7,000 litres of corn schnapps and 1,000 litres of local wine. And people say that we eat too much nowadays! This little party makes us seem quite moderate after all.

But Silke, Thomas, Holger and the others speak with just as much enthusiasm about the Arnstadt of today. They point with justified pride above all at the new buildings in the town centre which have been designed to blend in with the old.

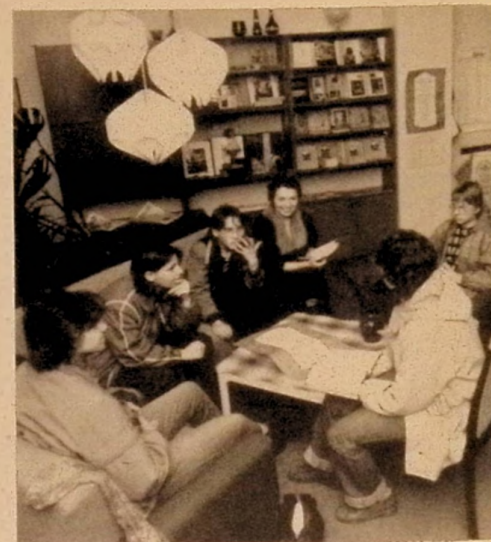
Monika Schertling can be very satisfied with her protégés. That they are satisfied with her is shown clearly by the fact that so many former members continue to look in and take part in tours on special occasions, for example, during the meeting of young historians in Arnstadt in February.

What is her opinion as to the benefits of this kind of leisure activity for the 13 to 16-year-olds?

Her reply: "Well, first of all it deepens their

Peter Unger (left), the head of the town archives, is always happy to help the young guides.

Short visit to the Tourist Information Office.





The series of pictures "Do you know your home town?" is always popular with the young visitors to the Pioneers' Centre.

With church music director Alwin Friedel in the Bonifacius Church.

relationship to their home town. If you get to know a town really well, with all the ins and outs, so to speak, you develop not only pride but also a close attachment to the town. There is also the need to pass on to others the things that you yourself have discovered. The boys and girls also get practice in explaining things clearly, logically and in a friendly manner. Being able to express yourself is a wonderful schooling for the rest of your life. If a visitor says, as I have often heard, 'I hadn't imagined it would be that good, it was so interesting', this is already a certain success, and at the same time an added stimulus. And of course our group also tries to provide as much knowledge as possible even outside the normal school curriculum."

As we left Arnstadt we took with us many stories, as well as fond memories of bright young people and, not least, the acquaintance of an old, friendly, little town.

And should you ever find yourself in Arnstadt, pretend you are quite small and try to take part in a tour of the town for schoolchildren. It is well worth it!

Brigitte Thal



*Photos:
Günter Ackermann*

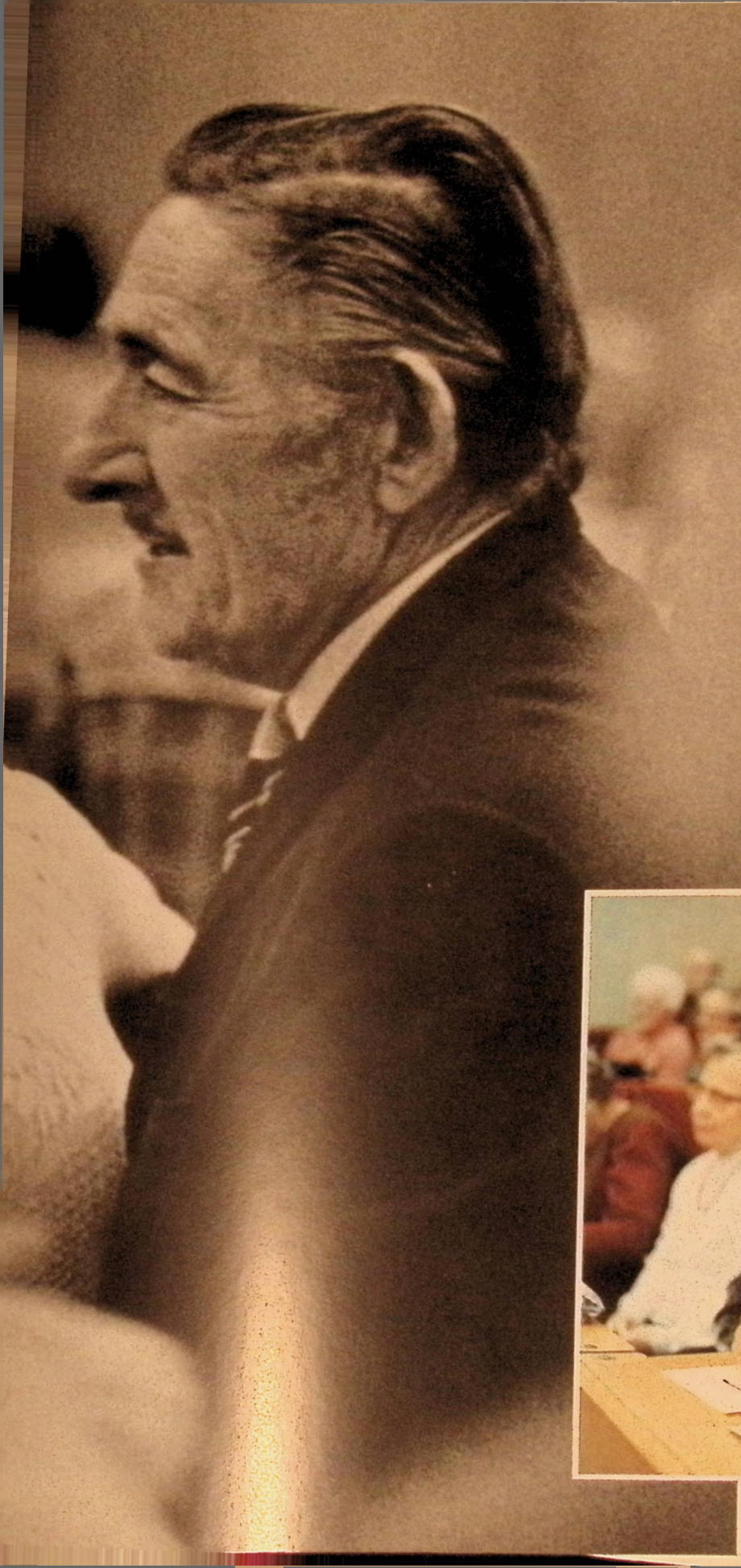
Just as each individual's life takes a different course, so there are many ideas and wishes when it comes to planning a satisfying old age. The first day in retirement—some people long for it impatiently. At last they will have time to spend on their special interests. Others want to carry on working, because they are still healthy enough, enjoy their work or perhaps have certain financial considerations. Some suppress their thoughts on this day totally, they simply allow things to happen. But experience shows that pensioners generally agree on one thing: if you have worked for decades, played an active role in life and are still physically fit, retirement cannot mean suddenly sitting back to twiddle your thumbs or withdrawing into old age. On the contrary.

Opinion polls have shown: Most of the pensioners living in our country still feel sprightly, they want to continue the life they have led to date, to take part as best they can in the everyday activities of society, to feel that they are needed. A fact which no doubt extends far beyond the area of competence of doctors and sociologists. It means that state bodies, enterprises, institutions and social organisations must work together, young and old must understand and cooperate with each other.

In our country it is the People's Solidarity organisation which has the greatest experience in this cooperation. In Dresden, Pirna and Karl-Marx-Stadt GDR REVIEW was able to observe the various ways in which this mass organisation lives up to its motto: Activity—Company—Care.



Life Doesn't End At Retirement



No-one Must Be Forgotten

A residential area in the county town of Dresden. 72 mostly two-storey buildings, lots of greenery, over 1,000 residents, almost a third of them pensioners. As elsewhere too, the overwhelming majority of them live alone. The husband or wife has died, the children have a home of their own, little time to spare or have moved away to another town. That these pensioners should not feel lonely and should play as active a role in society as possible is the task set itself by the local group of the People's Solidarity organisation in the area. Its chairman, Walter Dutschmann, 71 years old, said: "It is our most important concern to maintain contact with every elderly person in the area, to know whether he or she is well and to help as best we can." Walter Dutschmann knows how important the daily contact with neighbours and friends is for many people, he knows who likes company and who needs help with shopping or the housework. It has been possible to gain the services of a voluntary helper in every house—their ages range from 21 to 80 years—and they are in constant touch with the local group committee. No-one must be forgotten, whether it be a matter of an invitation for a day out or for a theatre visit, of a lecture on healthy living at the local Hygiene Museum, the meals-on-wheels service or the annual Christmas party. It is not an easy task for the eight members of the local group committee. After all some of

"Pensioners' academy" for 60 to 90-year-olds at the Karl Marx University in Leipzig.



them are still working full time or else help out from time to time in their former enterprise, as does Walter Dutschmann. Each of the members, therefore, has a clearly defined sphere of responsibility and must be able to rely totally on his partners. On the People's Solidarity Club, for example, which organises a comprehensive programme of cultural events, or on enterprises which look after the free-of-charge redecoration of pensioners' flats. The links to the neighbouring school are especially dear to their heart. During the winter the older boys and girls help the People's Solidarity volunteers to carry coal for the elderly and save them going out in the snow and cold to do shopping. It is a satisfying feeling for everyone to see how young and old stand by each other, and it speaks well for our society that the younger generation is brought up to show respect and helpfulness towards the elderly.

Walter Dutschmann cannot imagine an harmonious, satisfying old age without some kind of meaningful activity. An opinion with which he does not seem to be alone. For the positive report which the local group has been able to draw up was also made possible because the pensioners in the area lent a helping hand in looking after flower beds and carrying out minor repairs to the houses. The value of countless hours of neighbourly assistance is immeasurable, for example, as "substitute grandmothers", who lovingly care for the sick children of young families so that the mother has the opportunity to go to the shops or meet an important appointment. Activities which are valued in the whole area and which give the elderly residents the feeling of being needed.

Birthday At The Club

Sophie Peter's birthday was not actually for another two days. The fact that the almost 85-year-old was attending a big birthday party in advance is the result of a tradition of the People's Solidarity organisation in her home town of Pirna. On the last Thursday of every month the People's Solidarity Club invites all the pensioners in the town—a district town with 50,000 inhabitants—who are celebrating a round birthday in the month in question to a party in the club. Almost all the 70 to 85-year-olds had accepted the invitation.

The party was opened by the club's choir and then greetings were read out from the Town Council and from the People's Solidarity organisation. Coffee cups were filled and conversations began. Sophie Peter has lived in Pirna since 1908. The club, she was able to recall, is housed in the former town villa of a rich aristocratic landowner. So many beautiful and big rooms for just two people ... When the Town Council took over the villa and presented it to the People's Solidarity organisation after extensive reconstruction work, it was given the name of the resistance fighter Ida Dass. She came from Pirna and was one of the people who started the People's Solidarity movement in her home town after the liberation from fascism.

Sophie Peter loves company and enjoys the variety offered by the club. The programme of events, she is convinced, could compete with many a youth club. In order not to suddenly be alone in old age she considers it important to meet people, to have a solid circle of friends and undertake joint activities.

Helmut Banas was already celebrating his second round birthday at the club. The former engineer's appearance belies his 75 years. He likes singing and passionately

FACTS AND FIGURES

- The People's Solidarity organisation (VS) was founded in autumn 1945 as a social mass movement. Its aim was to alleviate the worst post-war suffering of helpless elderly people and children. With the overcoming of the consequences of the war and in view of the changing social conditions the VS began increasingly to concern itself with the needs and concerns of the elderly and by the end of the fifties developed into a mass organisation.
- The VS currently has 2.1 million members from all social strata and age groups and more than 195,000 voluntary helpers.
- The focus of the current work of the VS is the cultural and social care of elderly people and particular support for those who are ill or in need of assistance.

● Various opportunities for leisure activities and togetherness are offered by the local groups, clubs and meeting places of the VS in the towns, villages and residential areas.

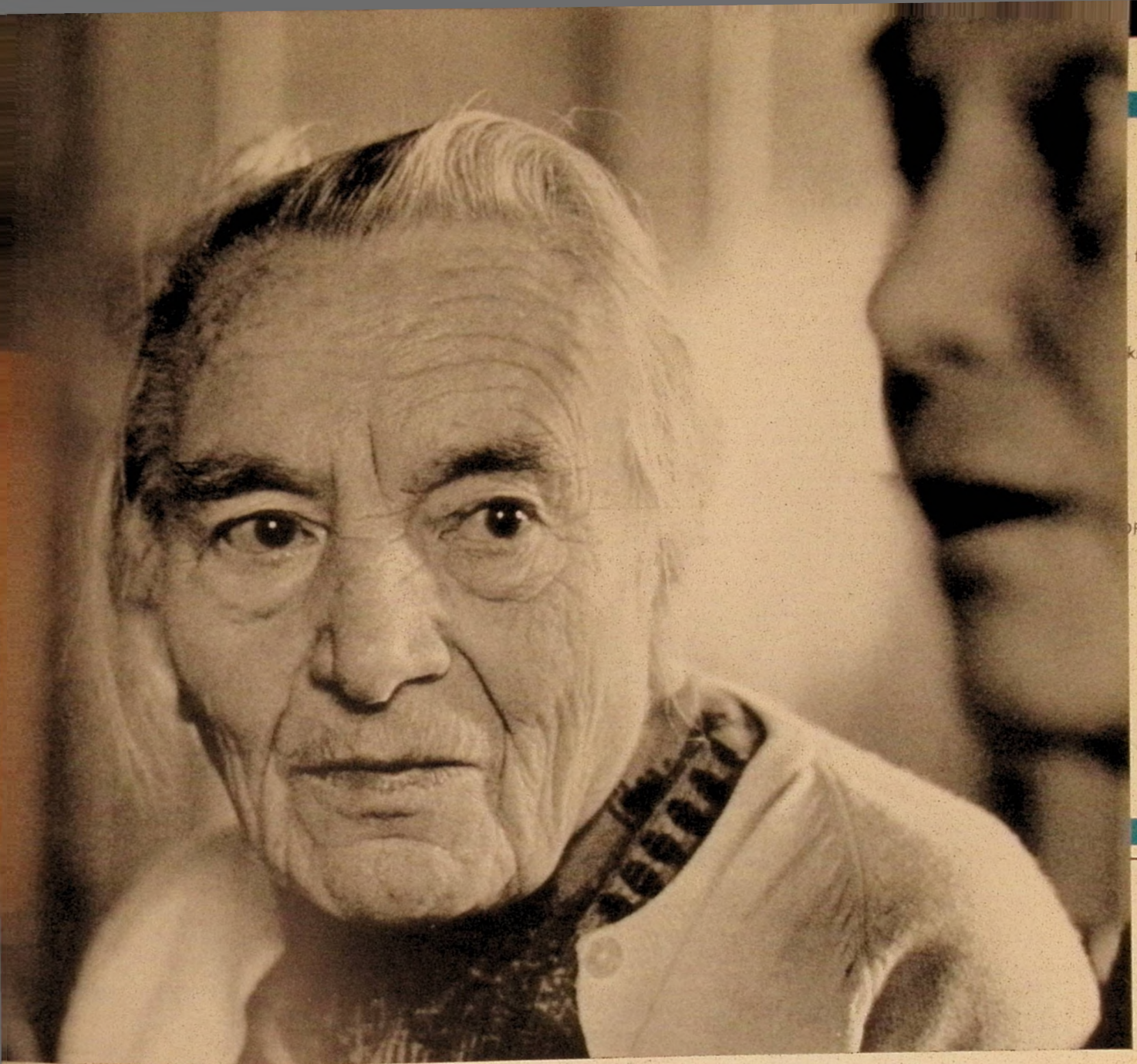
● There are currently 2.8 million pensioners in the GDR, whereby women generally retire at 60 years of age and men at 65.

● Almost 85,000 elderly people who have no relatives or cannot count on help from their neighbours are supported by full-time home-helpers paid by the VS.

● Over 203,000 elderly people receive an inexpensive midday meal each day in clubs, enterprises or restaurants; around 65,000 meals are delivered to the homes of elderly people who have difficulty in getting about.

● The VS has at its disposal comprehensive financial means from the state budget. On top of this can be added the regular subscriptions from its registered members.





Left: Pensioners celebrating during the monthly birthday party in Pirna.

Right: Horst Arzberger with his home-help Monika Brunner.



Photos: Andreas Meschke (left), ADN-ZB

pursues his hobby—photography. It is as if joy of life and curiosity about what tomorrow may bring are more pronounced among his generation than for many younger people. Why else do so many of his contemporaries attend the "Pensioners' Academies" which are to be found in many places? These even provide an introduction to the world of computers and enjoy a constantly rising number of participants.

Christel Hergert, the woman in charge of the club, joined our conversation. This resolute, lively woman has been running the club in the centre of Pirna for eleven years now. "When the elderly people leave after a successful event and say they intend to come again, that is the nicest possible compliment for me and my staff." The enthusiasm and in-

initiative of the 57-year-old is one of the reasons why the idea of a monthly birthday party, which was put forward ten years ago, did not get lost in a discussion of pros and cons. The local groups of the People's Solidarity organisation in the individual residential areas were enlisted as allies. After all, their voluntary helpers know most about the pensioners living in the town.

Christel Hergert then approached enterprises in the town and asked for support. All those asked checked what was possible and hardly anyone said no. Some entertain the birthday guests with cultural performances, while others contribute to the success of the party with a small present. Even so, Christel Hergert is still not completely happy. There are several men and women with severe walking disabilities who are unable to accept the invitations because of this problem. A fixed agreement with the nationally-owned taxi enterprise would solve the matter. The fact that such an agreement has still not been reached continues to bother the club.

And there is something else which moves Christel Hergert. As in other towns, too, the majority of pensioners in Pirna live on their own. But particularly elderly people, as studies by gerontologists in the GDR have shown, attach special importance to social relationships, considering this aspect more valuable than their material situation. They want to meet younger people and be able to pass on their experiences. Christel Hergert describes this as giving and taking. And so

she is thinking of arranging an open day, a meeting between the generations at the club.

Care For The Needy

Horst Arzberger has lived in Frankenberger Street in Karl-Marx-Stadt for more than 30 years. From his balcony he looks out over an area of greenery and the town centre is simple and quick to reach with public transport. It is no wonder, therefore, that, now an old man, he does not want to leave his familiar surroundings. Even though his two sons who live in other towns have often offered him the chance to move in with one of them. The 83-year-old suffers from severe asthma and since the death of his wife he has been unable to cope with the household and the flat on his own. He applied for constant care from a home-help of the People's Solidarity organisation.

Shopping, fetching lunch, keeping the flat clean—Monika Brunner comes to Horst Arzberger for a total of ten hours a week. When the 43-year-old came for the first time, both were a little reserved. But Monika Brunner's open, energetic manner soon led to trust building up. Alongside a good sense of tact and understanding, this is the most important precondition for the successful care of elderly people who are in need. Everyone reacts differently, needs attention, or occasionally just an encouraging word.

At the moment Monika Brunner looks after five pensioners in their own homes and also brings a warm meal to two others. Why does she do this work?

When she had to give up working at a kindergarten for health reasons and found that sitting at home was extremely boring, she was asked if she could look after a distant relative. The People's Solidarity organisation soon caught sight of this caring woman and asked her if she could help

them, too. Because she saw that her help was urgently needed, Monika Brunner agreed and after a discussion with the family finally became a full-time home-help. Of course she would have been able to earn more elsewhere. But the joy and gratitude of the elderly people are more important to her than a bulging pay packet. "The egoistic attitude that charity begins at home is fortunately no longer socially acceptable in this country, even though there may still be certain fellow citizens who consider only their own interests and don't do too badly by it either. But whether they are genuinely happy?"

*

Between one-fifth and one-sixth of the people in our country are currently of pensionable age. And from 1995 onwards the number of pensioners will rise again. Only 15 per cent of them will not possess a vocational training certificate, and the number of college and university graduates will be six times what it is today. What variety of expectations for meaningful activities, what needs for specific forms and spheres of education, communication and care will have to be met? Expectations and needs which will certainly demand a reappraisal of current methods, and which will only be able to be satisfied through close cooperation between state, social and cultural organisations, through the partnership of young and old.

Christa Köster

Radio
Berlin
International

The Voice
of the German
Democratic
Republic



We broadcast in English to **EUROPE**
on short wave in the 31, 42 and 49 metre bands
and to **NORTH AMERICA**

on short wave in the 31 and 49 metre bands.
We also broadcast to Europe in French, Italian,
Spanish, Portuguese, Swedish, Danish and German.

We have daily news bulletins and commentaries
on current affairs, together with reports and features
on life in the GDR.

There are sports and DX programmes every Monday.

For detailed information on our programmes,
broadcasting times and frequencies please write to:
Radio Berlin International
Berlin
DDR-1160

Orders are taken by:

GREAT BRITAIN

one year at £ 2.50, two years at £ 4.50, three years at £ 6.00

The Britain-GDR Society,
129, Seven Sisters Road, London N7 7QG
Collet's Holdings Ltd.,
Denington Estate, London Road,
Wellingborough, Northants, NN8 2QT
Central Books Ltd., 14, The Leathermarket,
London SE1 3ER

AUSTRALIA

one year at US \$ 8.00,
two years at US \$ 14.00,
three years at US \$ 18.00

New Era Bookshop,
425 Pitt Street,
Sydney, N.S.W. 2000

BELGIUM

Year's subscription: 150 francs
Association Belgique-R.D.A.
Rue Rouppe 4, 1000 Bruxelles,
Tel. 02/514 1628, C.C.P.: 000-0027417-63

CANADA/Single copy: US \$ 0.80

one year at US \$ 8.00,
two years at US \$ 14.00,
three years at US \$ 18.00

People's Co-op Bookstore
1391 Commercial Drive
CDN-Vancouver V5L 3X5

DENMARK

one year at 30.- dkr.
Tidskriftet DDR-REVV
Henrik Rungs Gade 25, 2200 København N,
Tel. 358685, Giro 3003582

FINLAND

one year at 30 fmk, two years at 50 fmk,
three years at 70 fmk
Suomi-DDR-seura r.y.
Kalsaniemenkatu 1 C 76, 00100 Helsinki 10,
Puh. 669126, Giro 59425-7

FRANCE

one year at 40 FF, two years at 60 FF, three years at 90 FF
France-R.D.A., Comité National,
25 bd de Bonne-Nouvelle,
75002 Paris

IRELAND

Year's subscription: Ir. £ 2.00
Ireland-GDR Friendship Society
19, O'Leary Road, Kilmainham
Dublin 8

ITALY

one year at L. 5.000, two years at L. 8.000,
three years at L. 10.000
Associazione Italia-RDT, Via Zanardelli 36,
00186 Roma, Tel. 6875291, Giro 53772000

JAPAN

one year at US \$ 8.00,
two years at US \$ 14.00,

three years at US \$ 18.00
Far Eastern Booksellers, Kanda P.O.
Box No. 72, Tokyo 101-91

THE NETHERLANDS

one year at 15,- fl., two years at 25,- fl.,
three years at 30,- fl.,
Vereniging Nederland-DDR,
Keizersgracht 209, 1016 DT Amsterdam

SWEDEN

one year at 30:skr., two years at 45:skr.,
three years at 60:skr.
Förbundet Sverige-DDR,
Kungsgatan 28, 6tr, 11135 Stockholm,
Tel. 08116457, Postgiro 554858-1

USA/Single copy: US \$ 0.80

one year at US \$ 8.00,
two years at US \$ 14.00,
three years at US \$ 18.00
US Committee for Friendship with the GDR
130 East 16th Street, 3rd Floor
New York, N.Y. 10003
Progressive Bookshop
1251 So. St. Andrews' Pl.
Los Angeles, Ca. 90019
Imported Publications Inc.
320 West Ohio Street
Chicago, Ill. 60610
Ingram Periodicals
347, Reedwood Drive
Nashville, TN 37217

Our Back Cover:

For The Philatelist

FOR THE SECOND TIME the Ministry for Post and Telecommunications of the GDR has devoted its final issue of the year to a set of stamps showing folk art from the Erzgebirge Mountains. In 1987 the miniature sheet with six values from 10 to 85 pfennigs depicted Christmas "pyramids", which are today popular far beyond the mountains themselves.

*

To mark the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary four commemorative stamps and an inset were issued showing the following sports disciplines: ski-jumping (5 pfennig), speed-skating (10), four-man bob (20+10), biathlon (35) and tobogganing (1.20 M inset-stamp). The supplement on the 20 pfennig stamp is passed on to the Society for the Promotion of the Olympic Ideal in the GDR.

*

For the 90th anniversary of the birth of Bertolt Brecht in 1988 a 7.10 pfennig stamp was issued showing a portrait of Bertolt

Brecht; above there is a scene from his play "Life of Galileo" with the quotation: "... the triumph of reason can only be the triumph of reasonable people ..." -/k

Our Front Cover

Photographed by Carla Arnold

GDR REVIEW

33rd Year - 4/1988

Published monthly in Danish, Dutch, English, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Italian and Swedish
Published by the International Friendship League of the GDR,

Otto-Grotewohl-Strasse 19d,
Berlin, DDR-1085

Publishing House: Verlag Zeit im Bild, Julian-Grimau-Allee,
Postfach 61, Dresden, DDR-8012

Director: Karl-Heinz Kamenz

Editor-in-chief: Lore Uhlmann

Editor GDR REVIEW: Dr. Andreas Schönherr

Editorial Office: Julian-Grimau-Allee, Postfach 61, Dresden,
DDR-8012

Telephone: 48640, Telex: 02291

Layout: Barbara Weise

Production: III/9/1 Grafischer Grossbetrieb Völkerfreundschaft Dresden

Licence Number: 1265

Printed in the German Democratic Republic

Reprints, indicating source, are permitted

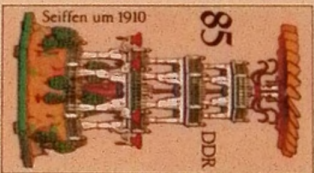
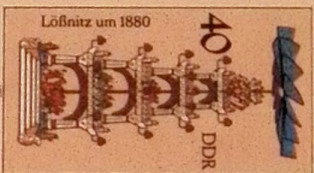
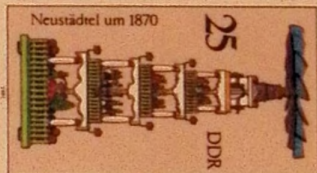
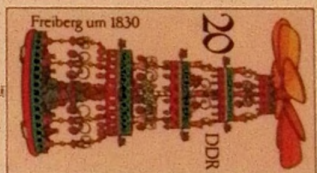
The Editorial Office has been awarded the Patriotic Order of Merit in Bronze



In this issue we report from

- 1 Berlin
- 2 Bad Muskau
- 3 Obercunnersdorf
- 4 Dresden
- 5 Scharfenstein
- 6 Arnstadt

WEIHNACHTS PYRAMIDEN



AUS DEM ERZGEBIRGE



„der Sang der Vernunft kann nur die Sieg der Vernünftigen sein.“



Bertolt
Brecht
1898-1956
70
DDR

