

GDR REVIEW

3/82

MAGAZINE FROM THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC



Women And Peace

Bodil Graae, co-initiator of the "Women for Peace" movement, Copenhagen

We had a great reaction to our signature campaign. Naturally the question arose as to what we were going to do to make sure that the protest of the women continued to be heard. We hit on the idea of forming small groups which would continue to discuss the problems of peace. And then remembered our first meeting—three women around a kitchen table. After that we could not call them anything but "kitchen groups". We hope that they grow up like mushrooms all over the world. We want the women to sit together at the kitchen table and with good ideas and feminine imagination protest forcefully against war for they feel the responsibility they bear. All women can give birth to life and we are of the opinion that the feeling of responsibility of the women is strong enough to ban the danger.



Ramona Neubert, European Cup winner and heptathlon world record holder, Dresden

What does peace mean to a young athlete like me? The answer can only be: Everything. It is no secret that we athletes in the GDR—just like those of other countries—are preparing for the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. But will they take place at all? Sports need peace just as people need air to breathe. The Olympic Summer Games have already fallen victim to imperialist wars three times—1916, 1940 and 1944, and this danger again exists today. Peace is no gift, you have to do something to ensure it is kept. To help in doing so is everybody's cause including that of each athlete irrespective of the country he represents, irrespective of the social system in his country.



Helga Barnofsky, textile worker, Limbach-Oberfrohna

Peace is the most important thing of all is what I think; without peace nothing of that which makes up life would go at all. Because that's the way it is I am repeatedly filled with anger at the way people in the governments of certain capitalist states irresponsibly deal with this vital question of mankind. We must do something about this and not just because the bases of conflict in the world have moved to within touching distance of us. It is also a question of whether my son, for instance, who has just celebrated his ninth birthday, or children somewhere else in the world can grow up into a future with a guaranteed peace.

I recently had the opportunity of visiting the traditional press festival of the French paper *L'Humanité*. We were repeatedly asked about our work, about apprentice training places and about work for youth. The social stability which we enjoy was unimaginable for some. But the people with whom we spoke gradually began to understand that the peace policy of our government and social stability in our country are very closely connected with one another.



Elke Schilling, journalist, Berlin

When my grandfather spoke of the war we children listened with red ears, at times we shuddered. There was no talk of great heroic deeds. Rather could one sense his relief at having returned to his home and loved ones from the Second World War in one piece. There were several in our family who did not. I received an inkling of what war is capable of inflicting in the way of inhumanity and sorrow. I realised that peace means life.


Many years later near Minsk in the Soviet Union I stood where the little Byelorussian village of Chatyn had been situated among peaceful, open birch forests. Like Oradour in France and many other places which are memorials today, fascist fanatics had planned to erase it completely. Anybody who has ever visited Chatyn will never forget that monotonous, uncanny, moving, warning but rousing "Bim", "Bim", "Bim" of the bells each of which symbolises one of the houses that was. I stood, more knowledgeable than in my childhood. History has taught me that war is not a law of nature and also that peace is no gift.



Valentina Nikolayeva-Tereshkova, the first woman in space, chairman of the Committee of Soviet Women, Moscow

It is often said that the wish for peace is characteristic for women and mothers, that it is something they have received from nature. There is something in this: the mothers who have brought forth life are the first to feel the pain that war brings. A poet once wrote that each bullet hits the heart of a mother. But motherly feelings alone are not sufficient to defend peace and life. One has to see where the danger is coming from and has to fight it. For the most recent times it is particularly characteristic that the anti-war movement is being joined by new circles of women, women who are full of enthusiasm, resoluteness and initiative. Women understand more and more that they have to act if they want to save the lives of their children. Ever more clearly they see the disastrous results of the arms race. They feel how the militarist course that Washington now wants to force on the other NATO countries will, in the long run affect their family budget and diminish the hopes for social progress and equality.



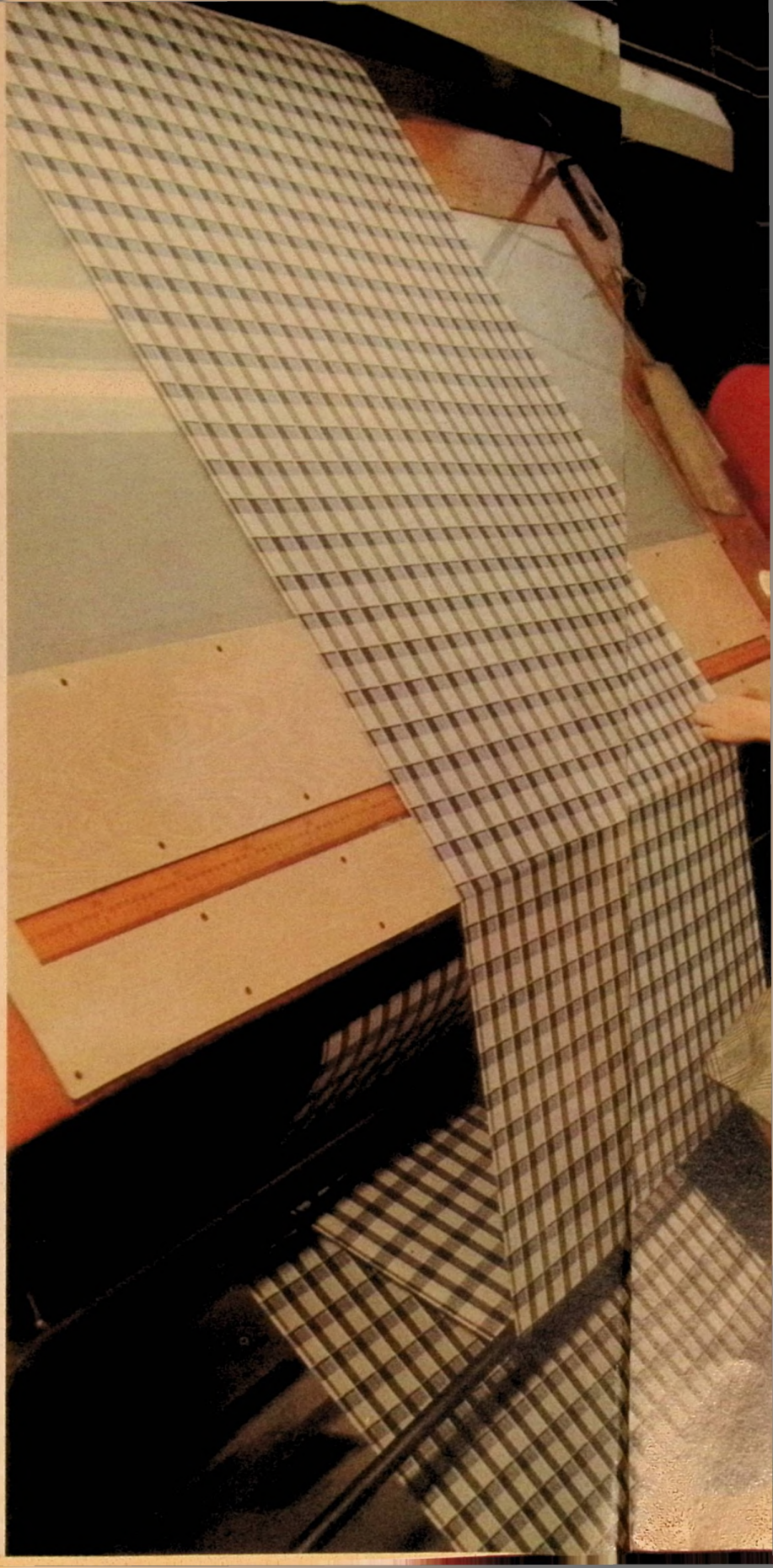


**Greetings to all our women readers
on International Women's Day**

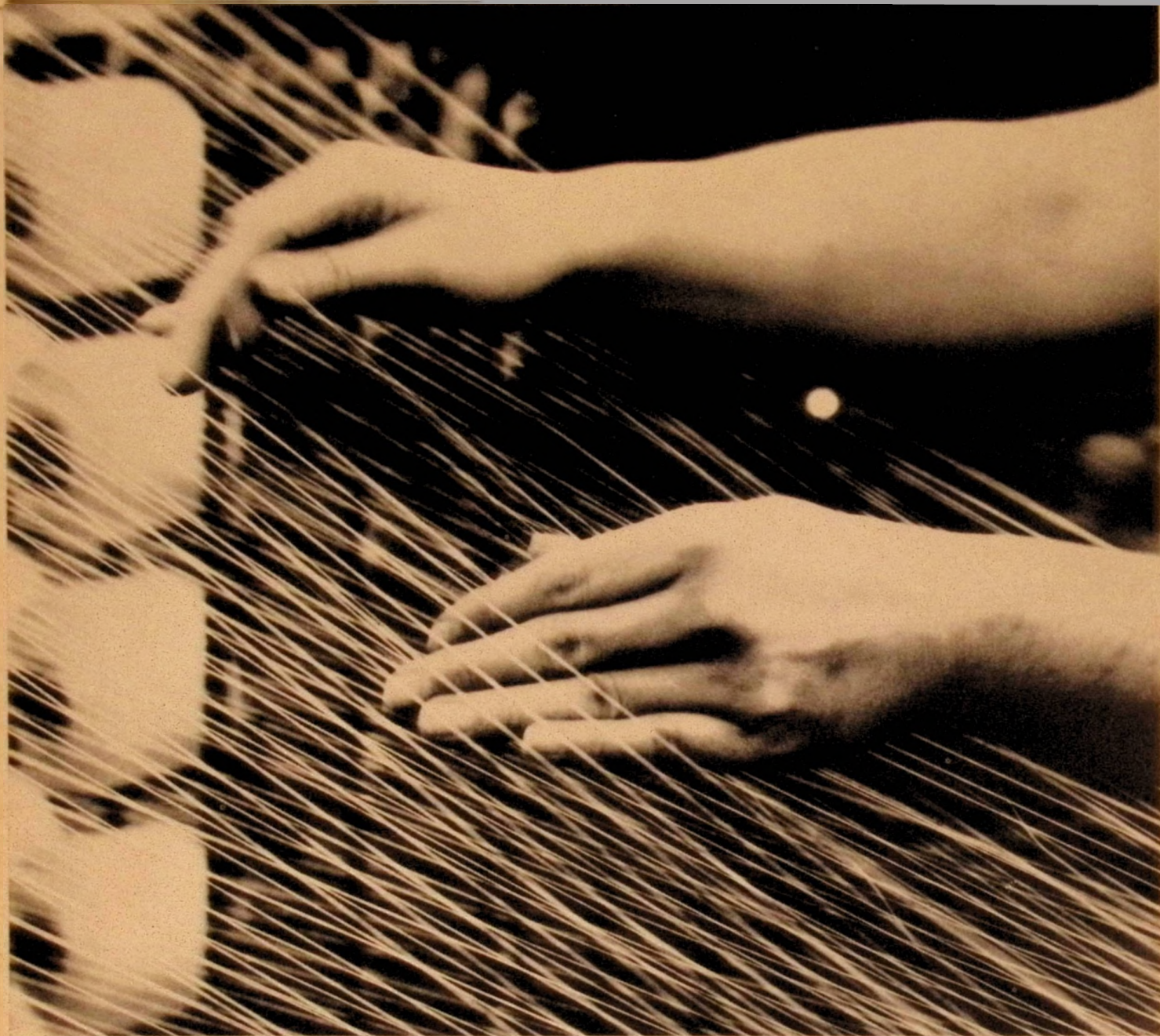
WEAVERS 1982



THE textiles industry has its centre down in the south-east of the GDR. Here, the clatter of weaving looms has been heard for centuries. Initially the most important raw material was the locally-grown flax. The "Upper Lusatian Linen" made from this flax had a good reputation in Italy, Spain, Portugal, England and Holland. A new raw material—cotton—made big advances after 1813 and it was not long before the various calico fabrics made from it were dyed and printed. New textile processing branches complemented the weaving trade which, in the meantime, had been widely mechanised. And as the demand for household linen as well as for under and overgarments increased through the course of the years the Upper Lusatian textiles industry grew and grew.





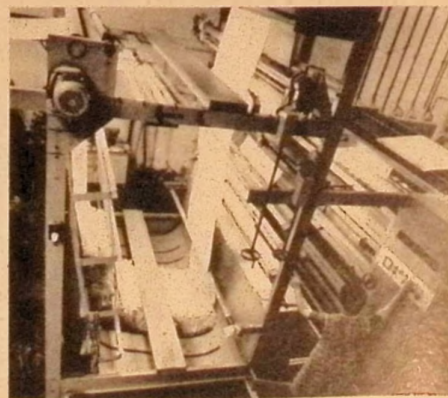


Eleven years ago all the textiles enterprises in this area amalgamated to form the VEB Upper Lusatian Textile Works in Neugersdorf. Today the 15,000 people employed in this works manufacture enough material in one day for a metre width that would stretch from Zittau, on the GDR's frontier with Czechoslovakia, all the way through the republic to Cape Arkona, the republic's northernmost point, and from there back to Berlin, the capital city. Fabrics manufactured in Upper Lusatia include: shirting, materials for blouses, coats and suits, corduroy, velveteen, pyjama fabric, bed, table and household linen, jeans material and backing

material for the artificial leather goods industry. In the last ten years output has doubled. Every month for the last eleven years the Upper Lusatian textile workers have reached their plan targets. What sort of people are they these weavers of our day?

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In the weaving suburb of Zittau we find one of the fifty "Lautex" factories as the branches of the Neugersdorf works are known locally. Right at the moment the manager, Karl-Heinz Roth, has more than enough to do. Within the short space of nine months he has to reorganise one sec-



Know-how! The skilled fingers of the weavers soon find the torn thread and knot it together again.



Hildegard Stahr operated a loom for more than thirty years. A short time ago the old machines had to make way for new ones. For Hildegard Stahr this meant leaving the weaving room. But she is not all that sad about it as she has been given work in another department of the mill where the work is lighter.

Cleaning the raw cloth was a job calling for much labour. Today this work is done by a machine that cleans 40,000 metres of material in every eight-hour shift.

tion of the factory so that it can manufacture one hundred thousand square metres of material a year more than it has to date to meet the rising demands of the population. And he has got to do this within the old factory walls, with no cuts in the plan targets and with a labour force that is actually too small in size.

Why? Consequences have to be drawn from the changed external economic conditions. A new product has to be added to the range of materials manufactured in the factory. Modern machinery makes this possible because it has a higher output and needs less people to operate it. Metaphorically speaking, a second weaving mill is to be built into the existing factory. A task calling for boldly planned solutions.

Is it possible at all? What does Karl-Heinz Roth think of the chances? "When you know that you, your whole family and, if you like, the whole of society is going to benefit from what we are doing here then it is worthwhile searching out ways that hold promise of success. Every rationalisation measure has to pay out for us and that's why we make no secret of our plans. The whole workforce is drawn into our plans from the very start; after all it is they who are affected the most. And if a person sees the advantages coming from such a change they certainly put all they have into carrying it through. Every one of our workers must know what is awaiting him. We play an open hand, that's the way things have always been here," he said. And, of course, they are not the first and by no means the only people in the republic who have had to master such complicated tasks. The customers expect better and more fashionable materials and it is only the textile workers who can produce them. Our actions are fully in line with the economic strategy for the nineteen-eighties as put forward at the SED's Tenth Congress. This strategy stipulates the Introduction of comprehensive measures of socialist rationalisation, this being the only way in which we can advance ourselves. At Congress the phrase, "What we have achieved is not the achievable" was coined. This phrase could have come from Frida Hockauf a former textile worker who is still considered an example to follow today.

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Who is this woman? She is a weaver who, after a lot of thought about the situation in the relatively young workers' and farmers' state some thirty years back, realised that it is only good work for our socialist society, the systematic raising of the national income, which is the source of our wealth, the well-spring from which flows the means with which to provide for the welfare of our people. On September 29,

1953 Frida Hockauf spoke at a trade union meeting in the weaving mill where she worked in Zittau about what socialism meant to her. That everybody should do something to support the policy followed by the SED and the government. "For this reason," she said, "I am pledging myself to produce forty-five metres of first-quality cloth more than I have till now in the last quarter of this year. For how we will live tomorrow depends on how we work today."

Her name was soon a household word. The newspapers wrote about her, some in praise, some not. The papers and radio in the western world called for acts of sabotage and tried to turn people against her. For Frida Hockauf, the time until she had redeemed her pledge became a period of severe test. Personally and also against those who had not grasped that the results of their work did not go into somebody else's pocket, that together with power they had also accepted responsibility for that power, for their work and for their lives. Frida Hockauf received threatening letters, smear slogans were painted on walls, she was given the wrong spools, the warp threads of her work were cut and the looms she operated damaged. But she kept her word and on December 10, 1953 she fulfilled her pledge ahead of schedule.

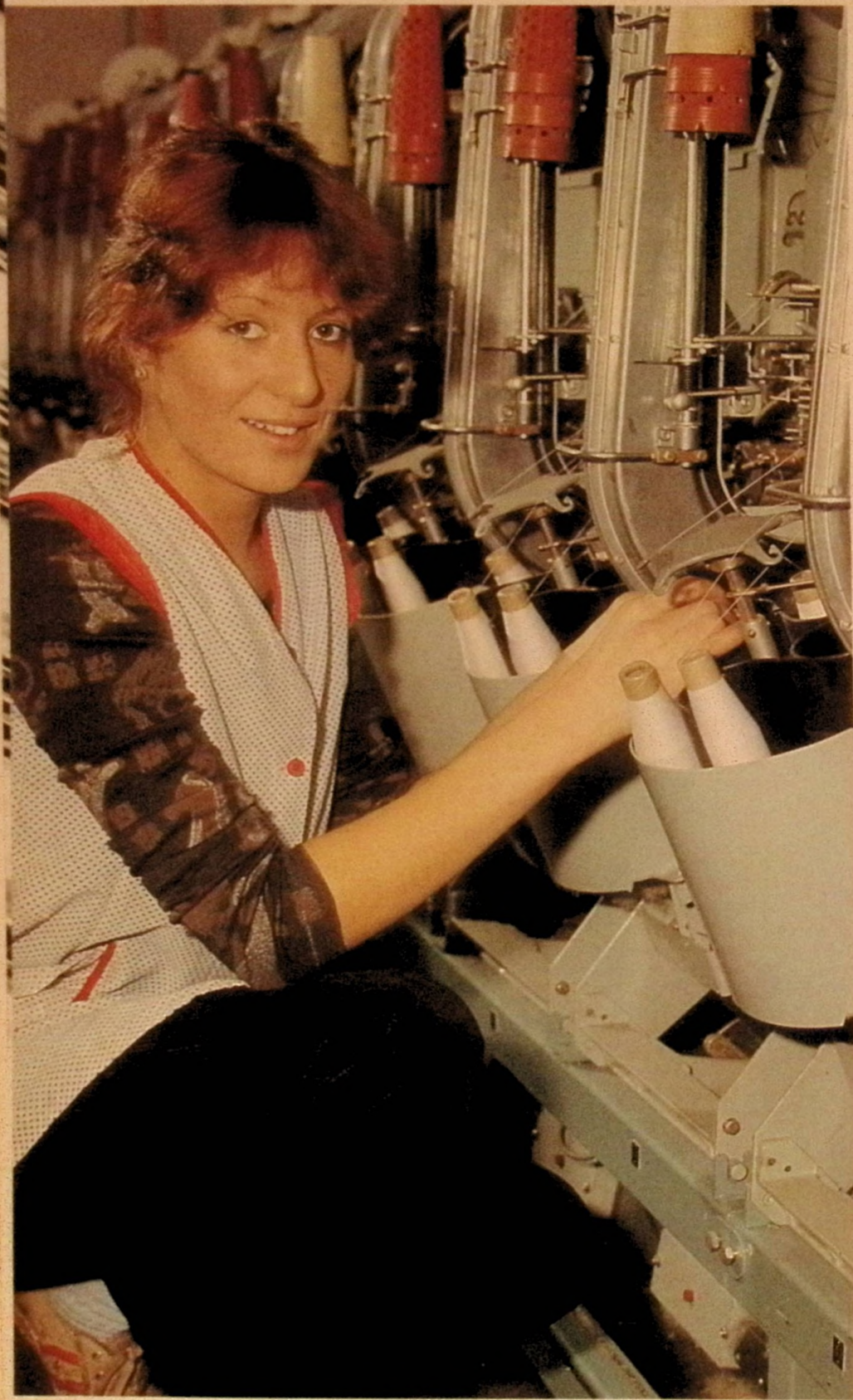
She set an avalanche in motion. More and more weavers followed her example which was also taken up by workers in other branches of industry. This great movement advanced socialist construction in our republic considerably and was in no small measure responsible for the socio-political aims of the first Five Year Plan, which was of such importance for the further development of our state, being fulfilled.

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In the nineteen-fifties increased production often meant harder physical labour on the part of the workers concerned. Today the latest advances in science and technology help us cut down manual labour whilst achieving a still higher output. Although it must be said that this path has its thorns.

In the factory of which Karl-Heinz Roth is manager this work of reconstruction is running according to plan. But... In his notebook stands a line: December 1981. Machines set up in the old dressing shop.

Behind this short sentence was a whole complicated programme. The new machines needed space. The place where they were to be set up was already filled with others? What was to be done? Shut down production, demolish the old machines, set up the new ones and start work again? The Zittau workers could not take this



*Marina Lange is one of the young textile workers who are today carrying on the traditions of the Zittau weavers.
Photos: Siegfried Thienel*

seemingly simple road: who would deliver the necessary textiles to the inland and export trade organisations in the meantime? It was a question of maintaining production and making room at the same time. The only way to do it was to move the old machines to other places during the weekends. Every possible piece of space was used to put a machine in. This resulted in a frightful muddle for some time but brought results. The old machines that had been moved were worked in a three-shift system which levelled out the losses occurring through reconstruction. The idea paid off and the planned and contractually bound quantities of textiles left the factory for customers at home and abroad.

"That sounds so matter of fact today," said Christa Thimmig, one of the weavers who helped carry the plan through. A piece of work like that calls for a lot of understanding and a lot of commitment. The greater part of the workforce consists of women, women with families, children. And despite all the facilities in the factory and all the help given, shift work is, and remains, tough going. Particularly at weekends when the remaining looms have to run without a break. "It was only the knowledge that we would have better working conditions after the conversion, that we would be able to fulfil a few more of our personal wishes, that the people set free here were impatiently awaited at their new places of work, and above all that none of us need have the slightest fear for the future which enabled us to master the difficult situation. At times the whole business seems to be progressing too slowly; that's why we help when and where we can."

At the time of writing the Zittau workers are going back to school to learn how to operate the new machines properly. The first new looms are to be mounted in April; in July they will start working. But till then much will be demanded of the Zittau weavers. They will grit their teeth and get on with it because they know that they, and all of us, will benefit in the end.

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"How we will live tomorrow depends on how we work today." This simple axiom voiced by the Zittau weaver Frida Hockauf twenty-nine years ago is as topical today as it ever was. It inspires a new generation in the same manner to give of their best for the benefit of us all. Karl-Heinz Roth and his fellow-workers, the weavers of 1982 are showing just how true this statement is.

Albert Kanig

The economy of the GDR
in the nineteen-eighties

Rationalisation— in socialism the economic and social effects are positive

THE economic strategy of the GDR for the nineteen-eighties is aimed at the all-round rationalisation of production. This is one of the ten major propositions in the economic policy adopted by the Tenth Congress of the SED. The main goal of this policy is to further raise the people's living standards and improve social conditions through increased efficiency.

The present level of economic development in the GDR constitutes a solid basis for further rationalisation measures.

Currently about 50 per cent of the GDR's industrial machinery is automated.

However, rendering the expenditure-result ratio more favourable requires further mechanisation and automation involving the use of microelectronics, industrial robots, computers and closed-circuit television. The so-called auxiliary work processes such as factory transport and storage have to be given particular attention, binding as they do too many hands with manual work.

The rationalisation of planning, accounting and all administrative activities through the introduction of computers and closed-circuit television is to be stepped up. Such modern equipment will be increasingly installed at the workplaces of designers and technologists to reduce routine work. Electronic data processing will also help to raise the efficiency of road and rail transport.

What makes rationalisation in the GDR's economy different from that in other economic systems? It is the personal involvement of our working people in the rationalisation projects. The workers improve production operations by making relevant suggestions and technical innovations. All of them feel responsible for what happens in their enterprises. They are stimulated to give a lot of thought to what happens in their sphere of work and to carefully watch for possibilities of rendering work more efficient. This is another opportunity for our working people to participate in decision-

making, and they make full use of it. Not only because good ideas and suggestions are acknowledged with cash bonuses but also because no worker is afraid of losing his job or being confronted with completely new equipment following rationalisation measures.

Timely qualification and other retraining courses prepare the workers affected for their new jobs or to operate new machinery. Needless to say, the switch-over to a new job does not entail loss of wages and is very thoroughly prepared with the participation of the trade union which has extensive rights of control and co-determination in all social and labour matters.

What is more, in socialism individual big enterprises and entire industries can concentrate their economic potential on carrying out priority tasks of the national economy, keeping down losses due to friction within the economy and considerably enhancing the overall economic effect. This is another advantage of the planned socialist economy.

In the GDR such a priority task was the advancement within a very few years of the production of microelectronics, this new technology being indispensable for large-scale rationalisation. Another key task was speeding up the building and introduction of industrial robots. The realistic target of

having 45,000 robots working in the GDR's industry by 1985 is noteworthy even by international standards.

Another typical socialist solution is territorial rationalisation. For example, neighbouring enterprises make joint use of waste heat and power facilities or coordinate their transport; a factory builds a polyclinic to serve not only its workforce but also that of other local factories and people from residential neighbourhoods; big enterprises help smaller ones in developing special machines or finding the best solution in mechanising their production processes. In such cases the deputies of the local assemblies are often the initiators of cooperation, overcoming the selfishness of individual enterprises.

In the GDR every rationalisation measure is aimed to bring the best possible economic results such as a steep rise in labour productivity, minimisation of fuel, power and material consumption, considerable lessening of all costs, increased saving of manpower resources, gradual elimination of all work detrimental to health, alleviation of hard physical work, reduction of monotonous operations and making use of all possibilities for improving labour organisation.

The economic benefits of rationalisation are used solely for bettering the life of the working people. This is the reason why millions of people take part in this process and why we call it **socialist** rationalisation. While technically quite comparable with capitalist rationalisation, socialist rationalisation has a different social and economic objective. Its social content is to be further increased in the nineteen-eighties. Needless to say, achieving the planned and desired results requires a great deal of knowledge, skill and a high level of labour morale from individual workers and labour collectives. Successful rationalisation is, above all, hard work.

Dr Karl-Heinz Arnold

Remove all Nuclear Weapons from the World!

TODAY we have seen another part of the film *The Unknown War*. It dealt with the siege of Stalingrad. After having seen the sufferings of the Soviet people in the dreadful years of the war there can be only one conclusion: such things must never happen again! We think that the consequences of a new world war would be far worse. Possibly not the whole of mankind would be exterminated but very little of our achievements would be left. More and more people are becoming conscious of this danger.

We are being forced to tighten our belts. In Belgium the unemployment figure has already surpassed 400,000. Every pound, franc, florin, dollar or rouble spent on armaments signifies a step backward in the development of humanity. The great minds should, therefore, dedicate their efforts to the real problems of our time: the elimination of hunger, unemployment, lack of educational opportunities, oppression. They should relinquish the invention and development of Cruise missiles and other lethal weapons.

We are convinced of the Soviet Union's genuine desire for peace. And this conviction is increasingly taking hold of other people, too.

So far it has been extremely difficult for us to see through the arms race. We were confused by the huge figures: a given number of NATO missiles against a given number of Soviet missiles. The contradictory information made it difficult to realise the truth. Now we say: enough is enough, stop the arms race! We have had enough of it. We want work instead of guns. The discussion on the arms race is no longer conducted in abstract terms but affects basic questions of people's existence. And for this reason many people tell the NATO strategists nowadays: "You may

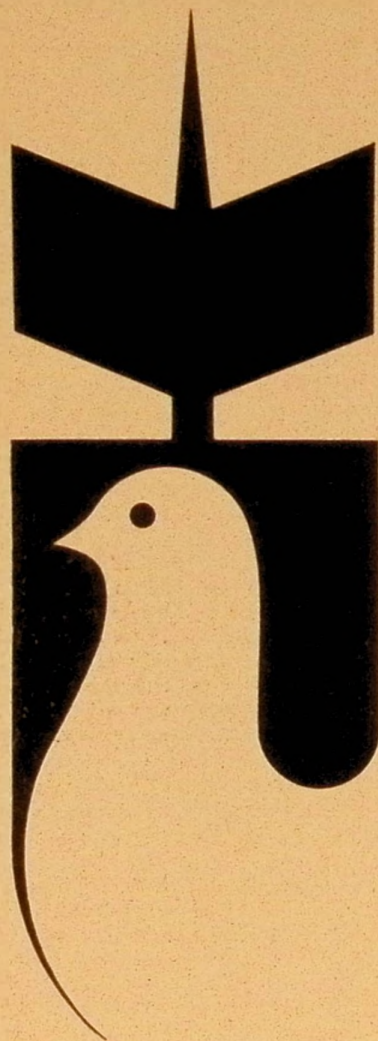
talk as much as you like of the necessity of new nuclear missiles in Western Europe, we are fed up!"

Every day we are confronted with news on the decline of our economy, on systematic cuts in social services for which the workers had struggled for decades and time and again we hear that our youth is left without any prospects. For this reason we do not want more money to be spent on mass destruction weapons.

Concerted action and the implementation of the repeatedly put forward Soviet disarmament proposals will bring about the desired changes. Remove all nuclear weapons from our earth—as is demanded by the people of the Netherlands.

Carin Zvar-de Bruin, Frans, Paul
and Ernesto Zvar,
Maasmechelen, Belgium

PEACE and friendship are essential to each and every country if our world is to survive. Nothing is more important to this world and its people than peace—whatever Haig and his vandals say. The CND and peace movements are growing in every country, so much so, that the West finds it necessary to accuse these demonstrators and protesters as "playing the Moscow card and



IN THE NAME OF LIFE

STOP

measuring nuclear war". Such foolish talk does not hold water.

We have also heard it mentioned that the Western plan to force the USSR and its allies to spend more and more on arms (by repeated threats) to endeavour to ruin their economies does not appear to be successful any more.

B. and R. Collyez, Baildon, Shipley
(West Yorkshire),
Great Britain

WITH its fateful decision to start producing the neutron bomb the American government has reached its hitherto highest degree of barbarity. Of all the inhuman measures introduced by the Reagan administration during the last few months, like that of reducing expenditure for social affairs, culture and environmental protection, for example, this is the most despicable.

Although I have never seen war with my own eyes I shudder at the thought of the slow agonising death with which the new weapon of mass destruction threatens the whole of mankind.

Judging by the flood of protest letters that streamed into the editorial offices of the newspapers immediately following the fatal decision the overwhelming majority of the American population is against the mad step taken by our statesmen in the direction of genocide.

The people of the GDR do all they can to ensure that never again will a war start from German soil. Now I can only urgently ask that you and all peace-loving people in the world exercise solidarity with us in our struggle against the unspeakable new threat of war that emanates from our country.

Eric Gellert, Seattle, USA

US Vice-President Georg Bush in an interview with the "Los Angeles Times"

He said that in his opinion there could be a winner in a nuclear conflict provided the following preconditions were guaranteed: precautions had to be taken to guarantee the survival of the supreme staff and of an industrial potential, a certain percentage of the population had to be safely protected and one had to have a capacity of weapons capable of inflicting more damage on the opponent than they would suffer themselves—such was the way in which to win a nuclear war.

Asked to what percentage the number of US citizens with a chance of survival would amount Bush replied this would be over five per cent.

Leonid Ilych Brezhnev, Soviet head of state, in an interview with "Pravda"

"The thoughts and efforts of the Soviet leadership, as of the Soviet people as a whole, are directed at ruling out nuclear war altogether, at removing the very danger of its outbreak...

To try to defeat each other in an arms race, to count on winning a nuclear war, is dangerous madness... However strong the attacker and whatever method of unleashing nuclear war he might choose, he will not be able to achieve his ends. Retribution will inevitably follow...

Why, it may be asked, should the United States not support the proposal submitted by the Soviet Union to the current UN General Assembly session concerning renunciation of first use of nuclear weapons? For if there is no first nuclear strike, there will be no second or third nuclear strikes..."

STOP THE ARMS RACE!

"Make life and peace the determining principles of your Programme!"

Christians from the GDR wrote to the US President

To the President of the United States of America
Ronald Reagan
Washington/USA-White House

Mr. President,

You swore your governmental oath upon the Bible. For this reason we Christians from the Evangelical parish in Suhl are addressing this letter to you.

It is with great concern that we follow your government's policy of intensified arming and the introduction of new kinds of weapons in the wake of it. It is planned to spend 1.5 billion dollars for military purposes in the next few years. In accordance with your decision the production of the neutron bomb as a tactical weapon was begun some months ago. You and your government have issued several statements in which you have spoken of the possibility of a limited nuclear war.

Perhaps you will know that many people in our country are Christians—almost every second person has been baptized. The Gospel demands from us that we Christians in particular do our best to help safeguard peace. We Christians in the GDR are, therefore, prepared to join forces with non-Christians and spare no effort in the struggle for a world of peace. We consider such commitment a service to our fellow men.

Your armament plans have increased to an unprecedented extent the threat of a war which might exterminate the whole of mankind. In addition to this the policy of intensified arming is already claiming great human sacrifice because the money spent on armaments is withheld from those who urgently need it: the people who are hungry and suffering in the world.

The UNO and other bodies have been presented by the Soviet Union with a great many proposals, proposals which are meant seriously and have to be taken seriously. You know them full well. Why do you not respond to them—or if, in actual fact, you deem them insufficient—why do you not make better proposals? Meanwhile you have consented to enter into negotiations with the Soviet Union and you will certainly honour your promise. However, in contrast to the past you should show a greater readiness to accept constructive solutions to the problems in question.

We Christians ask you: is your arms policy compatible with your conscience and are you able to answer for your actions before God? Our God wants people to live! There is no restriction whatever to the Fifth Commandment. And Jesus Christ did everything to cure people and to satiate them not only in spiritual terms but also physically. We therefore ask you on behalf of all people and in accordance with the will of God: stop the manufacture of the neutron bomb and all other new weapons. They—just like all other weapons already accumulated on our earth—do not make peace more secure. Use your power to ensure that everywhere in the world the swords can be beaten into ploughshares (Isaiah 2.4). Make life and peace your programme!



ACT NOW FOR PEACE



THE BASIC RIGHT OF MAN



The Responsibility of the two German States

SINCE its foundation it has been the declared and consistently pursued aim of the GDR to do everything in its power to prevent another war emanating from German soil. In this spirit our state is striving with all means at its disposal to ward off the nuclear threat endangering the peoples due to the policy of enforced arming and confrontation followed by the most aggressive forces in NATO. Renewed proof of this was delivered by the talks Erich Honecker conducted last December with FRG Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. They focussed on the responsibility of the two German states for peace and disarmament.

The GDR's head of state proposed that in accordance with this responsibility both the governments of the GDR and the FRG initiate simultaneous activities in support of the following steps and measures:

- serious and substantial negotiations between the USSR and the USA on questions of medium-range nuclear missiles to achieve tangible results in the shortest possible time;
- agreement of a moratorium on the deployment of new medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe for the duration of the Geneva talks according to the proposal put forward by Leonid Brezhnev;
- a ban on the neutron bomb. The GDR presented the Geneva Disarmament Committee with a corresponding draft convention;
- passing of a declaration on the outlawing of a first nuclear

strike as suggested by the Soviet Union to the 36th UN General Assembly;

- continuation of the SALT process;
- convening of a conference on military detente and disarmament in Europe by the Madrid Meeting which would constitute a major contribution towards the consolidation of mutual trust and a reduction of the threat of military confrontation;
- elaboration of a first agreement at the Vienna talks leaving out controversial questions. Based on the confidence created by such an agreement negotiations on the second stage of reductions could begin;
- preparation for the Second Special Session on Disarmament of the United Nations by the Geneva Disarmament Committee, above all with regard to the cessation of all nuclear weapon tests, the outlawing of the neutron bomb, chemical and radiological weapons as well as giving additional guaranties for the security of nuclear-free states.

The implementation of these measures would help improve the international situation. One reason for the GDR's committed stance in these questions is the fact that the world's largest contingent of nuclear weapons is concentrated on the territory of its western neighbouring country. In the interest of hundreds of millions of European people the fateful NATO plans which provide for a further increase of this lethal potential have to be thwarted!

J. F.

WARNINGS—

PROTESTS—

ACTIONS

Rome. About 40,000 inhabitants of the North Italian region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia demonstrated at the beginning of last December in Redipuglia for peace and disarmament and against new NATO missiles. In Lamazzia 15,000 Calabrians demonstrated against the arms race and the threat of war.

Washington. Mrs Randall Forsberg, president of the US Institute for Defence and Disarmament Studies, paid tribute to the Soviet Initiatives for overcoming the danger

of a nuclear war and an improvement in the international situation. As particularly noteworthy she listed the Soviet proposal for a moratorium on the deployment of new medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe which, she said, represented a constructive programme for the reduction of nuclear weapons. Citizens in 25 cities in the north-east of the USA have declared that they are in favour of a moratorium on nuclear weapons between the USA and the USSR.

London. In the middle of December British opponents of nuclear weapons demonstrated at Greenham Common air base against the planned stationing of new US medium-range missiles in Great Britain and demanded that the order be reversed. The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament also organised protest meetings and torchlight processions in many towns on the 2nd anniversary of NATO's Brussels missiles decision.

Athens. In December almost 30,000 demonstrators marched from Marathon, Elefsina Piraeus and Hellenikou, where one of the most important foreign US bases is situated, to Athens. They demanded "Peace for our Children", "No to the Neutron Bomb" and "For an Atomic Weapon Free Zone in the Balkans".

Lisbon. In a resolution the municipal council of Beja in the Portuguese province of Alentajo rejected the deployment of nuclear weapons at the FRG air force base in the town.

Copenhagen. "War is the work of man and people can prevent it, but only if it is done in good time." This was underscored by Professor Erik Skinhøj, vice-chancellor of Copenhagen University, speaking in the capital. The 50,000 participants in the demonstration against NATO's forced arming had gathered on the city's Town Hall

IN THE NAME OF LIFE

Square for a final rally. They demanded that no new nuclear weapons should be stationed in Europe, disarmament and the creation of a nuclear weapon free zone in northern Europe.

Vienna. By December the "Prevent nuclear war—Disarm" appeal published in Austria last October had been signed by 2,000 public figures among them the composer Friedrich Cerhe and Josef Guttenbrunner, president of the Carinthian provincial parliament.

Moscow. The visual artists of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic called at the end of their congress on fellow artists throughout the world to "take an active part in the struggle of the progressive forces of our planet for the maintenance of peace, the development and strengthening of detente against the arms race and the danger of war".

Bonn. At rallies and demonstrations thousands of students in the FRG protested against the cuts in education being made in favour of NATO's arming. In Munich alone more than 6,000 university students demanded that no new US nuclear missiles be stationed in the FRG. Protest demonstrations were also held in Bonn, Marburg and Bielefeld.

Madrid. The Socialist Workers' Party of Spain has presented the government with a petition signed by 600,000 people calling for a referendum on Spain's membership in NATO. Last October the Communist Party of Spain presented the government with a similar petition containing 500,000 signatures.

Ottawa. 78 leading Canadian public personages issued a declaration stating that Canada's policy should be directed towards removing all nuclear weapons from Canadian soil as well as supporting all efforts towards strengthening peace.

Tokyo. 3,678 Japanese scientific workers have addressed an appeal to the country's intellectuals in which they call on them "to think and act with the broadest sections of the population" to enforce the prohibition of nuclear weapons. Under the title "Peace now—Appeal for the prohibition of nuclear mass destruction weapons and the prevention of war" the scientists utterly reject all military misuse of science.

THE ARMS RACE

is already swallowing at present

● more than 500,000 million dollars annually—that is almost 1,500 million dollars a day.

The NATO countries account for more than half this sum while all other states in the world share the rest between them.

● One US cruiser armed with an Aegis guided missile system alone costs 930 million dollars—

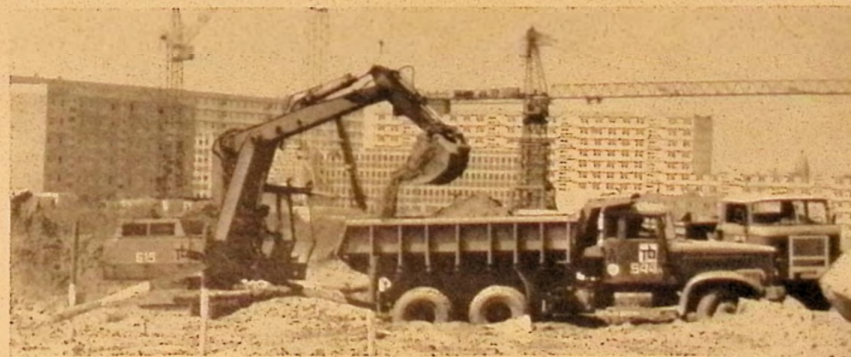
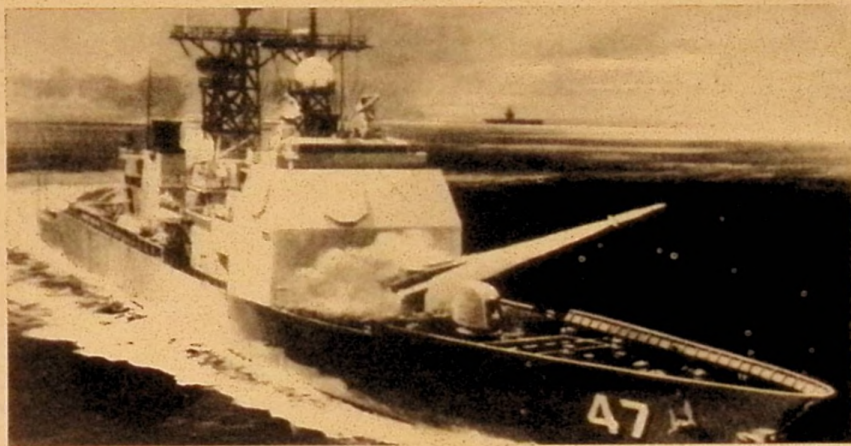
that is as much money as is needed for

● the creation of 93,000 workplaces for skilled workers in the building trade!

And who is pocketing top profits?

● Above all the shareholders of the US Litton Industries company.

Photos: repro-archives, ADN-ZB



STOP THE ARMS RACE !





MEASURED against the age and traditions of other towns, Dresden's school of skating is still young. Actually it has only been spoken of as such since 1976 when the Dresden skater Andrea Mitscherlich won Olympic silver for the 3,000-metre event at Innsbruck. This broke the sixteen-year period in which the GDR's women skaters won no medals at all following Helga Haase's gold and silver victories at the Winter Olympics in Squaw Valley in 1960.

Andrea Mitscherlich gave the prelude to a noteworthy series of successes on the part of Dresden's speed skaters. Christa Rothenburger gained bronze at the world championships in 1979 and 1980. In 1980 Karin Enke became world sprint champion in West Ellis and shortly afterwards Olympic winner over 500 metres at Lake Placid. At the world championships of the combined event in the Netherlands she took second place.

The necessary preconditions for these

and other outstanding performances—Karin Enke and Andrea Mitscherlich also took a fourth and a sixth place at Lake Placid—were set up by chief coach Egon Luding and his collective in Dresden. Thirty years ago Egon Luding, now forty-six years old, made his debut on ice as an ice-hockey player. In the GDR's ice-hockey league he played in 800 games and scored about 1,000 goals. In 1966 he was appointed chief coach for ice-hockey at the Einheit Sports Club in Dresden. Four years



The Speed Skaters from Dresden

later he accepted a completely new assignment—the building up of a speed-skating section in the same sports club. As other speed coaches have taken the same path in the GDR he has often been asked why this so is. In his opinion ice-hockey players have very good qualifications for the job: they have a mastery of skating and also such characteristics as fighting spirit, staying power and the ability to make one's way. If they can instill these characteristics into their charges

success does not have to be waited for very long. This opinion is shared by Egon Luding's brother Ernst who coaches Christa Rothenburger, and Rainer Mund who coaches both Karin Busch-Enke and Andrea Schöne-Mitscherlich as they are now known since their marriages.

In several years of hard work the three coaches have trained a number of women speed skaters whose names mean something in the international arena today. An interesting aside is perhaps the fact that

Karin, Andrea and Christa as well as the two young talents Carola Bürger and Ines Grubner were originally all figure skaters. This concentration of former figure skaters in Dresden has come about as a result of several common points. Both sections lived "door to door", so to speak, they used the same ice rink for training because, until rather recently Dresden had no speed-skating course. These young women who, for various personal reasons did not make the grade in figure skating, found a liking



Christa Rothenburger.

Karin Busch-Enke.



for the race against the clock. Their coaches helped them find their feet in the new discipline and the successes that soon followed showed that they were on the right tack. Karin Busch-Enke told us one of the reasons why she has a liking for this particular discipline: "In figure skating I never knew straight away whether my performance had been good. The marks were decided by the judges and they—it is no secret at all—were always marked by subjectivity. In speed skating, on the other hand, the clock shows right away my time for the particular distance. That is no doubt harder in a certain way, but it is beyond all question."

In the meantime Dresden has acquired

Chief coach Egon Luding in his element.

Photos: Günter Ackermann (colour), ADN-Zentralbild (3), Rudolf Eckhardt



Andrea Schöne-Mitscherlich.

its own speed-skating centre: The range of temperatures available enable it to be used from the beginning of September until the end of April. The city's children were overjoyed at the new centre which gives them far better opportunities for training than they had till then.

In Dresden things look rather favourable with regard to young talented skaters. Skadi Walter, Birgit Czak, Carola Bürger, Heike Pöhlend, Andrea Schulze and Ines Grübner form a very hopeful "second rank". They all hope that they will be able to represent the GDR at the next Olympic Games or even earlier at a championship meeting. But until that comes about they will have to put in a lot of hard and strenuous training.

They have enough examples to follow in the ranks of their own club. Ten of the sixteen skaters that go to make up the GDR's team come from Dresden. This fact, together with titles and medals gained to date, make the Einheit Sports Club the internationally most successful speed-skating club in the GDR.

Today there are not a few people who ask how it is possible that Dresden which, strictly speaking, is not a winter sports centre has such outstanding speed skaters. "That is nothing really special," said Egon Luding. "In other countries, many of the leading skaters come from the flat country. The height at which a track is to be found is not the main thing, it is rather more the opportunity of being able to utilise all sports science has to offer, the correct selection of the talents as well as the purposeful development of these."

Herbert Heidrich

ON THE NINETIETH BIRTHDAY
OF MARTIN NIEMÖLLER

He continues to give new heart to the cause of peace

THE ninetieth birthday last January of the West German Church president, Dr Martin Niemöller, renowned throughout the whole world for his steadfast struggle for peace, was a representative demonstration against the dangers which have been activated by NATO's missiles decision and—as Professor Uta Ranke-Heinemann said—through the “most dangerous heritage of the nazi theories of life: that is, the idea of a crusade against Communism”. Taking up his responsibility as a Christian, and despite all hostility, Martin Niemöller had, together with Communists, fought for an end to the arms race and was also one of the initiators of the Krefeld Appeal.

Among those attending the ceremony in Frankfurt's St Paul's Church were well-known politicians and representatives of the movement for peace and disarmament including Romesh Chandra, president of the World Peace Council; Marshal Costa Gomes, former president of Portugal; General Nino Pasti, senator of the Republic of Italy; the peace researcher Professor Milstein (USSR); Dr Alfred Mechttersheimer (FRG); Dr Günther Drefahl, president of the GDR Peace Council; Egon Bahr, Social Democratic deputy to the Bundestag of the FRG. Speaking after the main address delivered by Professor Uta Ranke-Heinemann, Marshal Costa Gomes said that “the most important task in front of us today is the banishing of the danger of a nuclear war”. Several other speakers such as General Nino Pasti and Professor Milstein warned of the dangers threatening Europe if NATO's Brussels missiles decision became reality.

Professor Günther Drefahl pointed out that in the GDR the relationship of the peace movement to the state was characterised by the unity of the people's will to peace with the policy of peace followed by the government. “The people expect constructive negotiations at all levels,” he said, “whereby the talks between leading public figures may not only contain a step towards mutual understanding but also towards mutual agreement. The meeting between State Council Chairman Erich Honecker and Chancellor Helmut Schmidt of the FRG showed this in an exemplary way in the agreement on the fundamental question that a war should not start from German soil.”

Professor Eugen Kogon of the FRG informed the gathering about the results of a two-day international colloquy held by the Martin Niemöller Foundation with eighty leading figures from East and West at which concrete proposals for detente and disarmament had been discussed.



From the address of greeting sent to Martin Niemöller by the Chairman of the GDR's State Council:

“The decades on which you can look back on this, your birthday, contain the fundamental historical experience of two world wars that started from German soil. Your name, dear Martin Niemöller, is, in the last instance, spoken with respect because for decades now you have militantly struggled to prevent such a catastrophe repeating itself for a third time and to ensure that peace will be maintained in Europe and the world. Your uncompromising rejection of anti-Communism and anti-Sovietism, and the absolute priority which you accord the struggle for peace has gained you many friends in our German Democratic Republic and indeed in all parts of the world . . .

The maintenance of peace is the supreme maxim governing the political actions of the people and the government of the GDR. I know that I am at one with you in the conviction that our continent, that our world, does not need new nuclear missiles or neutron bombs but disarmament, a guaranteed peace and detente. Let us, for the sake of humanity, continue together along the road on which a future in peace and in peaceful coexistence is being formed.”

Favourable Prospects For Advantageous Cooperation

Interview with Günter Mittag, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the SED, about his trip to France

Question: What is your overall impression of the results of your trip to France in December 1981?

Günter Mittag: We travelled to France at a time in which, as Erich Honecker, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the SED and Chairman of the GDR's State Council, stated in an interview he gave the paper *Neues Deutschland* on December 16, 1981, the dialogue between East and West is more necessary and of more value than ever before. Every step towards mutual understanding and, above all, towards an expansion of cooperation in the political, economic, scientific and cultural spheres is a step towards making peace secure. In its whole policy the GDR always proceeds from the desire to make a constructive and effective contribution to the consolidation of peace, to the limitation of arms, to disarmament and to the continuation of the process of detente.

This includes, of course, the development of stable economic cooperation on the foundation of mutual advantage which can have nothing but a favourable effect on the process of making peace secure.

From our talks with leading politicians of the government of France, with prominent personalities from the economic life of France and with many other representatives of political life we have brought home with us the clear impression that the government and leading economic circles of France are firmly resolved to continue the dynamic development of the economic relations between our two countries and to simultane-

ously continue the process of political cooperation in a positive sense.

All our talks were held in a very frank and confident atmosphere marked by mutual respect.

You met together with Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy and members of his government. Could you tell us something about the content and the results of these talks?

On the day of our arrival I had talks with Prime Minister Mauroy. During the talks I had the opportunity of conveying to the Prime Minister of France greetings from Erich Honecker, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the SED and Chairman of the GDR's State Council, as well as expressing our thanks for the invitation to make this visit.

I informed Monsieur Mauroy of the attitude of the GDR to the central questions in international affairs and elucidated the constructive peace policy followed by the GDR. This actively supports the new proposals for making peace secure put forward by Leonid Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

Our standpoint on the guaranteeing of peace and the preventing of a nuclear war in Europe as a question of the first order was taken careful note of by the Prime Minister as well as by all the other partners in my talks. It is, therefore, to be regarded as very positive that Monsieur Mauroy, too, underscored the great significance of the growth of mutual economic

relations for the process of detente in the political situation in Europe and for the maintenance of peace.

The French Prime Minister expressed the great interest of his country in the steady continuation of the rapidly developing economic, industrial and scientific-technological cooperation between both countries. He will continue to pay this development great attention and to promote it within the framework of the existing agreements holding validity under international law.

This constructive attitude towards the development and expansion of relations between the GDR and France also characterised the content of my talks with Jacques Delors, Minister for the Economy and Finance, Michel Rocard, State Minister and Minister for Planning and Territorial Management, as well as with State Ministers Michel Jobert and Charles Fiterman, Minister for Foreign Trade and Minister for Transport respectively.

After an extremely intensive exchange of ideas we arrived at the concurring evaluation that the relations between the GDR and France in the economic sphere, including scientific-technological cooperation, have attained a high level. The state agreement that has been signed and the active work of the Joint GDR-France Government Commission as a permanent body open up favourable prospects for the future, too.

It became clear that the new government of France under President Mitterrand not only has the intention of utilising the good foundations for the economic relations between the GDR and France, but also of



During Günter Mittag's meeting with Prime Minister Fierie Maury.

Photo: ADN-Zenit/bild

building up on them and taking new and forward-looking steps.

What can you tell us about the future prospects in the sphere of economic co-operation between the GDR and France?

As you know economic cooperation between the GDR and France has good traditions. Their beginnings reach back for more than twenty years now and both sides have profited from them.

With the conclusion of 1981 mutual trade has almost reached the 5,000 million franc mark. This means that it has doubled in the last five years alone. For the coming years, too, a favourable development can be discerned.

Along with the traditional forms of co-operation and export/import, closer forms of cooperation are developing in a number of other areas. There are great prospects for joint activities in third countries. Particularly in this area there is to be an increase in joint efforts.

The existing government agreements between the GDR and France are of great importance for the future prospects of these trade and economic relations. This applies to:

- the ten-year agreement on economic, industrial and technical cooperation;
- the five-year programme for the management of the economic, industrial and technical relations;
- the agreement on cooperation concerning third markets;
- the agreement on cooperation between small and medium-size enterprises in both countries.

From our viewpoint we were able to stress that future cooperation can build up on a development that has run well up to now. This was unconditionally confirmed by the partners in our talks, by both government ministers and personalities from prominent economic circles.

Here we also stressed the fact that the national economies of both countries have favourable preconditions that will continue to guarantee a dynamic development of trade and economic relations between the GDR and France. During the past years the French national economy has attained good results and further growth is expected. We expressed our admiration for the performance of France's national economy, emphasising its high standard in the scientific and technological spheres as well as the skill and capabilities of the workers and technical personnel.

We also view with interest the fact that in France those branches of industry are developing which embody scientific-technological progress such as the construction of modern industrial plants in various areas like metallurgy and chemicals. This also applies to machine-tool engineering, the electronics industry and a number of others.

The French side also pointed out that the national economies of both countries are developing at a high level and that they complement each other. State Minister Jobert said that the best conditions for an exchange between both states did, indeed, exist. For this reason France had, for a number of years now, intensified its relations with the German Democratic Republic

and he felt bound to say that the French find this a good thing.

The economic successes of the GDR and the trends of development marked out by the 1981–1985 Five Year Plan have been accorded great attention by our French partners.

In France the stable economic development of the GDR is held in high estimation. It was noted with interest that an annual average growth rate of more than five per cent is planned for the national income and that the specific consumption of key energy carriers, raw and other materials is to be cut by 6.1 per cent per year.

You also had talks with leading industrialists from well-known French firms. Could you say something about this exchange of views?

We were in a position to discuss a number of new constructive proposals for the further development and consolidation of the economic relations between our two countries.

These proposals were also ventilated during talks with leading representatives of prominent French economic circles like Citroen, C.G.E. Coachworks Federation, CIT-Alcatel, Creusot-Loire, Rhône-Polenc, Renault, Air-Industrie, Technip, Secim and others. During a meeting between us and a large number of these industrialists, Philippe Boulin, president of Creusot-Loire, said that the good development of the economic relations was only possible because it is based on the political desire of the governments of both countries for close cooperation. "Political stability is necessary in order to achieve development in economic relations," he said. "We are proud of the fact that through our stable economic relations we have been able to create a guarantee for stable political relations."

Stable political relations, however, only prosper in peace. And when Marcel Paul, chairman of the International Buchenwald Committee and former French minister, spoke of the wreath-laying ceremony at the Memorial to the Victims of Deportation on the Ile de la Cité in Paris as a renewed expression of the unswerving activity of the GDR against fascism and war, one can only agree with him.

(From horizon)

HAS A POLITICAL landslide occurred in Washington, without the international public noticing it? Can the Reagan administration have at long last acquired the ability to live, realistically and responsibly, with unpleasant facts as well? And, following such a change of course, can the White House have decided to do without lies and opinion manipulation in its public relations work?

Such questions may well arise in view of a programme of the US International Communications Agency (USICA) called Project Truth. This agency has a considerable potential for disseminating the truth, having been the central US institution for foreign information and international relations in the cultural, scientific and communication sphere since April 1, 1978. Its director is appointed by the US President himself, hence a shift in the agency's policy toward truthfulness is hardly conceivable without the latter's consent. The agency's budget has been running at nearly 500 million dollars a year. It controls the Voice of America radio station with a total capacity of 23,000 kilowatts, broadcasting 830 hours a week in 38 languages; the RIAS radio station in West Berlin which is particularly active in promoting subversion in the GDR; various institutions such

as the America Houses, etc. The agency also publishes reading material in 50 languages and runs film studios producing about 1,000 films a year.

Is the claim to truthfulness of this new project launched by the above propaganda institution to be believed? The name of Project Truth alone gives rise to scepticism. Does it not imply that previous projects were based on lies? If so, why should liars suddenly turn into champions of truth? Doubts about the sincerity of the programme grow if one considers its political function in the following context: The Reagan administration has run into trouble over its perilous line of confrontation, its crazy military build-up and disregard for the sovereignty of many states. The lie of a "Russian threat" with its usual variations washes no more. In Western Europe, above all, a peace movement has emerged which can no longer be frightened by trite atrocity mongering. To the detriment of the official US propaganda, many people have not forgotten that the CIA mounted a campaign of defamation against Cuba just when the hawks in Washington needed a pretext for not ratifying the SALT II Treaty. Another case in point is the manufacture of the neutron bomb. The

West Europeans' resistance to this new development in nuclear arming was not undermined by dramatisation of "the Russian superiority in tanks". Only the ballyhoo about Afghanistan effected a breach in the West European rejection front. On August 6, 1981, President Reagan gave the go-ahead for the production of 1,180 neutron bombs within six months. Apparently he thought that the permanent psychological onslaught on the "Russians" was having at least a partial effect. Today the US government is particularly upset by the West Europeans' opposition to a build-up in the sphere of medium-range nuclear missiles. The myth of a "missile gap" has had little effect in Western Europe. The number of people demonstrating against the US missiles is growing instead of diminishing. All this prompted Secretary of State Haig to state sternly that the NATO partners of the USA were politically out of step in this matter.

Given all these developments, truth will have little to do with the project of the same name launched by the above agency. This project is rather a matter of creating new variations on the old theme, with the basic approach remaining the same. Radio Liberty tersely formulated this approach thus: "Information, if properly produced and disseminated, can have a more devastating effect than an atomic bomb." The propaganda war about Poland shows this approach being used again.

Commenting on Project Truth, even propaganda experts admit that its sole aim is not to spread the truth about US policies but "to counter Soviet propaganda". As the periodical *Newsweek* pointed out, it is a question of better organising the verbal cold war waged by the US government against the Soviet Union.

Philip Nicolaidis, coordinator of commentary and news analyses of the Voice of America, was one of those who made no bones about the project being programmed to disorientate and misinform the people. In an article published on September 21, 1981, he outlined its objective as that of presenting the Soviet Union as the last, big, rapacious empire on earth which relentlessly oppresses various ethnic minorities on its territory, thwarts the rightful

A Wrongly Programmed Project

aspirations of subjugated nations and tries by all means ranging from subversion to military intervention to expand its domain. This is the framework of the ballyhoo about Poland raised by the Reagan administration and of the constant babble about the missile superiority of the East.

This kind of propaganda cannot claim to be really truthful. Even the most barefaced lies are allowed, provided they suit the aims of US propaganda. In his psychological war plan, Nicolaides called on the propaganda experts of the Reagan administration to disregard objective accuracy in cases where it would embarrass the USA. State Secretary Haig seems to share this view. At a press conference following a NATO meeting dealing with the situation in Poland, he clashed with a British journalist who, amidst the hue and cry about developments in that country, had the temerity to ask the State Secretary about conditions in Turkey. Blushing with anger, Alexander Haig gave the journalist a ticking-off on the line of Project Truth. More such outbursts can be expected in future, a priority task being to persuade the West Europeans that their peace movement was masterminded in Moscow. Truth comes up a loser in the project of the same name, anyway.

Dr A. S.

Quo vadis, Europe?

THERE are two possible roads for international politics today: the first, set out by the Helsinki Final Act, is marked by common sense, international cooperation and responsibility towards the maintenance of peace. The second road would lead back to the cold war, accompanied by unconditional confrontation, interference in the internal affairs of other, above all socialist, states and unbridled nuclear arming.

With concern and indignation the people of the GDR are following the attempts of the US administration and NATO to force the peoples of Europe upon the second road. The events in the People's Republic of Poland are misused as an excuse for the prevention of a peace order in Europe. Washington's impudent attitude of dictating to Poland its inner-state decisions by way of decrees and pressure is being strongly rejected by the people of the GDR. The object pursued with this policy is evident. The events in Poland serve as a pretext to incite a renewed hysteria against the socialist countries. This policy aims to create the necessary political climate for breaking the backbone of the West European peace movement and give the green light for the deployment of Pershing II and Cruise missiles. Washington has made Poland the lever for its long intended *Gleichschaltung* of Western Europe.

Post-war history has proved time and again that the socialist countries will not renounce their right of taking sovereign decisions in the interest of their peoples either through defamations and political pressure or through boycott and economic sanctions. It was the Soviet Union and its allies who took the initiative for the Helsinki Conference, who spoke in favour of a continuation of the SALT process and who did not—and never will—tire of working for a limitation and reduction of nuclear weapons in Europe. We have not forgotten that the USA would not have taken its

seat at the Soviet-American negotiations on medium-range missiles but for the impact of the European peace movement. Does the USA intend to use the Polish events as a pretext to withdraw from these talks to the disadvantage of Europe?

However, there are also realistic views to be heard in the European capitalist countries though much to the annoyance of the Reagan administration and its political lackeys. These voices warn in their countries' very own interest of the dangers of hysterical anti-communism. Greece's Prime Minister Papandreou, for example, made his country's reservations with regard to the NATO communiqué on Poland known. He expressed the Greek viewpoint that a downright condemnation of one of the two systems which exist together today would poison the climate of detente and dialogue within the framework of which the Geneva talks on a reduction of nuclear weapons were being held too. Apart from this, he continued, his country could not accept any sanctions against Poland and other socialist countries which would have detrimental effects on the economy of countries such as Greece. In connection with the US and NATO response to the events in Poland the Austrian Chancellor, Dr Bruno Kreisky, warned of an aggravation of affairs to such an extent that would weaken the forces of peace and controlled disarmament and result in an arms race whose end nobody could foresee.

The campaigns by the peace movement and its political successes in the struggle for an end to the arms race and for nuclear disarmament provide proof of the fact that the Europeans do not need a fanatic guardian from overseas. They are not willing to choose the road of nuclear self-destruction. Poland will not become the doorstep to Euroshima.

S. A.

With All People of Good Will for Peace and Disarmament

Romesh Chandra paid tribute to the commitment to peace of the people
and government of the socialist German state

ROMESH CHANDRA, president of the World Peace Council, paid a working visit to our republic last January at the invitation of the GDR Peace Council. The visit lasting several days became an impressive demonstration of the passionate commitment to peace of the GDR people and government. During his stay Romesh Chandra took advantage of the many opportunities of having interesting talks with leading politicians and ordinary people at their places of work.

He was received by the general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council, Erich Honecker, who informed him about the realisation of the policies decided upon at the Tenth SED Congress which are aimed at safeguarding peace and further improving people's material and cultural living standards. As Erich Honecker assured the president of the World Peace Council, the GDR will continue in future to steadfastly fulfil its obligation as a socialist peace state. In alliance with the other states of the socialist community the GDR will do its best to see that concrete measures are brought about on arms limitation and disarmament on the basis of the principle of equality and equal security.

The GDR regards it as an urgent necessity, Erich Honecker continued, to work for the broadest and most comprehensive understanding and cooperation of all peace champions to prevent a nuclear catastrophe on a world scale. That is why the GDR is prepared to work together with all people of good will in the interest of peace and detente. For his part Romesh Chandra informed Erich Honecker about the campaign programme for 1982 which was decided upon at the beginning of January in Copenhagen at a meeting of the bureau of the Presidential Committee of the World Peace Council and expressed his gratitude for the varied and constructive activities of the GDR in the peace struggle. The peace-loving forces in the world, he went on, highly praised the fact that GDR state

policy focused on the safeguarding of peace. In this connection he warmly thanked Erich Honecker for the active support he had personally given to the World Peace Council over many years.

Romesh Chandra spent one day of his stay in Cottbus County, the GDR's energy centre. Together with Werner Walde, candidate member of the Political Bureau and first secretary of the Cottbus County Committee of the SED, and Professor Günther Drefahl, president of the GDR Peace Council, he was given a warm and enthusiastic welcome at the Schwarze Pumpe gasworks. During a tour of the gasworks Romesh Chandra had numerous chats with members of the workforce. He also asked them about their personal lives. "Most of the older members of the workforce here can tell you the same story as I," replied Siegfried Ludwig. "Over twenty years ago we started here as unskilled workers in the new gasworks, grew with the works, qualified as skilled workers, foremen or technicians and now we are masters of the highly modern technology as the continual plan fulfilment over the last years proves." Pride in the gasworks and in her own job were also evident from the words of the young machinist Ramona Falkenhahn who told Romesh Chandra that her youth brigade had close and friendly contacts with young people from Mozambique at the gasworks who were training to be instructors so that they could later help to build up an efficient power-producing industry in their own country.

During lunch with workers from various production departments Bärbel Schwarz, a member of the Sorb national minority in the GDR employed at the gasworks, raised her glass in toast and expressed her confidence in the joint efforts of all peace-loving people in the world succeeding in thwarting the imperialist warmongers and building a life in social justice and security as was already the case in her homeland, the socialist GDR.

After the early shift 2,000 gasworkers,

including several young people from Mozambique, gathered in the large hall of the central workshop for a meeting. They enthusiastically welcomed the guests with cheers and loud applause.

Two facts should be made clear to everyone, declared Romesh Chandra in his address, the danger of a nuclear war but also the determination of all peoples to stand up to this danger are both greater than ever before. The danger of a nuclear war being started by imperialism should not be underestimated. The Europeans, and especially the people in the NATO countries, were increasingly opening their eyes to this danger. During the next few days, he said, the world would once more witness further marches and demonstrations. The Europeans were not the guinea pigs of the Americans, he went on. Reagan spoke of a victory in a nuclear war, but in such a war there would be no victory. The only victory possible for mankind consists in banishing the danger of a nuclear war once and for all.

"Your work," the president of the World Peace Council told the participants in the meeting, "is not only of importance for your country. Peace and socialism are indivisible and therefore the growing strength and influence of the socialist states is of the greatest importance for safeguarding world peace. Those who work for socialism like you are at the same time working for peace for the sake of all of mankind."

In his speech Professor Günther Drefahl examined the close relationship of trust between people and government in the GDR and said: "Our society, which is carrying forward its social and economic development with unparalleled continuity, is based on the trust and confidence of its citizens in the socialist system and its political leadership. It is supported by the diligence and resourcefulness of ordinary people. Social security and confident optimism in the future are characteristic features of our lives. This confidence in the



future is especially important in view of the deepening crisis and severe social cuts in the capitalist countries and its appeal is growing internationally."

A Declaration of Intent read out by fitter Klaus Goldack was unanimously adopted by the participants in the meeting.



Romesh Chandra talking with the young machinist Ramona Falkenhahn.

Photos: Günter Ackermann



On January 17, 200,000 inhabitants of the GDR's capital city joined the traditional demonstration commemorating the murder of Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg 63 years ago. They renewed their oath to fight in their spirit for peace and socialism—against imperialism and war.

Photo: ADN-Zentralbild

Nationwide Initiatives

LAST January the GDR National Front's National Council held an extended session in Berlin which adopted an important decision on the future aims of the people's initiatives in our republic until 1985. This decision mirrors the determination of all political parties and mass organisations united in the National Front to continue to do everything for the safeguarding of peace and the well-being of our people. It also set new yardsticks for the activities of the socialist popular movement.

The decision ran: "True to our conviction and experience that socialism is the strongest bastion for peace and social progress we want to strengthen our workers' and farmers' state, consolidate our un-

swerving alliance with the Soviet Union and the other countries of the socialist community and deepen anti-imperialist solidarity.

Together with all peace forces of the world we are strongly opposing the policy of intensified arming pursued by aggressive imperialist forces, particularly in the USA. We will do everything in our power to prevent the implementation of the NATO missiles decision on the deployment of new US nuclear missiles in Western Europe."

The decision continues: "The proposals on disarmament and a limitation of arms put forward by Leonid Brezhnev on behalf of the Soviet Union offer a great chance to all political forces in the world and show the peoples a way out of the danger of a nuclear holocaust.

We know our deeds for the strengthening of socialism help consolidate peace. The positive balance we are all able to strike delivers proof that one of the great advantages of socialism lies in the fact that everyone benefits from people's initiatives and a sense of public spiritedness. We therefore consider it one of our foremost tasks to help channel our people's creative power in such a way that the economic strategy for the nineteen-eighties decided upon at the SED's Tenth Congress is consistently put into practice and the existing material and cultural living standards of our citizens can be maintained and gradually improved through an effective increase in performance."

With this decision the National Front for the first time set itself aims covering a lengthy period and revealed its intent to draw the people's initiatives closer into the plans for the further development of

socialist society than has been the case so far. In laying down the new tasks for our socialist popular movement the National Front proceeded from the results achieved in 1981 which, in some fields, were the best ever gained within one year. The session provided eloquent proof of the fact that the joy at their achievements inspires people to set themselves new, more ambitious aims.

While in 1981, for example, 166,953 homes of elderly and physically handicapped people were redecorated free of charge within the framework of the "Beautify our Towns and Villages—Join in!" competition, this number is to be increased to 500,000 by 1985. Apart from this, social, cultural and educational establishments as well as recreational centres are also to be given a face-lift in order to improve the people's living conditions in addition to the projects covered by the state plans.

The programme for the socialist popular movement gives every individual sufficient scope to make use of his constitutionally guaranteed right to help organise the political, economic, social and cultural life of society. In this way the "Join in!" competition is proof of socialist democracy in practice.

The socialist popular movement in the GDR, which arose from the National Construction Scheme founded 30 years ago, unites hundreds of thousands of people from all walks of life with different philosophical outlooks. Thus the programme unanimously adopted by people representing all strata of the population clearly reflects the political and moral unity of our people under the proven leadership of the SED.

WHENCE THE THREAT TO PEACE?

The Moscow Military Publishing House has brought out a documentation by the USSR Ministry of Defence entitled "Whence the threat to peace?" which has aroused international attention. With the aid of irrefutable facts an objective picture is drawn of the strategic situation in the world today and the claim of an alleged "Soviet threat" is exposed as a deliberate imperialist lie. In view of the significance of the factual material GDR REVIEW will be reprinting the booklet, starting with the first part in this issue.

Introduction

In the 1970s, the relaxation of tensions in relations between states belonging to different socio-political systems made the cold war yield ground. The restructuring of international relations on the principles of peaceful coexistence gained momentum. But as the world was entering the 80s, and especially after the change of leadership in the White House, a sharp about-turn occurred in the policy of the United States and a number of other NATO countries. Their ruling circles began to set their sights in international relations on force and force alone. US statesmen and military leaders openly declared that nuclear war, both global and "limited", was thinkable. Large regions of the world thousands of kilometers distant from the United States were proclaimed Washington's spheres of "vital interest".

The present US Administration and its bellicose partners in other NATO countries have set out to upset the military-strategic equilibrium shaped during the past decade between the USSR and the USA, between the Warsaw Treaty Organization and the North Atlantic bloc. To justify their line of securing military superiority over the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Treaty, the myth of a "Soviet war threat" fabricated years ago is being backed up by claims that the USA and NATO as a whole have "fallen behind" in the military field and "windows of vulnerability" have appeared in the US war machine, and the like.

High-ranking political and military members of the US Administration have joined the campaign of inventing and propagating an assortment of various far-fetched conjectures. A special place in the campaign is accorded to a Pentagon pamphlet, entitled *Soviet Military Power*. Widely advertised by US mass media, it is clearly designed to frighten the public, above all in Western countries, with the military potential of the USSR, and convince it of the compulsive necessity of a further build-up of US and NATO military strength.

The Pentagon pamphlet would not have by itself deserved any special mention if it did not reflect the political tendencies reigning in the United States directed to torpedoing detente, stoking up tensions in relations between states, and triggering an unbridled arms race.

Inasmuch as the ruling circles of the United States saw fit to publish tendentiously selected and deliberately distorted information about the Armed Forces of the USSR, it became necessary for the sake of objectivity to show the military potential of the other side, so that true conclusions could be drawn on the basis of comparative data.

This book, prepared by competent Soviet quarters, examines the present state and orientation of the armed forces and military-industrial potential of the United States of America, and other elements of the US war machine on which the US Administration relies in its resolve to follow a policy "from positions of strength", and to secure military superiority. In order to provide an objective picture of the strategic situation now prevailing in the world, the book examines the balance of East-West military strength, and the approach of the two sides to international detente and the problems of safeguarding and consolidating peace, and curbing the arms race.

They call this objective

The authors of the pamphlet *Soviet Military Power* saturated it with figures and commentaries about the combat strength, structure and groupings of the Soviet Armed Forces, their armaments, the number of munitions factories, and much other data about the military potential of the Soviet Union.

The nature of the material and the presentation are evidently fashioned to create an impression of impartiality and objectivity. But are the Pentagon authors really unbiased?

To begin with, it strikes the eye that given the general profusion of information, there is not the slightest data in the pamphlet on the armed forces of the USA and NATO. Nor is this accidental. If information about them had been given, everyone would have easily seen the rough military parity of the sides, the absence of any "threat to Western strategic interests", and the non-existence of the alleged Soviet "challenge" to the West.

It is essential to turn to the facts if we want to determine impartially who really challenges whom, who initiated the arms race, notably of mass destruction weapons, who has been pursuing it at an ever increasing rate for more than three decades, and who is building up military power without restraint, creating a menace to peace and the security of nations.

In August 1945, the world learned of the appearance of the most destructive weapon in history—the atomic bomb. Not only did the United States develop the bomb, but also used it, with no military need, against the civilian population of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The Soviet proposals for banning the use of nuclear energy for military purposes made subsequently were turned down by the United States. So, in face of the threatening danger, the Soviet Union took countermeasures and developed its own atomic bomb.

And that is true of all subsequent developments. The United States became the initiator of a race of strategic armaments. In the 50s, on the excuse of having "fallen behind in bombers", the Pentagon obtained large allocations from Congress and set in motion a crash program for the construction of strategic bombers. After an armada of these planes had been built, however, it was discovered that the Americans had deliberately exaggerated the number of Soviet bombers three to four times over.

In the early 60s, a howl was raised about a "US missile gap", and the United States initiated a massive deployment of ground-based intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs). Then, after more than a thousand of these had been deployed, it turned out that the Soviet "missile threat" had been exaggerated 15 to 20 times over.

Simultaneously, an American program was launched to build 41 nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines (SSBNs). At that time, no one in the world had them. And in the mid-60s, the Pentagon began fitting submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs) with multiple re-entry vehicle (MRV) warheads. The following table shows who initiated the build-up of nuclear-powered missile submarines, ballistic missiles and nuclear warheads:

	USA		USSR	
	SSBNs/ launchers	Nuclear warheads	SSBNs/ launchers	Nuclear warheads
1960	3/48	48	none	none
1967	41/656	1,552	2/32	32
1970	41/656	2,048	20/316	316
1975	41/656	4,536	55/724	724
1981	40/648	5,280	62/950	2,000

At the end of the 60s and the beginning of the 70s, the US was the first to begin arming strategic ballistic missiles with multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicle (MIRV) warheads, starting a new spiral of the nuclear arms race. Thereupon, at crash rates, it began developing a new type of strategic weapon—air-, ground-, and sea-based long-range cruise missiles with nuclear warheads.

Finally, in 1981 the US President ordered the full-scale manufacture of neutron munitions.

As for the Soviet Union, it initiated no new types of weapons throughout post-war history. In building its armed forces, it only reacted to dangers created by the West. The USSR has never aspired to positions of military superiority, and has always confined itself to measures that sufficed to ensure dependable security for itself and its allies. This has been repeatedly and officially stated by Soviet leaders at the highest level. In his replies to *Time* magazine, Leonid Brezhnev said: "We are not seeking military superiority over the West, we do not need it. All we need is reliable security." And everything that was done, and is being done, by the Soviet Union in matters of defense is subordinated to this goal.

It is the United States that is trying to upset the prevailing military parity, the military-strategic equilibrium. That is the goal pursued by the US President in his program of comprehensive strategic arms build-up announced in October 1981.

Reagan's program extends to all the components of the strategic offensive forces, and includes deployment of M-X Intercontinental ballistic missiles and new strategic bombers, construction of Trident nuclear-powered missile submarines, escalated production of various types of cruise missiles, and other projects.

So, whose is the challenge? Who has saddled the world with the arms race?

Or take facts of another kind.

● In its *Soviet Military Power* pamphlet, the US Defense Department says the Soviet Union has 1,398 ICBM launchers, 950 SLBM launchers, and 156 heavy bombers with a total payload of nearly 7,000 nuclear weapons. These figures, taken in isolation, sound impressive. But the authors of the Pentagon pamphlet make no mention of the 10,000 nuclear weapons of the US strategic offensive forces, which have 1,053 ICBM launchers, 648 SLBM launchers and more than 570 heavy bombers, plus 65 medium bombers. In addition, the United States has thousands of nuclear-capable aircraft in its forward-based forces in the proximity of Soviet territory in Europe, the Far East, and the Indian Ocean.

● It should also be borne in mind that the Soviet Union is confronted not only by the United States, but also by two other Western nuclear powers, and that the threat of China's nuclear forces is,

for the time being, more serious for the Soviet Union than for the United States.

● Furthermore, the Pentagon is trying to frighten the world public with the growth of the Soviet Navy and its now greater capability in distant regions of the world. This is said to "challenge the West's traditional dominance of the open oceans". The US President, indeed, went so far as to say that the USA is faced with a naval "window of vulnerability".

● The appearance in the Soviet Navy of air-capable ships, the *Kiev* and *Minsk*, and of a nuclear-powered missile cruiser, the *Kirov*, is portrayed as a grave threat to the West. Yet, for these two ships, the United States has twenty, and for the one nuclear-powered missile cruiser, the United States has nine. In the 60s and 70s alone, the United States built in quick succession seven of the world's largest aircraft carriers, including three nuclear-powered, with 80,000 to 90,000 tons displacement and 90 aircraft each. The construction of a fourth nuclear-powered carrier is in the stage of completion. Its cost is 4 billion dollars.

● It may be proper to recall, too, that in this period the Soviet Union was building nuclear-powered icebreakers for the peaceful development of Soviet Arctic regions.

● A deliberately one-sided appraisal is also given of the armaments of the Ground Forces of the USSR. The US Defense Department pamphlet says, for example, that the Soviet Union has adapted some of its 203-mm and 240-mm artillery systems to nuclear shells. Yet it makes no mention of the self-propelled 203.2-mm nuclear-capable howitzers which the armies of the USA, the FRG, Great Britain, Italy, Belgium, Denmark and the Netherlands have had in service for dozens of years. The 155-mm howitzers that the troops of all NATO countries have in their arsenals are also adapted to firing nuclear shells. It is only fair to note, too, that more than 600 American, British and Canadian artillery systems adapted to nuclear shells are stationed on the territory of the FRG.

● To back up the trumped-up claim of an "alarming Soviet military build-up", various deliberately exaggerated figures are cited in the West about the military expenditures of the USSR. Contrary to the facts, the public is being told that these expenditures are continuously rising. That they have really been practically the same over the recent years, is withheld.

The military budget of the United States, on the other hand, has been rising steadily from year to year. Its rate of growth in 1978-1980, and this according to official US figures, was in excess of 13 per cent, and as much as 19 per cent in 1981. And still higher

What problems are dealt with by the book ?

Section I—"They Call This Objective"—

shows that the appraisals of the military potential of the USSR and its foreign policy and military strategy made by members of the US Defense Department, are unobjective and biased, and that the authors of the US pamphlet were anything but impartial in selecting data related to the Soviet Armed Forces.

Section II—"The US War Machine"—

offers facts and figures concerning the armed forces of the United States which, already in peacetime, are deployed far away from the US national frontiers and are organizationally and numerically maintained to suit designs that have nothing to do with a defensive war; it shows their menacing growth, appraises the US war industry and the role of the military-industrial complex which is in large measure the moving spirit behind the country's militarization policy and the emphasis on military force in international affairs, and examines the substance of present-day US military strategy.

Section III—"The East-West Military Balance"—

presents authentic facts and figures to compare the strategic nuclear forces and medium-range nuclear weaponry of the two sides, and shows the correlation of the general purpose and naval forces of NATO and the Warsaw Treaty Organization.

Section IV—"Two Trends in World Politics"—

demonstrates facts showing the attitude of the Soviet and US government to concluded treaties, and to arms limitation and reduction negotiations.

The book presents, alongside data provided by competent Soviet quarters, some facts and figures of the London International Institute for Strategic Studies and of official US sources, none of which can be suspected of the least sympathy for the Soviet Union.

growth rates of US and NATO military spending are envisaged in the years to come. In 1985 alone, the United States is planning to allocate more than 340 billion dollars for military purposes, and a total of 1.5 trillion dollars in the coming five years.

So much for military expenditures.

There is no trace of objectivity in the conjectures that the authors of *Soviet Military Power* make concerning the defense industry of the Soviet Union. They declare that the Soviet Union has 135 munitions factories. Yet not a word is said by them that in the United States arms and materiel are produced by 146 government-operated and nearly 4,000 large-scale private enterprises.

To impress the reader, the pamphlet draws some comparisons. One of its diagrams, for example, compares the exaggerated floorspace of the Nizhniy Tagil plant (USSR) that makes railroad cars and tanks with the floorspace of the by no means largest two American tank plants. We need only compare the Nizhniy Tagil plant with the tank complex in Detroit to see the kind of fact-juggling the Pentagon indulges in.

The US Defense Department alleges that the Soviet Union seeks a "global projection of Soviet military power". Here again, however, the Pentagon is at loggerheads with the facts, and indeed with its own statements. For does it not admit that the Soviet Union has military contingents on the territory of only some of its East European allies and in neighbouring Mongolia and Afghanistan, and this moreover, strictly in conformance with treaty provisions. At the same time, US military units are deployed in dozens of countries up and down the world, and there are more than 1,500 US military installations and bases overseas, chiefly in the proximity of Soviet borders.

US rapid deployment force—a permanent instrument of blackmail

US nuclear-capable aircraft carriers, nuclear-powered missile submarines, and squadrons of surface warships are on continuous patrol near the shores of Europe, the Far East and in the Indian Ocean. The more than 200,000-man rapid deployment forces are ready to be moved many thousands of kilometers away from the United States of America.

No less one-sided and tendentious is the account of Soviet arms shipments to developing countries. The USSR is portrayed as the biggest exporter of military hardware, though the United States accounts for nearly 45 per cent of the world arms trade. And since other NATO countries account for more than 20 per cent of the arms trade, it ought to be clear whence comes the bulk of the arms flow. It is common knowledge that US arms go to shore up reactionary and dictatorial regimes, to suppress revolutionary and national liberation movements, and to consolidate the US military presence in the recipient countries.

Like other Western propaganda publications, *Soviet Military Power* presents the fundamental principles of the foreign-policy

line of the CPSU and the Soviet Government in an obviously distorted light, charging the USSR with "export of revolution", "subversive activity in other countries", and the like.

There has never been, and never will be, a single example in history that in the least confirms the fib of "Soviet export of revolution". The Communist Party of the Soviet Union acts on its conviction that revolution cannot be imposed on any country from outside; it can occur exclusively for internal reasons and conditions.

The main guidelines and principles of Soviet foreign policy are defined in the Constitution of the USSR, the Program of the CPSU, and the resolutions of CPSU congresses, and are designed to consolidate peace, and to safeguard and extend detente. In their foreign policy, the CPSU and the Soviet Government are guided by such principles as recognition of the right of each people to deal with its internal affairs without outside interference; renunciation of any attempt to establish any form of domination or hegemony over other countries and peoples or to include them in the "sphere of one's interest"; strict respect for the territorial integrity of states and the inviolability of their frontiers; complete and unconditional recognition of the sovereignty of states and their equal rights in international economic and political relations.

Conversely, numerous facts in history confirm imperialist export of counter-revolution. And in this field, the leading role since World War II belongs to the United States, as demonstrated at greater length in Section IV.

Soviet military doctrine, too, is presented in a distorted light. Referring to non-existent "Soviet publications" and "statements of Soviet leaders", the authors of the pamphlet and, for that matter, also certain officials of the US Administration, allege that Soviet military doctrine is of an aggressively offensive nature, and that the Soviet Union counts on winning a nuclear war by means of a pre-emptive strike. These allegations are entirely groundless, as are the references to the Soviet leadership. None of the Soviet Party leaders or statesmen has ever stated, nor could have stated, anything of the sort. The very opposite is true.







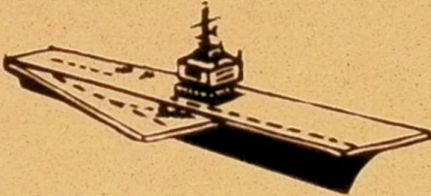
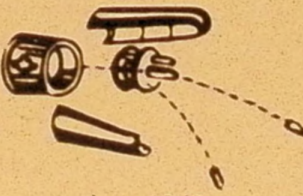


Soviet military doctrine is of a strictly defensive nature. This has been stated at the highest level. The Declaration of Warsaw Treaty member-countries of May 15, 1980 says in so many words: "We have not, never had and never will have any strategic doctrine other than a defensive one."

Soviet military doctrine has been and is based on the principle of retaliatory, that is, defensive actions. The strategic nuclear forces of the USSR have never been called "strategic offensive forces", as is the case in the United States of America.

The Soviet Union considers any nuclear attack a capital crime against humanity. This has been reasserted by Leonid Brezhnev in October 1981, when he said that to count on victory in a nuclear war is dangerous madness. "Anybody's decision to start a nuclear war in the hope of winning it," he said, "is tantamount to suicide."

Soviet military strategy reposes on the principle that the Soviet

**Initiative
In
Developing
New Weapon
Systems**

USA	USSR
NUCLEAR WEAPONS	
 mid-1940s (used in August 1945)	 late 1940s
INTERCONTINENTAL STRATEGIC BOMBERS	
 mid-1950s	 late 1950s
NUCLEAR-POWERED SUBMARINES	
 mid-1950s	 late 1950s
NUCLEAR-POWERED AIRCRAFT CARRIERS	
 early 1960s	none
MULTIPLE INDEPENDENTLY TARGETABLE RE-ENTRY VEHICLES	
 late 1960s	 mid-1970s
NEUTRON WEAPONS	
 late 1970s—early 1980s	none

Union will not be the first to use nuclear weapons. In fact, it is opposed to the use of any weapons of mass destruction.

Conversely, the United States of America is developing and widely advertising various military-strategic concepts of an undisguisedly aggressive nature. Despite a periodical change of names and content, their main idea invariably centers on unrestricted use of the US strategic offensive forces in a pre-emptive strike against the USSR. The notion that a nuclear war is winnable recurs in all US strategic concepts ever since the 1950s.

Of late, the politico-military leadership of the United States has been peddling the idea of a so-called limited nuclear war. Its true purpose is to limit use of nuclear arms to some geographic region far away from the United States. That, indeed, is what President Ronald Reagan said in October 1981: "It could be where you could have the exchange of tactical weapons against troops in the field without it bringing either one of the big powers to pushing the button." By field he quite definitely meant the European continent.

The idea of "limited" nuclear war, so popular of late with the politico-military leadership of the United States, is, in substance, no more than a variant of the "first strike" concept. But it cannot secure the desired aims of its exponents.

The logic of war and the nature of modern armaments would, if nuclear war broke out in Europe or anywhere else, inexorably make it worldwide. None but completely irresponsible people can maintain that a nuclear war can be fought according to priorly elaborated rules.

The above shows how lacking in objectivity the authors of the pamphlet *Soviet Military Power* were in evaluating the so widely advertised but in fact non-existent Soviet threat to the strategic interests of the West.

It is impossible to get the correct idea of whence the threat to peace emanates without a concrete examination of the armed

forces, the scale of military production, the substance of the military strategy, and the foreign-policy orientation of the United States.

II. The US War Machine

To implement its global aggressive designs, the United States maintains the largest and technically best equipped armed forces in the capitalist world. In strength and armaments, they surpass the combined armed forces of Great Britain, France, the FRG, and Italy. The total strength of the US armed forces is close to 3 million servicemen, and 1 million civilian employees.

Administratively, the US armed forces, like those of many other countries, consist of three services—army, air force, and navy. The services are in turn divided into regular troops (naval forces) and organized reserves.

In addition to the administrative structure, the US armed forces, unlike those of other countries, have an operational structure, under which all manpower and equipment are distributed among five unified and three specified commands. These commands have been set up in peacetime to direct and prepare definite military groupings for war, and to draw up advance plans of theater strategic operations suiting adopted US global policy.

In accordance with the provisions of US military doctrine to prepare and fight aggressive wars in overseas territories, the manpower and equipment of four out of the five unified commands are already in peacetime deployed outside the United States: in the European zone, the zones of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, and in Central and South America. The two strongest groupings are stationed in the West and in the Orient, in the immediate proximity of the Soviet borders.

Increased Mass Campaigns for Disarmament and Detente

By Dr Gerhard Zazworka,
member of the GDR
Peace Council delegation

THREE HUNDRED people from five continents gathered in the Austrian capital from January 29 to February 1 to express their great concern over the increasing aggravation of the international situation and the growing danger of a nuclear war. Sixty-one countries were represented by Christians, social democrats, socialists, communists, former NATO generals, pacifists, scientists, trade union officials, women, students, senators, parliamentary deputies from socialist countries and many others. They were all agreed that the striving for military superiority and the policy of political and military confrontation had to be countered by new and diverse campaigns.

The discussion on major problems was open, lively and constructive. Serious talks between people of different religious, political and ideological beliefs aware of their responsibility were conducted both at the conference table and in the many individual conversations. Certain differences of opinion were expressed and, in view of the breadth of views represented by the participants, there were also opposing points of view on some questions. However, the overriding conviction was that we are all sitting in the same boat, that we are all threatened, no matter from where we come—whether from Europe, where in the West new US nuclear missiles are to be deployed from 1983; from Cuba, Nicaragua and Panama, confronted with US naval "exercises" in the Caribbean; from Africa, faced with increasing US subversive activities; from India, with the expanded US military base on Diego Garcia on its doorstep; from Australia, where more and more US military installations are being set up; or from the United States, where the arms build-up is accompanied by a

growing war hysteria and general cutbacks in the social welfare programme.

Both in the opening session, when thirteen speakers took the floor, and in the five discussion groups, where the debates were conducted in more detail, attention focused on the policies of the present US administration and the situation on the European continent as a result of the grave danger posed by the planned stationing of 572 Pershing-2 and Cruise missiles there. It was also clear to everyone, however, that the increasing danger to the security of the European nations today was at the same time threatening the whole of mankind with the horrors of a nuclear holocaust. Hence there was a continual international exchange of experience on effective mass campaigns.

The concluding report of the participants in the first discussion group "Arms Limitation, Detente and Security: European and Global Aspects" ran, in part, as follows: "The NATO decision to station Cruise missiles in Europe is to be realised 18 months from now. This decision provides the point of departure for the increasing tension and war danger in Europe. If this missile deployment is carried through, NATO would be taking an irreversible step leading to an even greater stockpiling of nuclear weapons in Europe and to an even bigger danger of a nuclear war embracing the whole world. Little time remains. We must find the most effective methods for mobilising a larger section of the public against these missiles and for the start of arms reductions on the basis of equality in Europe."

The many participants from capitalist states and developing countries were informed about the Soviet peace strategy by

Increased Mass Campaigns for Disarmament and Detente

prominent members of the USSR delegation. The editor-in-chief of *Pravda*, scientists, religious leaders and other public figures elucidated the recent initiatives of their country for solving the world's number one problem. Careful consideration was given to the latest Soviet publication *Whence the threat to peace?* with its comprehensive factual material on the causes of the arms race and the approximate military balance.

The concrete contributions made by the socialist German state to safeguarding peace were explained by a delegation of the GDR Peace Council headed by Manfred Feist, member of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and a departmental head within the Central Committee. Other members of the delegation included: Werner Rumpel, general secretary of the GDR Peace Council; Georg Böhm, member of the Presidium and secretary of the Executive Committee of the Democratic Farmers' Party of Germany; Gerhard Lindner, member of the Political Committee and secretary of the Executive Committee of the Liberal Democratic Party of Germany, member of the People's Chamber; Adolf Niggemeier, member of the Presidium and secretary of the Executive Committee of the Christian Democratic Union, member of the People's Chamber; Rosel Walther, member of the GDR State Council, member of the Presidium and secretary of the Executive Committee of the National Democratic Party of Germany, member of the People's Chamber; and Christine Weynk, secretary of the GDR Peace Council and member of the People's Chamber. All the members of the delegation contributed to a constructive exchange of opinion. Manfred Feist underlined the special interest of the GDR in international security and in political and military detente—bordering as it does on the FRG, the state with the highest concentration of nuclear weapons in the world. Recalling the historical experiences gathered from the

pre-Second World War period, he pointed out how necessary it was for the growing peace forces to be absolutely clear of the danger emanating from the most aggressive, imperialist quarters in the USA and not to be misled in the fight against this danger by demagogic side-tracking manoeuvres.

The participants in all five discussion groups rejected the US striving for a nuclear first-strike capacity, the course of political confrontation being steered by the US administration, and the USA's policy of *diktat* and interference in the internal affairs of other states, as was now the case with regard to Poland. The concluding report of the second discussion group, in which representatives from thirty-five countries and five international organisations took part, stated "that the profits gained from the arms industry are one of the main causes of tension and of the undermining of disarmament. Reference was frequently made to the dangerous role of the military-industrial complex. In many contributions to discussion the opinion was expressed that the United States is stirring up conflicts in the Middle East, Europe, the Indian Ocean, the Caribbean, Central America and South-East Asia." In this connection special mention should be made of the fact that more than ten US citizens took part in the dialogue on disarmament and detente in the Austrian capital. Among them were the following members of the Democratic Party: Congressman John Conyers; the mayor of Berkeley in California, Gus Newport; and Detroit city councillor, Maryann Mahaffey.

In the course of their exchanges the participants from over sixty countries expressed their hope and expectation that the Soviet-American talks on nuclear arms in Europe would lead to a limitation and reduction of these weapons while respecting the principles of equality and equal security. Likewise demands were made for the continuation of the SALT talks which,

as is well known, were broken off by the United States after the signing of SALT II in Vienna. Calls were also made for positive results both in the negotiations resumed in the Austrian capital in January 1982 on the reduction of armed forces and armaments in Central Europe, and in other disarmament committees.

With a view to the second UN special session on disarmament scheduled for June/July in New York, the participants from five continents spoke of the necessity of mobilising the world public to play an active role in the preparations for this forum with a variety of campaigns. In this connection the conference of non-government organisations to be convened in March/April in Geneva should also be used to activate public opinion in support of the second special session. Taking part in the discussions in Vienna were also representatives of the United Nations and some of its affiliated organisations.

In view of the large number of participants from countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America, a lot of time was spent discussing the importance of the non-aligned states in the struggle for disarmament and detente. As a result of these discussions it was concluded that the safeguarding of peace and arms limitation and reduction were of major significance for the struggle of these countries for their national independence and development.

The statement adopted by the final session of the international meeting in Vienna declares that "all movements throughout the world must join forces, set aside their differences and spare no effort to free the nations of the danger of a nuclear war and preserve peace on earth."

Though this international peace meeting in Vienna has now ended, the serious, constructive exchange of opinion continues. The main concern now, however, is that the millions of people, in whose name and interests the International dialogue was conducted, act and campaign in unison and with determination against the most aggressive, imperialist circles in the USA and NATO. It was with renewed confidence that we took our leave in the Austrian capital of our fellow participants from all parts of the world.



A much-visited Exhibition

"Dresden Greets Nancy"



On the occasion of the exhibition about Dresden County in Département Meurthe-et-Moselle in France last year a delegation of the Dresden County Council and the county committee of the GDR's International Friendship League visited Nancy. Dr. Heinz Michalk, municipal architect of Dresden and head of the delegation, gave the following interview:

There is certainly a case history of the exhibition about Dresden County in Nancy and your journey?

Dr Michalk: Of course, there is. Friendly relations between the local branch of the France-GDR Society and our County have existed for twenty years now. For the same period cordial contacts have developed between other towns, such as Radebeul and Auboué or Riesa and Villerupt. Apart from this, relations between the Département's General Council and Dresden County Council were set up two years ago.

Dresden County introduced itself. In what spheres were the visitors particularly interested?

That's difficult to say because there was broad interest for all spheres. Among other things, the exhibition gave an insight into the work of fifteen enterprises. The achievements of our printing industry and the "Fortschritt" agricultural machinery combine, for instance, attracted great attention. However, the visitors showed special interest in our social-welfare policy, ranging from housing construc-

tion to child care. We gave a detailed survey of the monthly budget of a family in Dresden-Leuben which aroused great interest. This was quite understandable in view of the growing burdens with which families in the capitalist countries see themselves confronted in consequence of the crisis. Much attention was also attracted by Dresden's reconstruction after the war, including the re-erection of the Semper Opera House, and by the cultivation of our cultural heritage.

What particularly impressed you during your stay in Nancy?

You know the proverb that he who goes on travels will have to tell much. This also holds true for the members of our delegation to which, for example, the mayors of Riesa and Radebeul belonged. We noted, for instance, that much care is lavished on the preservation of

A cordial talk after the inauguration of the exhibition. From left to right: Jaques Vallin, a member of the General Council and mayor of Jubeviller; Claude Coulais, a member of the General Council and lord mayor of Nancy; Bogdan Politanski, president of the General Council and mayor of Longlaville; Helga Weigert and Dr Michalk from the GDR delegation.

historic buildings in Nancy. The Baroque Ensemble on Stanislas Square in the town is a centre of attraction similar to the Zwinger in our city. However, the deepest impression was made by the friendliness and

enthusiasm with which our mission of international friendship and good partnership relations was supported.

Would you, please, give some details?

From the great number of examples I can only refer to a few here. Special mention is deserved by Monsieur Politanski, president of the General Council in Département Meurthe-et-Moselle. He supported us in many ways and provided for the exhibition to be mounted at the seat of the General Council. In his opening address Monsieur Politanski stressed that in view of the current arms escalation the struggle for mutual understanding and peace assumed unprecedented importance. He also spoke in favour of a further deepening of our relations.

Another great help for this exhibition was the setting up of an honorary committee which was composed of Monsieur Pinel, prefect of the Département, and 41 other public figures. We were also supported by many mayors, deputies, local councillors as well as presidents and other representatives of about forty organisations.

So both the exhibition and your journey turned out to be a success?

Absolutely, all the more since the departmental congress of the France-GDR Society to which we conveyed cordial greetings was held at the same time. We owe these friends who were so helpful much gratitude.

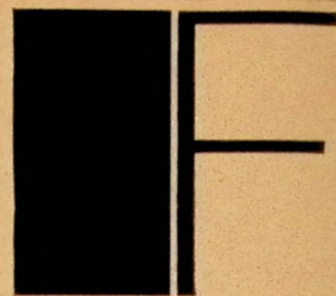
The end of the exhibition did not mean the end of relations?

No, not at all. As a municipal architect I would like to express it the following way: the exhibition provided the scaffolding for the further deepening and expansion of our relations. Many good ideas to this end were brought forward during our discussions in Nancy. The exhibition in Riesa about the 20-year-old history of the town's partnership relations with Villerupt, too, was an expression of the mutual endeavours to further improve relations—in the interest of international friendship and peace.

The exhibition of a partner town



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Photo right: The mayor of Riesa explains a point to Caterina Magrinelli, mayor of Aboué.

Photos: ADN-Zentralbild (2), Horst Siegert (2)

GDR Mayors Visited Northern France

AFTER the establishment of the first partnership relations with towns in the GDR counties of Erfurt and Halle signposts were erected at the entrances of many towns in Département North (France) bearing the names of the two partner towns, their coats of arms and the words "Peace and Friendship"—words that express hope. Put up before the GDR's diplomatic recognition by France the signs were to demonstrate the resolution of the French working population and the workers' town councils.

Finally, diplomatic relations between France and the GDR were set up and contacts between the partner towns intensified. Within the framework of

the friendship caravan scheme delegations of GDR town councillors visited northern France, for example to attend the Ninth Departmental North Congress of the France-GDR Society last autumn. They also had meetings with their French counterparts who paid tribute to the deepening of the partnership relations. Renewed proof of this fact was given during the stay of the guests from the GDR in France.

Streets, squares and establishments have been named after GDR towns. In Solesmes, for example, one street bears the name of Bad Berka. The namegiving ceremony was attended by the mayors of both partner towns, Gerd Goring and

Charles Caplier. Complying with the wish of the inhabitants of a municipal district in Sin-le-Noble a park has been re-named "Gräfenhainichen". In Pecquencourt a sports ground bears the name of Sondershausen. It is imprinted on a marble plaque that was unveiled by the mayors of the two towns, René Mercier and Heinz Lier.

All the namegiving ceremonies were attended by many people from these towns and by representatives of the France-GDR Society and the GDR-France Friendship Society. There was broad coverage of these events in the local press underlining the fact that this ex-

pression of friendship stands for the determination to work together, improve mutual understanding and help safeguard peace.

*

Last September Karl-Heinz Fränkel, mayor of Finsterwalde in Cottbus County, paid a one-week visit to Département North. During his excursion to the Uni-Lever Works in Haubourdin he made use of the opportunity of talking with the working people there. Karl-Heinz Fränkel, who had been invited by the works committee, the *Confédération générale du travail* and the *Confédération française démocratique du tra-*



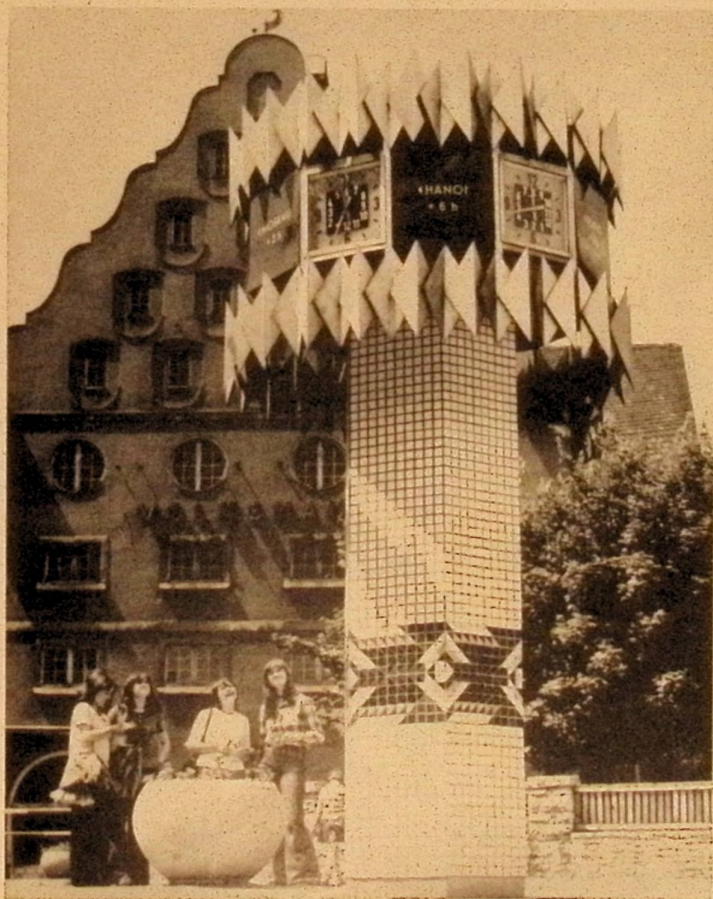


PARTNERSHIP relations have existed between the French community of Villerupt and the town of Riesa in the GDR for twenty years. The deputies and councils of both towns cooperate in many spheres of local government and have a regular exchange of experiences. Numerous delegations from Riesa have already visited Villerupt and more than 1,000 children and other citizens of that town have visited Riesa.

To mark the twentieth anniversary of the beginning of their relationship the two towns prepared information exhibitions. The Villerupt exhibition was mounted in Riesa towards the end of last year. Many picture charts helped visitors get to know the French town. Gifts, souvenirs, diaries and other items complemented the exhibi-

tion. A short film, in the French and German languages and also available to schools, was shown.

The exhibition in Riesa was visited by a delegation of local government officials from Villerupt as well as a delegation of French craftsmen headed by Mario Rodonti, chairman of the Villerupt-Riesa Friendship Committee. The opening ceremony was attended by Catherina Marginelli, mayor of Auboué, who was visiting Radebeul near Dresden with representatives of her town.



One of the attractions of the little district town of Aschersleben in Halle County—a world time clock that shows the exact time in six different capital cities.

Photo left: The mining town of Sondershausen.

vail, asked many questions about the working conditions and social rights of the chemical workers. He also spoke about life in the GDR and the generous social-welfare policy of the socialist German state.

In Haubourdin Karl-Heinz Fränkel had a meeting with young workers and other adolescents at the House of Youth and Culture. He explained the numerous benefits that children and young people enjoy in the GDR and answered many questions.

*

During their stay in their partner towns of Sin-le-Noble and Pecquencourt the mayors of Gräfenhainichen (Halle County) and Sondershausen (Erfurt County), Ernst Kirsten and Heinz Lier respectively, visited the miners in the No. 9 coal pit in Escarpelle where they descended to the face. Subsequently they had a further animated discussion with the workers on the mine's premises. The guests from the GDR were also received by the mining management in Douai and viewed the coal-mining museum in Lewarde.

*

During his visit to Lomme—a suburb of Lille—the mayor of its GDR partner town of Aschers-

leben in Halle County, Otto Zufehle, made a trip to the North Sea coast. He had a vivid exchange of views with the dockers in the large port of Dunkirk and was received by the management of the Gravelines new nuclear power station who presented him with the opportunity of making a tour of the plant.

In Lomme Otto Zufehle visited the "Jean Zay" Educational Centre. Its headmistress, Madame Dhenein, is chairman of the France-GDR Society's local branch. Many students of the Educational Centre have already been to Aschersleben. Otto Zufehle's visit contributed to the further consolidation of the friendly relations between the Lomme friendship committee and Aschersleben.

Departmental North Committee of the France-GDR Society

Subject of Studies: Agriculture

A Japanese delegation
visited Magdeburg County



This is the title page of a booklet published by the seventh study delegation of the Liaison Conference of the Japan-GDR friendship societies after its visit to the GDR. The friends of the GDR gave their travel report the title Socialist Agriculture—Experienced in the GDR. They had 2,000 copies of it printed, the foreword was written by Professor Ritsuo Nakayama. We are reprinting here extracts from it:

THE Liaison Conference of the Japan-GDR friendship societies has sent study delegations to the GDR since 1975. Ours was the seventh such delegation and the first to be given a specific programme. The daily newspaper of Magdeburg County *Volksstimme* wrote about it:

"A delegation of the Liaison Conference of the Japan-GDR friendship societies visited Magdeburg County at the invitation of the GDR's International Friendship League. During their stay the guests wanted to make themselves familiar with the GDR's agricultural policy. To this end they made excursions to agricultural establishments and organisations in different districts, for example, in Haldensleben, Wernigerode, Wanzleben and Osterburg, where they informed themselves about socialist production relations in the countryside."

Although ten days are a short period for a fact-finding tour we feel we have got to know the basic aspects of agriculture in the GDR. Everything was dealt with in great detail. We were told about the most significant theoretical and practical results of the GDR's agricultural policy and would like to thank all representatives of the GDR-Japan Friendship Committee for their organisation of the tour and the cordial care extended to us.

I think that the success of our study trip has to be attributed to its uniform programme which included lectures of a high standard and visits to agricultural enterprises. However, we were not only interested in agriculture but acquired also knowledge on the GDR's foreign, educational, cultural, economic and social-welfare policies. This provided us with an overall picture of the present situation, development and prospects of socialism in that country.

Above all it has to be stressed that the GDR's policy as a whole is linked with the struggle for peace, detente and disarmament. It is guided in its activities by the knowledge that without peace developed socialist society cannot be built up, that without peace mankind

cannot exist and increase its prosperity.

The first subject dealt with the alliance between the workers and farmers and was explained to us through the example of agriculture and with the necessity of the dictatorship of the proletariat in building up socialist society. We came to realise that the development of socialist society would have been impossible without the democratic-centralist dictatorship of the proletariat and its close alliance with the peasants in the struggle against counter-revolutionary forces of the big landowners and monopoly capitalists.

The second subject was devoted to the organisation of the peasants as a class in the process of the formation of agricultural cooperatives. We learned of the enormous educational efforts that had been necessary to win the farmers for progressive large-scale agricultural production.

The third subject made us familiar with the strategy applied in the construction of a socialist agriculture and with the development of cooperative farms. We were particularly interested in the scientific and creative application of Lenin's cooperative principle in the GDR. We perceived that building the foundations of socialism in the countryside involved far more than putting the means of production under public or cooperative ownership.

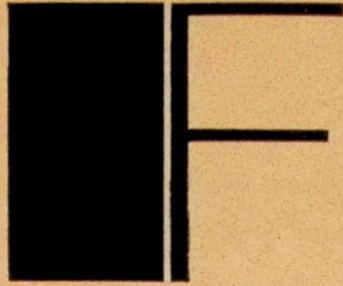
In the fourth subject we studied the interrelationship between the town and countryside and the cooperation between several cooperatives as well as that between cooperative and state farms.

The fifth subject dealt with the effect that the development of industry and advances in science and technology have on increasing productivity in agriculture.

The sixth subject was an examination of how the economic, social, cultural and intellectual differences between the towns and villages are overcome, a problem which cannot be solved under capitalist conditions.

Apart from this we inquired about the extent to which agri-

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cultural soil (arable land, pasture and forest) is included in the environmental protection scheme and ecological studies.

We were also given the opportunity of informing ourselves on the spot about the fixing of output quotas in agriculture, price control for agricultural products as well as the educational system in the countryside.

We consider it our duty to use the experiences and knowledge we gathered during our stay in the GDR in our struggle for peace, in the workers' and farmers' movements, in the striv-

ing for progress in bringing about an alliance between workers and farmers and for the advancing of the socialist movement in Japan.

Professor Ritsuo Nakayama, Kumamoto Trade College, head of the seventh study delegation

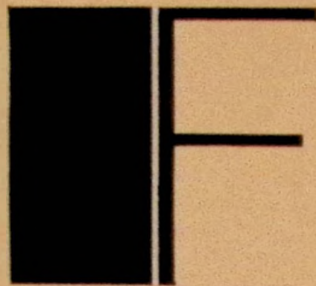


Photo right: Following a talk at the agricultural college in Haldensleben the visitors were cordially welcomed by Horst Brasch, general secretary of the GDR's International Friendship League.



Photo below: During a visit to the agro-chemical centre at Osterburg.





IN NOVEMBER a further study delegation of the Liaison Conference of the Japan-GDR friendship societies visited the GDR. One of the highlights during their stay was their meeting with representatives of the GDR-Japan Friendship Committee in Berlin. The participants issued a joint declaration of intent pledging themselves to always advocate international friendship, peace and detente. The declaration denounced NATO's policy of intensified arming, the US neutron bomb plans and the intended deployment of new US medium-range missiles in Western Europe. The participants in the meeting also advocated the convening of a conference on military detente and disarmament in Europe and Asia.

The head of the Japanese delegation, Professor Tsunehisa Kojima from Fukuoka University, noted down his impressions for GDR Review:

It was a great pleasure for us to have been able to visit the GDR in the same year that its head of state, Erich Honecker, sojourned in Japan.

Our visit to the GDR reassured us of the fact that its peace policy is deeply rooted in its social system and is currently of utmost importance in view of the growing threat of war in Europe. We also noted that the strong desire for peace of which Erich Honecker spoke in Japan is, so to speak, to be

Professor Tsunehisa Kojima:

Impressed by everyday life in the GDR



Professor Tsunehisa Kojima was received by Gerald Götting, president of the GDR's International Friendship League.

Photo below: Musical welcome from a Berlin children's choir.



read in the people's eyes. This struck us as most important.

We spent most of our time in Rostock County where we experienced interesting days and had lively exchanges of views with GDR citizens. Our hosts had also arranged for us a number of informative lectures dealing, above all, with the construction of socialism in the republic. We liked the open and frank manner in which the lecturers also spoke about shortcomings which still need to be overcome there. In addition to this theoretical information we were given the opportunity of having a close look at everyday life in socialist society. We made excursions to the People's Shipyard in Stralsund, to an agricultural and a fishing cooperative, schools and kindergartens in Rostock County and were deeply impressed by the rapid successful development of this county under socialist conditions. Before the Second World War this region used to be extremely backward.

I had already been to the GDR in the early nineteen-sixties and was particularly surprised during this recent visit at the achievements in housing construction in that country. Similar progress has been made in other spheres.

These experiences were very important for us because following the deepening general crisis of capitalism, anti-socialist propaganda has been stepped up in Japan, too. The GDR's development testifies to the superiority of socialism and gives us self-confidence and courage in our struggle for a just social system in our home country.

We will inform our countrymen about our experiences made in the GDR. In this way we want to help broaden the friendship movement with the GDR in Japan and intensify the struggle for the safeguarding of peace. This is also an expression of our gratitude to all GDR citizens.



The visitors from Japan honoured the victims of fascism.

Photos: ADN-Zentralbild (1), Gerhard Puhmann (2)

All were agreed: Never Again War!

Fourth General Meeting of the Netherlands-GDR Society held

AT THE end of 1981 the Fourth General Meeting of the Netherlands-GDR Society was held in Amsterdam. The discussion centred around the Society's contribution towards the safeguarding of peace, its activities over the last year and the tasks for 1982. Among the guests at the Meeting were Dr Willy Hoffmann, GDR ambassador to the Netherlands, and Professor Eberhard Bartke, chairman of the International Friendship League's GDR-Netherlands Friendship Committee.

Piet Burggraaf, chairman of the Netherlands-GDR Society, opened the meeting with the statement that at the present time people are becoming increasingly aware of the fact that if mankind wants to survive they have to defend peace with great resolve. The members of his Society, he underlined, were wholeheartedly committed to this task.

The necessity of the GDR and the Netherlands contributing with all the means at their disposal to the consolidation of peace was repeatedly stressed at the General Meeting. In this connection Dr Willy Hoffmann paid tribute to the Society's activities in this sphere. Professor Eberhard Bartke said that the people of the GDR, too, need peace for their further existence. They were not building up their country so that it could be destroyed in a war. The citizens of the GDR felt united with the participants in the mass demonstrations in the Netherlands protesting at NATO's policy of intensified arming.

One of the most impressive contributions to the discussion was delivered by Tom Kruysman who had visited the GDR with a delegation. He spoke about the experiences they had gathered in the GDR where they had also had talks with many people. They had all agreed, Tom Kruysman underlined, that there must never be a war again.

A further report on the GDR was given by Dr René Toussaint who had just returned from that country with a parliamentary delegation. The statements of the delegation members revealed that it is very important that in cooperation with the GDR's International Friendship League the Society help establish contacts and arrange visits to the GDR.

In his report to the gathering Frits Neyts, general secretary of the Society, also referred to this aspect. He provided a survey on the numerous activities of the Netherlands-GDR Society, spoke of its future tasks and explained the motives for their work.

A further focal point in the discussion was the working method within the Society. Following a proposal put forward by the National Executive the Meeting decided to set up working groups to support the work of the secretariate. The General Meeting also passed a resolution to the Netherlands' parliament expressing their disappointment at the non-ratification of the cultural agreement with the GDR.

Summarising the outcome of the Fourth General Meeting it can be said that the Society will continue to be an alliance of people from all walks of life who are consciously and resolutely struggling for one aim—for peace and international friendship and particularly for friendship between the peoples of the Netherlands and the GDR.

Pieter Burggraaf

The Mayor of Nagasaki to Erich Honecker

THE eighth study delegation of the Liaison Conference of the Japan-GDR friendship societies conveyed to the GDR's head of state a message of greeting from Hitoshi Motoshima, mayor of Nagasaki. In it he recalled Erich Honecker's words at the unveiling of the Stele of International Friendship in Nagasaki's Peace Park which was donated by the GDR. Hitoshi Motoshima wrote:

"You said that you are striving for disarmament, support all viewpoints serving peace and are determined to free mankind from the heritage of war. Your words still live on in our hearts. They are encouraging the atom bomb victims and citizens of Nagasaki who are hoping that the nuclear weapons will be destroyed and general disarmament effected." The Stele in the city's Peace Park, he continued, told visitors from throughout the world that international friendship was a basic requirement of lasting peace and the prosperity of mankind.

However, there were also forces in the world of today who are trying to ruin the peoples' hope for peace. It was a significant task to thwart the plans of these forces through the solidarity and action of the peace-loving peoples.

Hitoshi Motoshima concluded his letter as follows: "As mayor of Nagasaki I am sincerely glad to inform you that I am thoroughly committed to peace. I hope that the friendship and solidarity uniting you and your people with the city of Nagasaki and its citizens will further deepen."

Anti-fascism is deeply rooted in the GDR

THIRTY YEARS ago, in August 1951, I took part in the World Youth Festival in Berlin. Thirty years later I visited the GDR again, this time with my wife. We had been invited by the Committee of Anti-Fascist Resistance Fighters to spend our holiday in the GDR.

Walking the streets of Berlin I noticed that the capital of the GDR has changed very much in the post 30 years. A large number of fine buildings, including the Palace of the Republic, have been built. New residential areas, a television tower, broad streets and attractive restaurants have emerged. The GDR people can be proud of everything they have created over the past decades. I mean not only the architectural achievements but also the spirit of anti-fascism and peace ingrained in the population.

In the GDR fascism has been pulled out by the roots. The Nazi and war criminals were tried and convicted, and their property confiscated. A large number of memorials in Berlin and other localities commemorate the anti-fascists who gave their lives for the good of the present generations.

To honour the memory of more than 20,000 Soviet soldiers who died while liberating Berlin, we laid a wreath at the memorial in Berlin-Treptow. While in Dresden, we laid flowers in the courtyard of a former Nazi prison where resistance fighters from many countries had been executed. There are impressive bronze sculptures there, symbolising the heroes of the anti-fascist struggle. The prison buildings were later converted and incorporated into the Technical University. The former section containing the cells now houses a museum.



Education in the spirit of international friendship

The youth of the GDR is being educated in the spirit of peace, international friendship and solidarity. The curriculum for all schools and forms ensures the familiarisation of children and teenagers with the anti-fascist struggle, which is discussed mainly during lessons in history, geography, civics, German language and literature. Nine-year-olds, for instance, work through a chapter in their reading books dealing with the former Ravensbrück concentration camp. During lessons in geography and history the pupils are told about how anti-fascists mounted their resistance campaigns in concentration camps. The curriculum for the ten-year-old children includes information about the struggle of the international brigades in Spain. The history lessons for the higher forms deal in detail with the period from 1933 to 1945, with the teachers making a point of laying bare the economic and social roots of fascism. During lessons in literature the pupils read and discuss the well-known novel *Nackt unter Wölfen* (Naked Among Wolves) describing the prisoners' resistance at Buchenwald concentration camp. Author Bruno Apitz was imprisoned there for eight years.

Care for the victims of the Nazi regime

In the GDR public assistance for the victims of fascism is ensured. The former anti-fascist resistance fighters and the people persecuted by the Nazis, as well as their families, are particularly well cared for. Those decorated with the Fighter Against Fascism 1933-1945 medal receive an annual honorary pension. All who were active in the anti-fascist resistance movement and people persecuted by the Nazis are entitled to retire five years earlier than others. When they reach pension age or become invalids, they receive additionally a monthly honorary pension. All of them are given regular medical treatment at recreational homes and sanatoria. Former anti-fascist fighters and people persecuted by the Nazis are entitled, if they still go out to work, to take 27 days off a year on full pay, i.e. more than the annual paid holiday of other working people. Thus a number of state benefits help create the best possible living conditions for the surviving victims of fascism.

Alexander Zuretti, a member of the Toulon Departmental office of the National Association of Old Resistance Fighters

If my blood is shed for many



Notes on the life and death of the German anti-fascist Erika von Brockdorff
Erika von Brockdorff Born on 29/4/1911 Murdered on 13/5/1943

"If my blood is shed for many, bringing peace to my people, then it is shed readily." These words from Goethe's *Egmont* were the last which Erika von Brockdorff wrote on a tiny piece of paper and slipped into the hands of another woman prisoner before dying courageously at the fascist prison in Berlin-Plötzensee. For her, a young woman of 33 and mother of a six-year-old daughter,

these words were more than just a quotation from an admired poet. They had always been the maxim guiding her actions and, finally, reveal the sense of her early death.

The municipal register of deaths at Berlin-Charlottenburg, on the page dated May 13, 1943, carries the following brutal reference to the cruel murder of this brave woman: Cause of death—decapitation.

Everyone who knew and speaks about Erika von Brockdorff mentions in the first place her sense of justice. This characteristic surely explains her desire to become a social worker, to devote her life to social improvement, to constantly help other people. When the nazis took over power in Germany in 1933 Erika, the daughter of a postman, was just turned 22. Her guileless, forthright

mentality, the humanist feelings she had cultivated since her childhood, were soon deeply antagonised by the physical and intellectual terror and the chauvinist propaganda of the fascists. Consequently, the young woman decided to join the resistance struggle. Her anti-fascist attitude was reinforced by the study of Marxist literature and, above all, by her marriage with Cay von Brockdorff who, in 1935, involved her in the underground activities of the Communist Party of Germany. The more brutal the nazi dictatorship became, the more determined she was to work for its elimination. Hence any relevant assignment was important for her. Even after the birth of her daughter Saskia in 1937, she did not shun the danger inherent in anti-fascist activities at that time. In 1941 Erika von Brockdorff was delegated to the Schulze/Boysen/Harnack resistance group where she, together with the Communist Hans Coppi, was placed in charge of the group's radio transmitter and also received resistance fighters returning to Ger-



Secret meeting with Cay photographed by friends.

With her daughter Saskia.



Death cells of the fascist prison at Berlin-Plötzensee.

Photos: Institute for Marxism-Leninism



many. Erika was also one of those people who, at the risk of being punished with death, accommodated and hid intelligence personnel parachuted over Germany. She arranged clandestine meetings in her flat and took part in formulating convincing arguments for the anti-fascist propaganda in Germany's armaments industry. This activity was facilitated by the fact that during the war she worked at the Reich Office of Labour Safety together with her friend, the anti-fascist Elisabeth Schumacher. There the

two women collected material useful for disseminating the truth about the fascist state. They radioed important information to the USSR, thus directly assisting the heroic struggle of the Soviet and other peoples of the anti-Hitler coalition as well as the resistance movements in occupied countries. Each piece of information communicated by the two women helped shorten the war and save human lives.

Meanwhile the Gestapo and other fascist secret service organisations stepped up their

feverish efforts to decode the clandestine radio messages and finally smash the "Red Orchestra" as they called this very effective resistance group which they hated all the more for it. But there was no imminent danger until the nazis caught a member of the Orchestra in Brussels, whereupon Hitler personally ordered the formation of a special commission with extraordinary powers to destroy this resistance organisation. On August 31, 1942, the first arrests were made. Erika von Brockdorff was taken into custody

From her last letters to her husband Cay

My Darling, 24. 12. 1942

Sometimes I find it very hard to be brave. My only worry is you. I would gladly lay down my life if that could spare you everything you have suffered so far. What is a human life? It is the supreme boon, the last thing one would give up. However, human lives are not rated very highly today. I wonder if the others are still alive . . . Oh, I wish I could once more lie in your arms, not having to be courageous, just weeping. But this mood will pass. What others were able to bear shall not prove too much for me. That I have found a goal and a purpose in my life is due only to you.

4. 1. 1943

How gladly would I leave this place! One can get used to a great deal, but not to a life without work. How often you asked me in the evenings: "Can't you sit still by me for five minutes at least without doing something?" Do you remember?

My Darling, 5.2.1943

I am absolutely convinced that you and the others will do all you can for Saskia. The only thing that grieves me is that other people hear her laugh and chatter, that they see her every day indeed while I, who would give years of my life to see her beam upon me once again . . . Alas, it is not granted to me. What I do, how I spend the days? I read Shakespeare's tragedies, Goethe's Faust, Schiller. You know me, I have filled a sheet of paper with gems from these works such as aphorisms and wisdoms.

My own Darling, 13. 5. 1

I am sending you my last message, knowing that if you had ten lives you would give them all for me. Even with my last breath I shall be thanking providence for having been able to live with you seven years and that we were able to have a child together. Maybe my life is fulfilled as it is, and there would be no other culmination if I were to live on. I just do not know.

I am mentally conversing with you, my dearest. I have just made you promise that you would not be sad for long, otherwise I shall lose my composure which I need to pass through the dark gate. My darling Cay, I would have loved to see you once again but, being deprived of all privileges, I am too proud to beg for something in vain, just as I have not asked for clemency because my death is already a settled matter . . .

Nobody shall say without lying that I had cried and feared for my life, trembling. I shall die laughing as I loved life most when I laughed, and I still love it.

Now I am saying good-bye to you and sending you my last greetings, darling. At this hour I must repeat what I told you once, namely, that my life would have been void without you, that it was you who gave it a meaning and content. This is becoming evident now. I am collected and very calm, consoling myself with the realisation that it has to be.

Your Erika

on September 16, 1942. On December 19 of the same year, a military court sentenced her to ten years imprisonment. But soon the fascists deemed this sentence to be too light and substituted it with capital punishment.

The fascists desperately tried to hush up the trial, for most of the defendants, members of the "Red Orchestra", had held high posts in the nazi state apparatus and the armed forces. Among them were civil servants, artists and scholars. Although by no means all Communists, these people had nevertheless perceived the true aims of fascism, mostly in the process of their work, and opposed them. The German public was to be kept in ignorance of the fact that the anti-fascist front had extended to the highest circles in the country.

A characteristic episode during the trial shows how fearless Erika von Brockdorff faced her judges. She gave as good as she got. When the senior military judge Dr. Roeder threatened her with the words: "Your laughter will soon turn to tears," she retorted: "Not as long as I see you."

Erika's human greatness shows not only in her last letters but also in her whole attitude and behaviour during her incarceration. Dr. Elfriede Paul, who shared the same cell with Erika, recalled: "Until her removal from Charlottenburg she laughed, sang and related stories. Distressed as we were, we all, including inmates from other cells, drew comfort from Erika in those painfully sad spring evenings. The blossoming elder-tree at the gate, the only visible sign of the spring within the dark prison walls, smelled sweetly as Erika whistled melodies from her vast repertory of German operas and musicals out of the window after lock-in time in the evenings when the cells were bolted twice. I can still see her standing on her bed on tiptoe, leaning her arms on the window and absorbedly whistling her arias into the empty, echoing courtyard. Erika was in her early thirties, healthy and good-looking, when she went to her death at the guillotine without fear and in full awareness of the consequences of her actions."

This happened almost exactly two years before the liberation of our people from fascism. Erika Brockdorff is one of those to whom we owe our freedom.

Memorandum of Conscience

Well-known military men from NATO states addressed themselves to the public again in Amsterdam

UNDER THE HEADLINE "Who threatens whom?" we have published in the past months extracts from the book *Generals for Peace*, in which former NATO generals and admirals, drawing on years of experience in high command posts of NATO and having close knowledge of the strategic concepts of this imperialist military alliance, rebuff the current attacks by the USA and NATO on the existing approximate military equilibrium.

At the end of last November, shortly before another session of the secret NATO planning group, seven of these eminent military men again made themselves heard, this time in Amsterdam. They were the retired generals Antoine Sanguinetti of France, Nino Pasti, former deputy supreme commander of NATO in Europe and now an Italian senator, Gerd Bastian of the Federal Republic of Germany, H. M. Meyenfeldt of the Netherlands, Georgios Koumanakos of Greece, Johan Christie of Norway as well as Francisco da Costa Gomes of Portugal.

Reaffirming their repeatedly expressed conviction that it is not the East which threatens the existence of European nations, these generals showed unequivocally that NATO's allegedly complete arming is, in fact, nothing but advanced arming. We have already pointed out that these military men speak from decades of experience, with complete and exact understanding of the military matters involved. In doing so, they are not afraid of provoking the foulest cal-

umny and defamations from the advocates of the mad arms race.

Of particular interest is the memorandum which these generals issued in Amsterdam and in which they urge that NATO should see itself as an alliance ensuring security by political means: "This involves terminating the arms race and nuclear confrontation, embarking on a course of stopping rearmament and declaring a moratorium on the building and deployment of new weapons of mass destruction, utilising all levels of negotiation existing between the East and the West to finally achieve sensible compromises. Further, the processes initiated by the Helsinki conference on security and cooperation in Europe must be continued in all spheres including the military one, particularly in the area of confidence-building measures."

These demands correspond with the expressly declared will of the peoples and meets up with those proposals which the USSR and its socialist allies have repeatedly advanced for a long time and which should have been adopted by all politicians, at least those in Europe, after the Helsinki conference on security and cooperation in Europe in 1975 at the latest.

The Amsterdam memorandum deserves the utmost attention, having been drawn up by men who perceive the implications of Washington's present policy of confrontation as clearly as they recognise the forces which, for the sake of profit, are



After launching their memorandum on November 25, 1981, the retired generals Antoine Sanguinetti (France), H. M. Meyenfeldt (Netherlands), Nino Pasti (Italy), Gerd Bastian (Federal Republic of Germany) and Georgios Koumanakos (Greece) from left to right. Senator Nino Pasti is holding a white dove as the symbol of peace.

Photo: ADN-ZB/
ANP-Tele

interested in inflating the military budgets to astronomical proportions.

The Amsterdam appeal also shows that the current policy of the Pentagon is a betrayal of the West European peoples. We quote: "Within the NATO alliance the USA, with its nuclear weapon systems, has the biggest and politically weightiest military potential." Further on the memorandum states: "The United States can develop its nuclear potential and doctrine without prior consultation with its allies. The Americans' decision to start producing neutron bombs shows that they do not take counsel with Western Europe..."

The USA is also in a position to deploy and use nuclear weapons in Western Europe without the consent of its allies. This situation cannot be tolerated. Leaving the Washington government to decide on vital matters such as the start of a nuclear war in Europe is an inadmissible curtailment of the sovereign rights of our states."

These words are completely different from those which some politicians address to the West European peoples, claiming that the American nuclear missiles safeguard their security. Needless to say, this claim is invariably accompanied with the lie of a "threat from the East". In fact, the deadly overkill potential of the USA poses an extreme threat not only to the East; it threatens the West with its hundreds of millions of people in equal measure, to say the least. This is being realised by a growing number of responsible politicians and

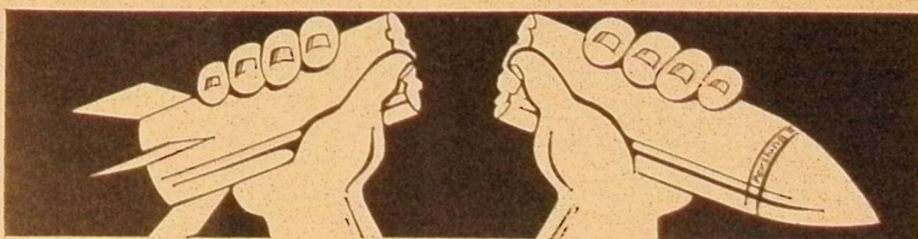
personalities from all walks of life in nearly every country. These people have not been taken in by Reagan's hypocritical "zero option" which, in the words of the Italian senator and retired general Nino Pasti, amounts to "a unilateral disarmament by the Soviet Union while maintaining the danger of a nuclear war on our continent", thus being nothing but "pure propaganda". Karl-Heinz Hansen, a member of the West German Bundestag, stated at a rally in Düsseldorf that "to use the term zero option is to fool the people."

The memorandum of the former NATO generals draws the following conclusion: "There is only one strategic concept meeting the interests of our peoples' survival, namely, to secure an active and successful policy of negotiations with the Warsaw Treaty states through a military strategy which guarantees the existence of our

countries and the survival of their citizens."

In this context it is relevant to quote Erich Honecker's statement at the third session of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany held at the end of last November: "In view of the world balance of forces, it is quite possible to prevent a new war, particularly one involving the use of nuclear, chemical and bacteriological weapons of mass destruction. Such a war can be avoided if all international issues are resolved not by force but at the negotiating table, if political realism prevails over adventurism, if all the peoples in the world oppose the plans and actions of the most aggressive circles of imperialism and take up the struggle for curbing the arms race and making peace secure."

E. Günther



Reproduction of a painting
based on a work by
Josef Stieler.

Reproduction: The National
Research and Memorial
Centre of Classicist German
Literature in Weimar.



On the 150th anniversary of the death of
Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

A True Home For Goethe's Heritage

Interview with
Professor Hans-Dietrich Dahnke,
Director of the Institute of Classicist
German Literature in Weimar

This month we are observing the 150th anniversary of the death of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. What is the importance of his work, of classicist German literature for our society?

We see this literature as a specific historic contribution to the development of human culture, to fostering humanity and the emancipation of man. The programme of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and the constitution of our state point out that a feature of the socialist, national culture of the GDR is the adoption and careful cultivation of all humanist and progressive achievements of the past, and these include classicist literature.

This cultural heritage exerts its influence on many spheres of our social life through various channels. I have in mind the theatre in our country with its manifold and repeated performances of Goethe's dramas, productions of *Faust* being the highlight. I also have in mind feature and documentary films and television productions as well as museums and memorials.

The number of people visiting our museums has soared over the last years, with those in Weimar, for example, having nearly approached their limits in accommodating the flow of visitors, so that at present we can hardly hope to cope with more tourists. The Goethe Museum, by the way, is at present being rearranged. I also have in mind the publishing houses dealing with classicist literature and also those works which facilitate the popularisation and scientific study of that literature. In this context we should not forget the general polytechnical schools whose curriculum has always envisaged study of our literary heritage. Thus the curriculum of the tenth form includes familiarisation with Goethe's *Faust*, so that we can rightly say that nearly all young people in our republic have some knowledge of *Faust*. Mention should also be made of the very broad scientific research and study of the classicist heritage at conferences and panel

discussions, in various publications, and also as part of the activities of societies such as the Goethe Society in Weimar which is active internationally.

Thus classicist literature lives on in our society, contributing to the enrichment of our intellectual and cultural life. It may be noteworthy that we are not particularly inclined to overestimate and deal exclusively with the works of our classicist era. Today we consciously avoid all tendencies which could be interpreted as any kind of concentration on German classicist literature or on Goethe alone. All nations on earth have left a rich heritage from all spheres of intellectual activity and epochs of human history; this heritage is accessible to us and we assimilate it. We are also aware that classicist German literature, considering its time and the general development of literature at the end of the 18th and the beginning of the 19th century, is but a part of a very rich literary pattern. Hence we must take care not to concern ourselves solely with Goethe and Schiller but also with the unique and irreplaceable works of all other literary trends, of all the other poets and writers. Of course, this is not to say that the great achievements of classicist German literature have assumed less importance for us.

What are the reasons for the rearrangement of the Goethe Museum?

Firstly our picture of Goethe, particularly the scientific and historical aspects, has changed since the nineteen-fifties to a greater degree than one would perhaps notice at first glance. Secondly, we proceed from the realisation that today the people visiting museums have other interests, needs, visual habits etc. than the visitors of ten and twenty years ago. In rearranging the Goethe Museum, we are taking account of the fact that the image of Goethe, as we and the visitors see him, has changed over the years. By the way, the museum will be reopened on March 23,

as part of the Goethe celebrations taking place in our republic, particularly here in Weimar.

Once you said that our classicist and humanist heritage has the potential to form socialist personalities. Should we regard Goethe's ideals and thoughts as conveying a message to us?

If his ideas and thoughts are seen in their historical context, I would categorically answer in the affirmative. As to the potential for forming socialist personalities, I believe that the arts, especially literature and poetry, are special means used by people to get familiar with the world, so to speak, to grapple with it, to extend and deepen their understanding of their own selves and the environment and, in this way, to develop their personalities. This applies to all works of literature, and in particular measure to Goethe's works, which are the artistic reflection of experiences, perceptions, sentiments and attitudes of a versatile man who developed his personality and formed his philosophy under very complicated historical conditions. Of course, there is an interval of 150 to 200 years between us and Goethe's time, but literary art makes it possible for us to share his experiences as if they were our own. Goethe's works show us his critical attitude to reality and how the latter has led to his forming certain ideals, visions and alternative concepts which, in a very general sense, constitute a programme for humanist development. I have in mind his ideas related to man, society, the relationship between man and nature and also between human personality and society.

It seems important to me that these ideas further our spontaneity and development, and enhance our confidence and readiness to act. I would say that Goethe's works, without being didactic in the narrow sense of the word, even contain certain historical lessons for us. What he created

by literary means has, in fact, come to us over the years as a kind of message.

Do you think that there must be certain social conditions for this message to be translated into reality?

Yes, I do. Certain social prerequisites are absolutely necessary. I hold that humanist thinking rejects the propagation of violence and war as vehicles for driving away and annihilating other people. Such thinking, however, does not repudiate the just struggle for progress, for safeguarding and defending one's vital interests. The adoption of a heritage, however, always takes place under certain aspects of historical development.

We believe that our socialist society, peace-loving, progressive, humanist and emancipatory as it is, provides a particularly favourable and historically appropriate home for classicist German literature, with ample opportunities for it to become effective. I do not mean by that we can realise Goethe's ideas in the literal sense of the word which has often been erroneously implied. Karl Marx once very aptly pointed out that the generations to come never implement the ideals of their forbears, and that the point was to ensure historical transformation and development. On the other hand, while the experiences, perceptions and ideals of preceding generations are of valuable help to us, they also constitute challenges and motive forces in our lives. The humanist ideals of German classicism have certainly influenced us in setting our present-day humanist and progressive goals. In so far as the message of classicist literature has a bearing on our social relations, on individual self-realisation and fulfilment—a message which will be fully realised in the course of history—it constitutes a historical connection spanning the time between German classicism and our era.

Professor Dahnke was interviewed by Karin Karlsson

For The Joy Of All

AS ALWAYS at this time of the year the cosmopolitan city of Leipzig welcomes the visitors to its Spring Fair. The men of commerce from throughout the world value Leipzig because of the favourable conditions it offers for successful negotiations and meetings, for mutually beneficial treaties and agreements and also for its wide-ranging programme of outstanding art events. Anybody visiting the trade-fair city this month will be able to view one of the world's most beautiful and newest concert halls. Inaugurated last October it is the new home—the third in its history—of the internationally acclaimed Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra. Since the laying of the foundation stone in November 1977 the building workers, the Orchestra's conductor, Professor Kurt Masur, and his musicians have joined forces to bring the project to fruition. The individual stages and highlights, such as jointly overcome difficulties which cropped up in the course of construction, have passed into the 200-year-old history of the Orchestra as has the new building itself.

When 200 years ago, on November 25, 1781 to be more precise, Leipzig's Large Orchestra moved into the Gewandhaus (cloth hall), the market hall of the drapers, it took possession of a hall which was soon to become famous for its acoustics. From that time on the Orchestra itself bore the name of the hall. Many years later this name-giving principle was reversed and the meanwhile renowned Orchestra provided the name for its concert halls which no longer had anything to do with the cloth trade. The second Gewandhaus, inaugurated in 1884 and destroyed in 1944, also earned itself a good reputation for its atmosphere and excellent acoustics. A duplica of the hall was even built in Boston, USA.

Then in 1977 the foundation stone for a new Gewandhaus was laid. Prior to that the Orchestra's musicians had made a point of telling all and sundry the requirements involved in this project, and everybody was determined that the new hall should become one of the best. Nobody was prepared to be content with less.

Ideas sufficient for two buildings

From the very beginning the project placed great demands on the designing team

which was soon joined by an "honorary member" who just sparkled with ideas—Professor Kurt Masur. The conductor of the Gewandhaus Orchestra lived in a world beyond the realms of our earthly one: which conductor is, after all, in the happy position of seeing a house being built for his own orchestra? However, his joy was mingled with concern, and understandably so. During his guest performances abroad he had seen many new concert halls, among them many a piece of bold and beautiful architecture. But most of those built during the last twenty years were, after their completion, considered unfinished mainly due to the inadequacy of their acoustics. Expensive reconstruction work was the result.

The Leipzig builders were to be spared this. Chief architect Professor Rudolf Skoda brought something of great importance along with him: his love of music. A great lover of Bach he has missed but few Gewandhaus Orchestra concerts in the past years. But despite this making the plans for a concert hall was a new task for him, too. For this reason the Orchestra's conductor took him along on some tours so that he should have the opportunity of studying successful buildings, such as "de Doolen" in Rotterdam, as well as the failures.

"In addition to this," said Professor Skoda, "Professor Masur brought home with him a great many prospectuses and other material from his visits abroad. He explained to us what had proved its worth or had failed to do so in the individual halls, repeatedly laying stress on the acoustics and atmosphere but also on the social conditions for the musicians, their work and rest rooms which are often poor and sometimes even intolerable in the capitalist countries."

Seen in this light it is understandable that the committed "building master" gathered together ideas sufficient to construct two Gewandhaus buildings. Thus he turned out to be a stimulating partner for the chief architect who mastered this flood of ideas by letting them "drip off" as he said.

The "Gaffer" and his worries

When the design was finalised Professor Skoda had his doubts: whether this or that might not be too complicated, too

laborious to carry through. It was a monolithic structure without one single right angle, with 450 pillars, difficult sloping surfaces and, in addition to this, building work had begun before the whole project had left the design office.

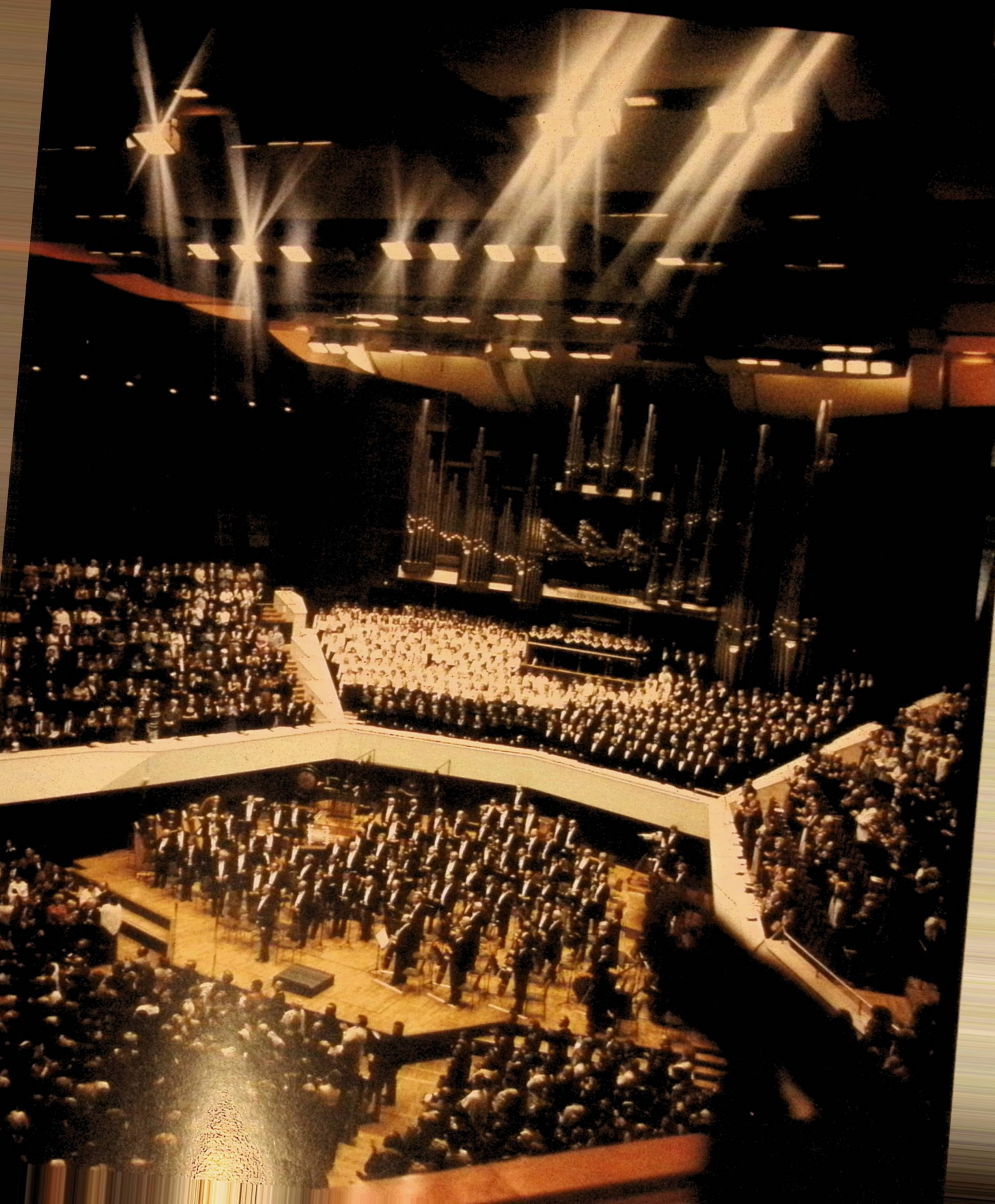
However, much to his relief the building workers considered the many unusual extras a challenge. "Extraordinarily intricate," commented Otto Rutzky, head of the bricklayers work brigade, and added: "But it gave us a lot of pleasure and it is unlikely that we shall ever get another job like it." The feeling that they were helping accomplish something out of the ordinary spurred them all on. Almost all the crafts involved were faced with a greater challenge than usual.

But nobody should think that the work was always pure pleasure. The bricklayers, for example, muttered many a curse while erecting the fresh-air ducts, brick by brick. There was scarcely room to move. But they knew that the effort was necessary because of the acoustics—a word with almost magic properties on the building site.

Site manager Peter Kunze had been very keen to get the Gewandhaus project. Not because he is a great concertgoer: "I knew the name Masur, of course, and it is no secret that the Gewandhaus Orchestra travels a lot, but where I'm concerned there was little else... The real reason behind my eagerness was the tempting task of shutting the last gap on Karl Marx Square." He calls this Square the building site of his life. When describing the atmosphere which prevailed while building the New Gewandhaus Peter Kunze will not fail to mention the development of cordial, even friendly, relations with the future masters of the building, a fact that was unexpected for many of the building workers.

The Orchestra sent the building workers a postcard greeting from each of its tours,

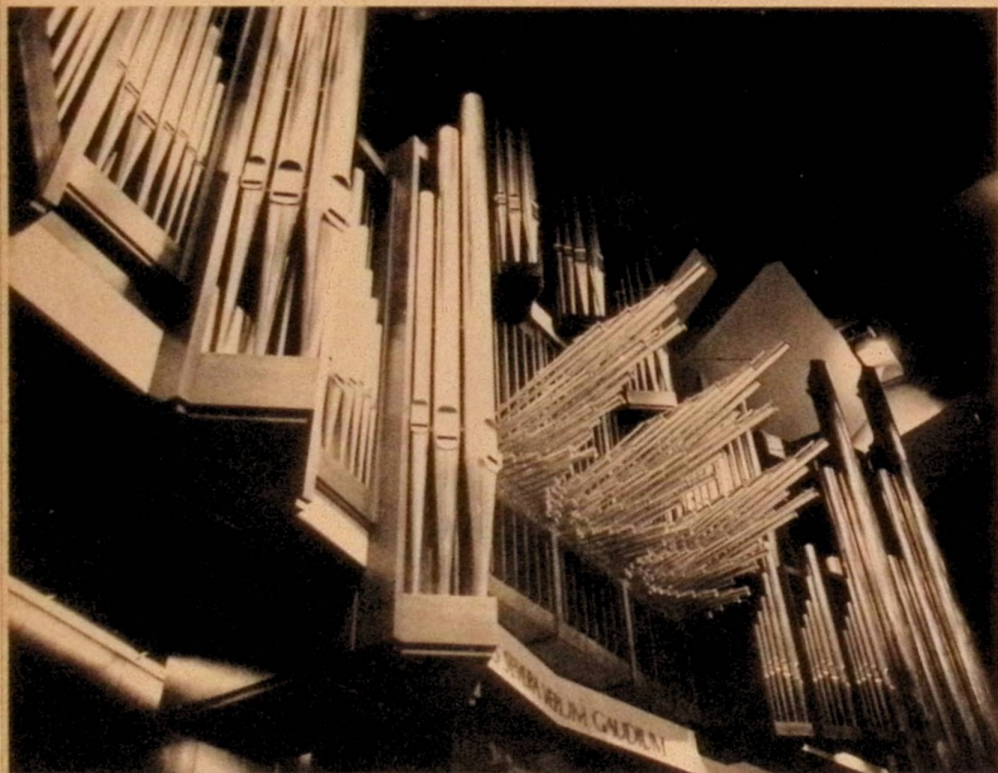
The Great Hall—the core of the New Gewandhaus. It has the classical form of an amphitheatre, seats 1,900 people and the maximum distance from conductor's stand to the highest seat is only 32 metres. The polygonal shape of the hall with its steeply rising circles, the structure of the walls, the wine-red covers of the seats and the organ on the facing wall all give a very particular atmosphere.





The famous Beethoven statue made by Max Klinger in 1902 stands in the entrance foyer to the Small Hall.

The crowning glory of the Great Hall—the concert organ. It has 89 stops and 6,638 pipes and is the largest organ ever built by Messis Schuke of Potsdam. Characteristic are the asymmetrical front and the horizontal trumpets which reach out into the auditorium. Both builders and organists have named it a "dream organ".



The foyer houses the Gewandhaus Gallery in which fifteen artists from the GDR have hung works documenting their relationship to music.

Our photo on the left shows a panel painting by the Berlin artist Heidrun Hege-ward.





The famous violinist Yehudi Menuhin, seen here talking with Professor Kurt Masur, played with the Gewandhaus Orchestra during the 1981 Autumn Trade Fair and visited the new building shortly before its completion. "One can feel that the architect had a feeling for art, for music," he said. "The people who designed this building are true artists. I think it one of the most beautiful of its kind in the world, and feel it to be a 'temple of music.'" Yehudi Menuhin hopes that he will soon have the pleasure of playing in the Gewandhaus himself soon.



Gewandhaus Festivals

In the few months that have passed since the opening of the New Gewandhaus triumphs have been celebrated within its walls: prominent soloists and orchestras from many countries have given guest performances, the works of GDR composers have been premiered, organ and chamber music concerts have been arranged. To mark the anniversary "Two Centuries of Gewandhaus Concerts" festivals for the leading orchestras of the world have been inaugurated; these will be mounted every two years. From November 27 until December 4, 1981 the following orchestras gave concerts to commemorate the work of Robert Schumann (1810-1856): the Berlin Philharmonists (West Berlin) under Herbert von Karajan, the Yomiuri Nippon Symphony Orchestra from Tokyo, the State Academic Symphony Orchestra of the Soviet Union, the Dresden Staatskapelle.

During the "International Orchestra" Festival arranged by the Gewandhaus the Berlin Philharmonists (West Berlin) conducted by Herbert von Karajan received thunderous ovations in the new concert hall.



also posters and newspaper clips of reviews. Gradually the workers grew interested and evinced a certain pride in "their" Orchestra. Meanwhile both sides had got to know each other much better and they made it a custom that the Orchestra's brass and wood-wind group played on festive occasions: in an uncompleted part of the building or in one of the huts. On May Day the musicians and building workers marched together in the demonstration—and this was more than a mere gesture. At a barbecue that followed a May Day celebration one of the builders asked Kurt Masur: "Well, Professor, what is your trade?" Some of those nearby who heard this stiffened with embarrassment. However, Professor Masur was at no loss for an answer: "Electrician." Reason enough for all present to drink his health.

This cordial relationship with Professor Kurt Masur stemmed from the fact that he was on the building site as often as he could and that he found the time to speak with the workers. He knew many of them by their nicknames. Neither did he fail to participate in a voluntary labour stint on a Saturday, and he took his place in the queue for a bowl of pea soup from the field kitchen. He also visited the site at night when difficult concrete work had to be carried through. "We musicians were resolved to share the responsibility for this building," he said, "and when I knew that a difficult situation had to be mastered I found no peace at home."

In the long run there was little difference if the site manager or the "Gaffer"—as Professor Masur was affectionately called—was around. The workers told the conductor what prevented them from getting on with their work and knew that their problems were in good hands. Very often the Professor was to be seen clapping his hands, shouting or whistling in the half-finished Great Hall. He was impatient: would the acoustics be up to the mark? Of course, he trusted the experts from the building academy and their test results gained on a 1:20 scale model, but was there not a saying that good acoustics are also a matter of luck?

The best seats for the building workers

It goes without saying that the musicians wanted to introduce the building workers to classical music and in pursuing this aim they resorted to a trick or two. On special occasions and birthdays, for example, they presented them with records of classical music. Professor Kurt Masur told us of a worker who passed on the first record he was given to his niece who, as he said, was fond of such music. The second record he listened to first, just out of curiosity he said, and in the meantime he has become a collector of records. This might be

Professor Kurt Masur, the conductor of the Gewandhaus Orchestra. He has led the orchestra since 1971 and is today honoured throughout the world as the representative of the cultural achievements of the socialist German state. Professor Masur holds a worthy place in the long line of renowned Gewandhaus conductors like Felix Mendelssohn who was closely linked with the "first" Gewandhaus from 1835 until 1847, and Arthur Nikisch who achieved fame from 1895 till 1922, the greatest period of the "second" Gewandhaus.

Photos: Carla Arnold (5), Barbara Stroff (3)

an exception, of course, but many of the building workers did attend orchestra rehearsals and some, for the first time in their lives, a concert, listening, for example, to Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* on New Year's Eve. The Gewandhaus Orchestra has revived the tradition of performing concerts for workers initiated in 1918 by its merited conductor Arthur Nikisch.

"It was this which caused me to buy a subscription ticket," we were told by foreman Friedrich. And he was by no means the only one: in all, the building workers took out 230 subscription tickets. Four years ago nobody would have thought this possible. Admittedly, not all of them have immediately become great music lovers. But since they constructed the Gewandhaus they also want to reap some of the fruits of their labours. Some consider their former neglect of classical music as a gap in their education; others had wanted a subscription from the very beginning.

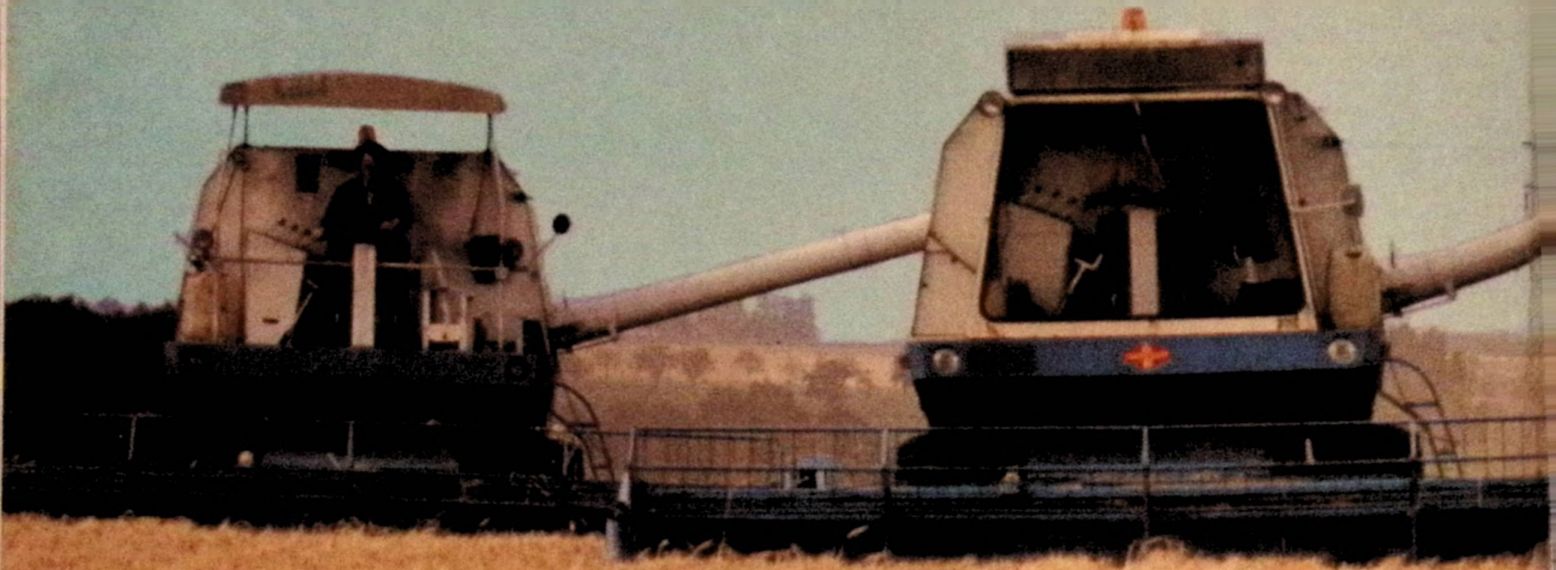
Now the building is completed. Asked for the most moving moment the building workers referred to the acoustics test. Brigade leader Otto Rutzky recalled: "I was sitting in the front row together with foreman Friedrich, the Professor was conducting. Suddenly he stopped and, turning round, he said: 'Excellent, I believe we are the world champions!'"

Even the most hardened building workers were moved to see their "Gaffer" beside himself with joy, and the musicians, who know concert halls in all parts of the world, overcome with pleasure at taking possession of such a building.

Speaking about the New Gewandhaus Professor Kurt Masur said: "From the point of acoustics it is unusual that both a string quartet and the majestic sound of an organ take full effect in one and the same hall. We are exceedingly grateful to the large ensemble of building workers that has done such excellent work. We consider this building as a gift to all of us and we are resolved to take care of it and honour all efforts through good performances."



Text: Jürgen Nowak, Hans Schulze



Dialogue

GDR REVIEW READERS QUESTION



The “World Peace”
Work Brigade ➤

In the name of the work brigade the questions were answered by Marianne Neitsch, Ruth Simon, Karl-Heinz Fischer, Reinfried Friebe and Hartmut Hohlfeld.

About the relationship between men and women

— Why are there so few women in your work brigade? Is the work too heavy for women or is it just unpopular among them?

Ruth Simon: That has something to do with the type of work our turners do, it is too heavy for us women. And only one tool grinder is needed for each shift just as only one tool storekeeper.

Marianne Neitsch: Earlier on before we started making harvesters there were only small items to be turned, for the straw baler, for instance. But today the parts needed for our harvesters are far too heavy for us; that is why there are only men operating the lathes here. But in the meantime the work has become lighter for them, too, since cranes have been in use in the workshop.

— How do you feel among all the men?

Marianne Neitsch: We get along well with them and are on very friendly terms. With the younger ones as well.

Ruth Simon: Oh yes, we get along very well with "our" men. If I have to change a grinding wheel I can always get one of them to come and give me a hand.

— Do you feel yourselves to be discriminated against in any way?

Ruth Simon: In no way whatever.

Marianne Neitsch: No.

— Have the women in the work brigade the more "menial" jobs, those for which less is paid as a rule?

Ruth Simon: Our work is just as important as that of the turner. As we do not receive performance pay, however, we do not get quite the same pay as the men. The basic wage is, of course, the same, we get no performance increment, that's all.

Marianne Neitsch: The night shift allowance is the same for all of us.

— What is the work of a grinding machine operator? What training did you have for this work?

Ruth Simon: Originally I trained as fitter and afterwards took a qualification course as machine-tool grinder. Here I am responsible for keeping the tools used by the

turners sharp and in good trim. If I do not do my work properly the turners cannot do theirs either. That keeps you on your toes.

— Do you think that there is a "stronger" and a "weaker" sex? What do you think about the position of men in society and that of women in the world of work or the home? Is there still any prejudice in this respect in your immediate surroundings?

Ruth Simon: A "stronger" and a "weaker" sex—no, there's nothing like that here. Perhaps only in the sense that not all vocations or jobs are suitable for women on account of the health hazard they present. But apart from that women here contribute as much in the social sphere as they do at work. And with regard to the home—well, the men should have just as many duties as the women.

Marianne Neitsch: Exceptions, that is, people with prejudices do exist here and there. But this old way of thinking is being cut back more and more.

— Frau Neitsch, is there equality between the women and the men within the work brigade?

Marianne Neitsch: The women have the same rights as the men, and also the same duties. Our pay, equal wages for equal work, is clear. We are not discriminated against in favour of the men.

— Assuming that the relationship between men and women workers is at an optimum would the men work as cleaners and the women as lathe operators?

Marianne Neitsch: No, the majority of the men would not do that. At least we cannot imagine them doing it. They would probably regard it as a slight to their "men's honour". But there are already exceptions here; in our factory, for example, we have two men who work as cleaners.

Ruth Simon: And women lathe operators? You'll find them in lots of factories in our country. But as we have already said the work in our department is too heavy for them.

— Does the widespread opinion still exist in your country that it is more difficult for a woman to take over a leading position such as a factory director or trade union official?

Marianne Neitsch: No, that opinion does not exist. Anybody with the knowledge and capabilities can take on such a position—whether women or a man. The opportunities are equally open to both.

Ruth Simon: That's what I would say, too. But I would like to add that the woman needs a partner who plays his part and does not, as often used to be the case, leave the whole of the household and the looking after of the children to his wife.

— Do you think, Frau Neitsch, that you would be just as much accepted as work brigade leader as a man?

Marianne Neitsch: Why not? Here in the factory, though, there are no women work brigade leaders because of the heavy work. But there are lots in other branches of industry. If she has the post a woman is accepted.

— Does your age have any bearing on the way your work is judged?

Marianne Neitsch: Age has nothing whatever to do with it.

Ruth Simon: A young and pretty face can affect a person's judgement sometimes but here at work the only things that count are capability and results.

— What does the socialist emulation contest mean to you Frau Neitsch?

That it is up to me! That everything in my stores is where it should be, the drawings, the callipers and everything else, so that the turners can get on with their work and fulfil the targets set out in the contest programme. And our brigade has made for itself a name of which I am quite proud. There's also something else. "Socialist emulation contest"—for me this also means celebrations with the whole collective, getting to know each other better outside the sphere of work.

— What do the women in the brigade think of working in three shifts? Are the night shifts difficult and detrimental to family life?

Ruth Simon: I've not been working shifts for two years now. But when I do think back to that time then I must say that it wasn't always easy. At home my husband and I shared out the work between us. When I got home from night shift I got the children ready for school and then went to bed.

Marianne Neitsch: I've been doing shift work for all of twelve years, the last three with a night shift as well. Things at home run pretty well. Our children are already grown up and my husband works here in the factory, we always have the same shift. We were able to arrange this and family life does not suffer in any way. Night shift is a bit strenuous—but nevertheless, I want to carry on for as long as I can because I like my work.

— Is a mother who only looks after her home and children just as much respected as a working woman?

Ruth Simon: Today nearly all the women here go out to work and there is seldom any difference made.

Marianne Neitsch: That's pretty seldom these days. And what if a woman doesn't go out to work? Actually it is only a question of what a woman does in the family or

in a factory; this is the criterion on which she is judged.

— Is there any financial aid to help bring up the children?

Ruth Simon: Yes, there is. For the first child the mother or the father, receives a monthly allowance of 20 marks, for the second 20 marks, for the third child as well as those born later, 100 marks.

— What facilities are provided for the care of children of working mothers?

Ruth Simon: I have three children. My youngest is nine, the next—our daughter—is eleven and then we have a twelve-year-old son. The youngest attends the after-school club where he can have a midday meal, a rest and do his homework. The two elder ones go home after school—they are pretty independent these days. If their parents want them to children between the ages of three and six can go to kindergarten. Those under three can go to a creche. Here, though, there are too few places and the demand still cannot be met.

— What provisions are there for women who have had a baby?

Ruth Simon: First of all there are the regular examinations during pregnancy. Then there is attendance at the post-natal centre. We receive our average wages for the whole of our twenty-six week maternity leave which consists of six weeks before and twenty weeks after the birth. In the case of the first child the mother can, if she wishes, take an unpaid release until the baby's first birthday, without losing her workplace. From a second child on she can also remain at home until the child's first birthday without losing her workplace, for this time though she receives ninety per cent of her average wage. The state pays a grant of 1,000 marks at the birth of each child.

— Is there a "women's problem" in the GDR?

Marianne Neitsch: A "women's problem"—no. As we have already said we enjoy equality, have equal pay for equal work, our children grow up healthy and well looked after and women's position in society is a good one. Why should there be any problem in being a woman?

Socialism— Dictatorship or paradise?

— Are you of the opinion that a small group of professional politicians should make decisions while the task of the work brigade should be to put these decisions into practice through hard work?

The decisions which we have to put into practice as workers in the brigade are those which we also helped to decide on. This

we have often referred to when answering other questions. There are no professional politicians with a direct reference to the brigade. But with reference to the GDR as a whole there are, of course, for without them the leadership of the state would not be able to function.

— Here in our country it is often said that socialism is a synonym for dictatorship. What is the best answer to this piece of calumny?

Reinfried Friebe: We live well here and taking things by and large are satisfied. The dictatorship of the proletariat is not something that directs itself against us, just the contrary in fact.

Hartmut Hohlfeld: When a workers' and farmers' state exists then this fact alone means that it can only be of benefit to the working class as a whole.

— What do the members of the brigade think about the dictatorship of the proletariat and how do they experience its effects in their day to day work?

The dictatorship of the proletariat as we understand it is the policy that is followed in our country; a policy of the working class for the working class. And we experience this dictatorship of the working class every day, in the social-welfare policy that benefits us workers, for example, and also in the security of our jobs.

— What is the attitude of the young workers towards their state, after all they only know socialist society? How do they help exercise state power?

Reinfried Friebe: In general the attitude is a positive one. Of course we find mistakes now and again. We haven't personally experienced the capitalist countries, that's true, but when we do see or hear something from that other world then to start with it is often just the gleaming exterior and we are, of course, impressed—but if one takes a look behind the facade then one is horrified at all the things it hides. My attitude towards our state is to be found in the fact that I do my work well.

Hartmut Hohlfeld: Doing one's work properly, that is the most important thing of all. Yes, I think that is the best way of helping our state. In the place I live at I am also active in the National Front working for my state as an intermediary between the inhabitants and the village council.

— Is the GDR a paradise?

Reinfried Friebe: No, the GDR is not a paradise.

Hartmut Hohlfeld: A paradise is not to be found anywhere in the world.

— What are your daily worries?

Reinfried Friebe: Mm, supplies are not

always what they should be. Sometimes you have to queue up for things which are in short supply—partly because here in our country nearly everybody can afford to buy nearly everything.

Karl-Heinz Fischer: The indifference with which some people do their work makes me go up the wall now and again.

— What would you want to change in your way of life?

Karl-Heinz Fischer: That I stop smoking at long last.

Reinfried Friebe: I'd like to get rid of my uneven temper—and my tummy. But with my appetite and my thirst there's not much I can do. Apart from that I'm pretty satisfied.

Hartmut Hohlfeld: Change my way of life? Actually I've no intention of doing so. I know of no reason why I should. As we are building our house I've got all the variety I need for the present.

— What does the brigade think about the "Berlin Wall"? Do you think it is still necessary or not?

We are of the opinion that it is still necessary.

— Have you the right to express your political opinions?

Isn't that exactly what we are doing right now? Everybody has that right at all times. It's a question of how, of course. We are not going to allow fascist slogans or defamations of socialism to be spread here.

— Do you, as a rule, usually have the same opinions?

No, there would be no need for discussion if we did. And even we do not always arrive at a common denominator; life would not be interesting if we did.

— Is use made of the opportunity to practise religion freely?

Yes, it is. In our brigade, too: one of our members is a churchgoer, for example.

— Do you, as a worker in a workers' state, study Marxism-Leninism? Do you also apply it in practice?

Reinfried Friebe: We learn a lot about the foundations of Marxism-Leninism at school and during our trade training. To apply it practically today means for us keeping abreast of topical political events in the papers, on the radio and TV, discussing the things we have seen and heard, forming an opinion and then acting accordingly.

— Is there in your brigade a workers' control as proposed by Lenin? Are there workers' controls in other branches of industry?

In the brigade itself there is not. But in our department we have a worker controller. He sees to it, for example, that the laws

and regulations are observed; that material is not wasted; that reserves in the production process are opened up and that the hints of his workmates in this direction are acted upon. His work is voluntary and he acts in cooperation with the Workers' and Farmers' Inspectorate which is the overall controlling socio-state body in our area.

– Are the workers in the GDR aware that they have matured more rapidly than the workers in conservative countries? Do they know, through comparisons, what helped them mature more rapidly and assume a higher measure of political and social responsibility?

Reinfried Friebe: More rapidly matured... To be quite honest, I wasn't really quite aware of the fact because I don't know things any other way and also because I have no direct comparisons with other nations.

Karl-Heinz Fischer: I can well believe that the working people of our republic have gone through a considerable maturing process; that in the course of the years more and more of them have learned to make more and more use of their rights and duties in order to exercise their responsibilities in the political and social spheres.

– What is your main ideal or your main responsibility in your nation?

Reinfried Friebe: To do a decent job of work.

Karl-Heinz Fischer: Yes, that's what I want to do, too; for the benefit of the people of our country and for the solidarity of our country with those peoples who are fighting for their liberation. For peace in the whole of the world. Peace is of the greatest importance so that we can live our lives undisturbed and so that everything which we have created up till now will not be destroyed through war.

A chapter on economics

– How can the state keep its budget balanced in the present economic situation in the world?

The budget of the GDR is published in the biggest newspapers of our republic every year. The figures show that it is balanced. For us it is not a problem of coming to terms with an indebtedness of the state. Our problem is to increase the income of our state. Then we can spend more. The main source of income is the profit accruing from the nationally-owned sector of industry, that is to say, from our work.

– What do things look like with regard to the indebtedness of the family and the state?

Karl-Heinz Fischer: Here no family is indebted to the extent of being utterly

"down and out". Loans and credits may be obtained at favourable conditions: to build a house or undertake property improvements, for example.

Hartmut Hohlfeld: This is where I come in. I took out a loan of 34,000 marks to be able to convert an old building into a house for us. The monthly repayment of one tenth per cent on the capital and one tenth per cent interest, which I have made a standing order on my bank account, amounts to 68 marks. That, incidentally, is just about the amount I would have to pay as rent.

Karl-Heinz Fischer: To the second part of the question. In the GDR there is no indebtedness on the part of the state. The reason for this is that because of its planned economy the state knows exactly what its income will be and is, therefore, not dependent on booms or tax estimates. For this reason it also knows what it can spend. And we spend no more than comes in. This principle has proved reliable for more than thirty years now.

– How can the government finance the aid it gives the country's social-welfare policy?

As a result of the plans being fulfilled. Every worker, we too, must do the best he can at his place of work. That part of the profit made by the nationally-owned sector of industry which is given over to the state comes into the "big cake" from which the funds for a social-welfare policy and other things is taken.

– How can the purchasing power be maintained when everywhere in the western world inflation is more than ten per cent?

Karl-Heinz Fischer: To start with—there is no inflation here in our republic. The net income of the population is increasing systematically. The goods available in the shops range from expensive long-life durables to low-priced articles which are subsidised, like children's clothing, for instance. And above all, the prices for necessities, for fares, for rent and so on, remain stable as they are subsidised by the state.

Reinfried Friebe: And these subsidies are going up. It's a pity that I haven't any examples to hand. Sometimes I read the exact figures in the papers and am surprised at just what does go into our "second pay packet" as we call it.

About contacts and views

– How much do you know about my homeland, Austria? Don't you also think that the cultural, economic and friendly links should be greatly increased in peace and through mutual understanding?

Reinfried Friebe: Relatively little, most of all in the field of sports.

Ruth Simon (left).

Marianne Neitsch (right).

Karl-Heinz Fischer: Like the reader I think that contacts in named areas should be increased. One road to this are talks like those State Council Chairman Erich Honecker had during his visit to Austria in 1980.

– What are your views on free enterprise?

The question says "free enterprise". We just call it plain and simple capitalism and don't think much of it because it is based on exploitation.

– Do you think that it is important to develop contacts with the working class in the capitalist countries?

Of course, alone because of the fact that the workers in the capitalist countries are our class brothers with whom we are linked by many joint interests.

– Can the members of the work brigade travel to foreign countries, including the capitalist countries? Have you contact with relatives in the FRG and can you visit each other?

To the socialist countries, yes; to the capitalist countries only in special compassionate family cases. This also applies to the FRG. But we do know, for instance, that the "Youth Tourist" travel agency arranges tours to capitalist countries. We have people working here in the factory who have relatives in the FRG and who are in contact with each other.

– Do any Chilean emigrants work at your factory?

No, not here in Singwitz but many Chilean emigrants have found a temporary second homeland in the GDR.

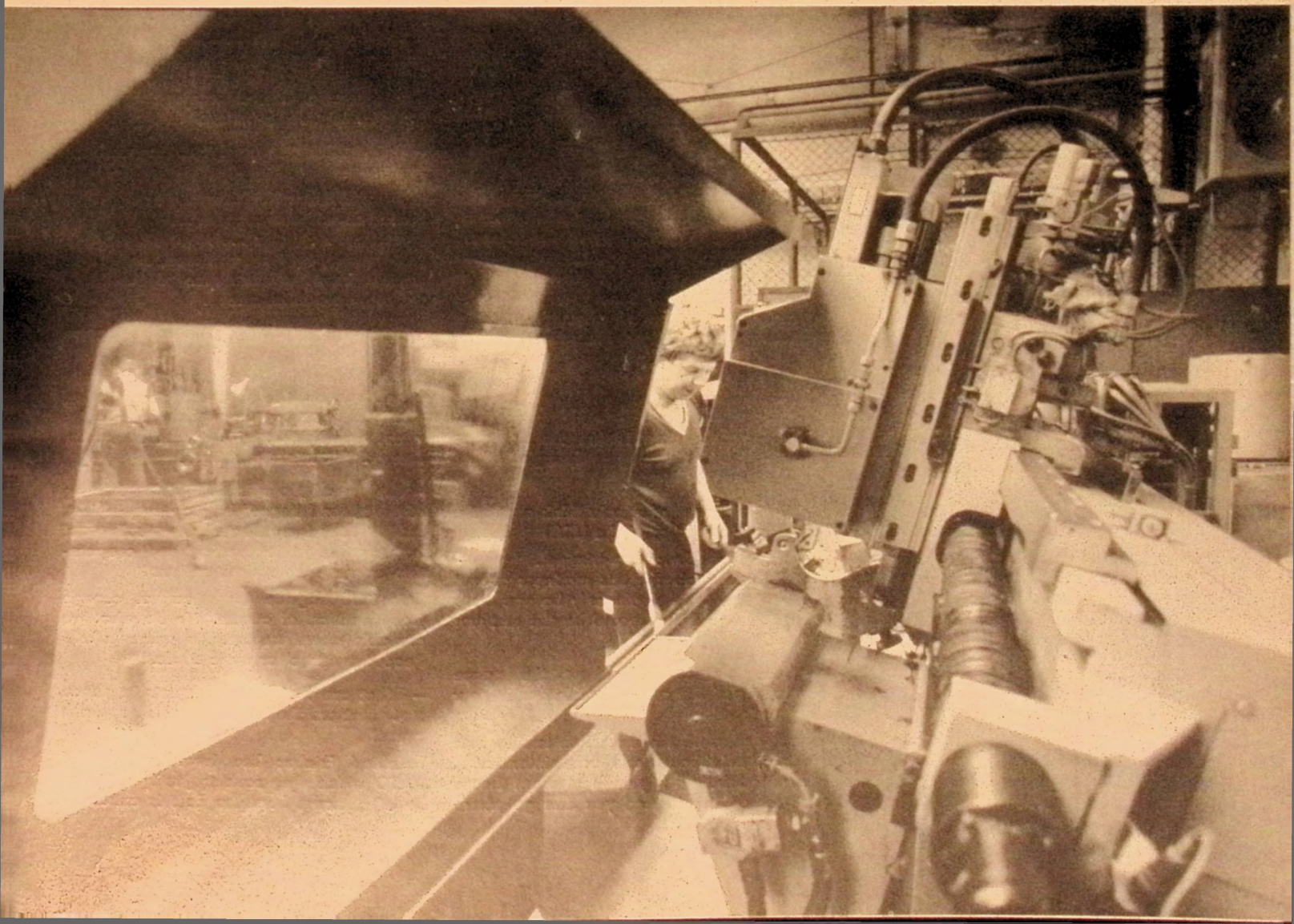
We are not unpolitical

– The majority of the workers in the "World Peace" work brigade do not belong to any political party. Is this because they are not interested in politics?

Karl-Heinz Fischer: I do not have to be a member of the SED to have an interest in politics, to support our state. Even without being a member of a political party I can have a positive attitude towards our state and can commit myself politically to it. Membership in a political party is completely voluntary.

Hartmut Hohlfeld: That is my opinion too.

Reinfried Friebe operates out of the modern numerically-controlled machine.



I do not have to be a member of a party to work and act in its spirit; and that's just what I do.

Reinfried Friebe: It certainly cannot be said that we are unpolitical. Well, with regard to me personally it is perhaps a bit of laziness.

— The majority of you are not members of a party although you are all union members. Do you think that active trade union work should be kept separate from political work?

We understand trade union work to be active political work.

— Do your ideals stand in contradiction to those of a party member?

We work hand in hand. There can be no talk whatever of a contradiction.

— When and where do you discuss such questions as peace or the deployment of US missiles in western Europe?

During breaks, at trade union meetings. We are certainly not unpolitical and disinterested in questions like those named. We talk about them a lot. One thing is clear, nothing moves without politics. Everybody who does his work properly is acting politically.

— Have the members of the SED any privileges?

No, they have not.

— In what mass organisations are you active?

The members of our brigade? Well, there are differences. In the trade union, the German-Soviet Friendship Society, the Gymnastics and Sports Federation, and our women members are active in the Democratic Women's Federation.

— Are there within your brigade people who are members of parties other than the SED?

No, there are not.

— Does one have to be a declared communist to be a member of a work brigade?

No, you don't have to be.

— What do you think about the events in Poland?

Hartmut Hohlfeld: The advance of the counter-revolution in Poland caused us a lot of uneasiness. It was indeed high time that strict measures were introduced there to save the country from an even worse situation and to bring about peace and quiet.

Reinfried Friebe: From the very start we had little understanding for the strikes in Poland. The example of Poland has shown that in socialism the workers can only harm themselves with such actions.

Karl-Heinz Fischer: We openly declare our solidarity with the Polish patriots who are taking a stand for the defence of the achievements of their country and for the defence of socialism in Poland.

Our name— declaration and commitment

— From the brigade's name "World Peace" I take it that it is politically committed to peace. What actions does it undertake for peace, detente and disarmament? Are these initiatives something regular? What form do they take at work and in the residential area?

Karl-Heinz Fischer: Demonstrations for peace in the sense of those in capitalism to influence or make the government change its mind are superfluous here. But people here do demonstrate in the streets to protest at the mad policy of arming pursued by NATO. In our factory, just as in others, meetings, which are also attended by our brigade, are held when the situation calls for it.

Hartmut Hohlfeld: In the area where I live I have collected signatures against the stationing of medium-range missiles in Western Europe and against the construction of the neutron bomb.

— Why such exuberant names like "May 1st", "Fraternity with the Soviet Union", "World Peace" for the work brigades?

Hartmut Hohlfeld: The giving of a name is a declaration of intent to commit oneself. We gave ourselves the name "World Peace" on World Peace Day in 1971.

Karl-Heinz Fischer: It is also possible for a collective that has done good work to be awarded the name of a politician or a resistance fighter, for example. It is an honour for a brigade to bear a name like "Ernst Thälmann".

— How do you see world peace today?

Karl-Heinz Fischer: It is threatened, threatened in the highest degree through NATO's forced arming.

— What does your brigade think about the fanatical war policy of the USA?

Karl-Heinz Fischer: It is criminal.

Reinfried Friebe: If this madness cannot be stopped there would only be one more world war—and that would be the last war of all!

— Do you also talk about the peace initiatives of the socialist countries in your leisure time?

Yes, of course. At home, when talking with friends, neighbours and acquaintances... There is hardly a big political event that is not talked about. And you can go where

you like. The wish and the necessity of talking about these things has increased. The situation in the world has become more aggravated...

— Has it never been the socialist countries which have taken the initiative in the development of new weapons?

Hartmut Hohlfeld: You need only look at the statistics on the development of modern weapons of mass destruction: the first atom bomb and the first hydrogen bomb were made by the USA. And who is now building the first neutron bomb?

Karl-Heinz Fischer: The socialist countries are forced to develop counter-measures to maintain their own defence capability. But we would like it a lot better if we could use the money for other things. Here in the GDR nobody makes any profit at all from arms.

— Is money for the liberation movement collected in the brigade? When yes, for which countries?

Karl-Heinz Fischer: Yes, we donate a sum equivalent to 22 per cent of our monthly union dues; that's a round three marks. This sum is transferred directly to the GDR's Solidarity Fund. The Solidarity Committee decides—in the spirit of the donor—how this money is to be divided up. Over and above this we also collect money for some countries in cases of immediate urgency.

— Do you find it normal that people have to carry weapons?

Reinfried Friebe: Normal would be for mankind to do without weapons...

Hartmut Hohlfeld: ...but if we want to protect what we have achieved, such as at present from the arms race of the West, we, too, have to be armed.

— Do you know what happened in Europe forty years ago?

Those of us sitting here did not personally experience, or at least not consciously, that era. But we have heard and read a lot about it at school, from our parents, from newspapers, books and films.

— Are you of the opinion that the forming of the "World Peace" brigade has, in fact, led to an increase in the feeling of fraternity, of understanding and cooperation between the various nations?

Our work brigade alone cannot change world politics, of course. We do what we are able where we are. The name "World Peace" makes clear our attitude.

— What are the greatest threats to peace and what are the forces on which one can count?

Reinfried Friebe: The forced arming of NATO which they seek to justify with the lie of a threat from the East is extremely

dangerous for both Europe and the world. The deployment of medium-range missiles in western Europe is irresponsible.

The forces on which we can count are all those people who actively champion the cause of peace wherever they live.

— How do you assess the efforts of the peace movement of the West to prevent a new stage in the nuclear escalation?

Karl-Heinz Fischer: We have a great respect for what the peace-loving people do in the way of activities. Because they work under difficult conditions and partly —as we can often read and hear in the mass media here—because it has consequences for their jobs and also because their activities call for much personal sacrifice. We are convinced that in the end it will be impossible to ignore the demands of this movement, which is becoming broader and broader.

Petra Siemon and Brigitte Thal took down the answers.
Carla Arnold and Günter Ackermann took the photographs.

These and other readers posed the questions:

D. W. Hincks, Adelaide; Bev. Hall, Modbury Hts (Australia)—Ejilf Andersen, Hillerød; Hugo Fogh, Nibe; Henrik Ploug, Skovlunde; Arne Dahl, Copenhagen (Denmark)—Alpo Uski, Ylinen; Tapio Alanko, Pori; Saimi Itkonen, Vaasa; Erkki Salonen, Nokia (Finland)—René Cordelier, Mantes (France)—Jonathan Gordon Till, Bingley; P. A. Harris, Cowes; Geoffrey Knowles, Heckmondwike (Great Britain)—Aldino Ferrari, Limidi di Soliera; Moria Lovison, Cozzola; Piezro Rossi, Livorno; Desiderio Cavallini, Correggio; Gustavo e Silvia Saurin, Vigevano; Gabriella Andi, Genoa; Ercole Mazzocari, Brescia; Antonina Blunno, Turin; Antonio Lista, Limbiate; Fabio Baldini, Florence; Walter Torrente, Massa (Italy)—Dianne Cooling, Toronto (Canada)—Otto Erlach, Sandl-Kohlstatt (Austria)—Stig Emanuelsson, Valberg; Göte Fransson, Tingsryd; Magnus Nilsson, Vagnhärad; Gunnar Paulsson, Helsingborg; Olle Atteskär, Bandhogen (Sweden)—Johann Rott, St. Gallen; Hanspeter Kessler, St. Moritz (Switzerland)—Harolyn Schultz, Faribault; Perry Speer Huntoon, Houston; Nell Elperin, Hyde Park (USA)

Dear Readers,

With this, the fifth instalment of our DIALOGUE, the "World Peace" work brigade take their leave of you. But before doing so they would like to thank you very much indeed for the many letters they have received hoping that they have given understandable answers to your many questions.

As it is obvious that there is general interest in the life of people here in the GDR we have decided to give you the opportunity of joining in another DIALOGUE later on in the year when we shall again be introducing you to people from our country to whom you can put your questions.

The Editor, GDR Review





An Alliance For Progress

On socialist planned economy in the GDR

IN THE German Democratic Republic economic questions concern the whole people because it is generally known here that only good work will take us forward. We are also aware of the fact that our policy directed towards the well-being of our people and the safeguarding of peace requires a constantly rising economic output.

Eloquent proof of this was provided during the elaboration of the 1981-1985 Five Year Plan and the National Economic Plan for 1982: more than 90 per cent of our working people participated in their work brigades in the discussions of the draft plans and put forward their proposals.

These plans are plans of economic growth, stability and national prosperity, a fact which is underlined by the planned development of the national income. By 1985 it is to be 28 per cent more than in 1980. This means that the previous pace of development will not only be kept but even exceeded. The cornerstones to achieve this objective are an increase of production in industry by 31 per cent and in the building trade by 18 per cent as well as a considerable rise in agricultural yields where grain production is to reach 10.4 million tonnes. At the same time the plan provides for a six-per-cent cut in the consumption of important energy carriers, raw and other materials annually.

Growing efficiency in all branches of our national economy is the precondition for the continuation of our social welfare policy. It is planned to build or modernise 940,000 homes for about 2.8 million citizens in the current five-year-plan period. In 1982 approximately 18,800 million marks are to be spent on the health and social-welfare system and the social insurance scheme. Another 21,200 million marks will be used to subsidise stable prices for basic goods and services for the population.

In view of the complicated situation on the world market, the worsening crisis in the capitalist countries with their growing unemployment and inflation rates as well as declining output figures and cuts in social services, some people may wonder whether the GDR has placed its stakes too high and whether its plans are but wishful thinking. However, the targets envisaged in

these plans are real enough because the GDR has three major preconditions for their implementation at its disposal:

1. All plans and measures bear the hand of the working population, who scrutinised and discussed them as well as making proposals for their implementation. The citizens of our republic are in complete agreement with these projects because they correspond with their interests and with the help of this force we will succeed in mastering even the most complicated tasks.

2. In order to guarantee the economic development agreed upon by the Tenth Congress of the SED the leadership of our working-class party and our government had to take far-reaching and important decisions with due regard to the international situation and the problems arising from the international division of labour. A great deal of careful thought, which has proved worthwhile, was necessary. The economic successes achieved since the SED's Tenth Congress—for example, a favourable balance of trade despite the fiercest competition on the international market—testifies to the fact that in the planning and management of economic processes the GDR has found ways and methods which best meet the complicated conditions of foreign trade and its own economic potentials.

3. In the implementation of its economic strategy the GDR can rely on close co-operation with the Soviet Union. This is of particular value with regard to the provision of low-priced crude oil and the utilisation of the Soviet scientific-technological potential.

All these things are important and favourable starting positions which, however, have to be translated into practice. The Third Session of the SED's Central Committee pointed out that we have only just begun to adapt the GDR's economy to the requirements of the nineteen-eighties and much remains to be done. The initiative and creative power of every individual of our society will be necessary to solve this problem. But those who know the working people of our country will also know that they are already tackling this task with energy and commitment.

Photo: Gerhard Hammer

Kaleidoscope

Cultural Notes

They met in Leipzig at the opening of the Bach Festival. Professor Werner Felix, general-director of the Bach Research and Memorial Centre in the GDR; Professor Hans Pischner, chairman of the New Bach Society—who also delivered the opening address; and Dr Kummer of Graz, musicologist (from right to left).



International Bach Festival in Leipzig

The 30 events of the GDR's Fourth International Bach Festival and the 56th Festival of the New Bach Society last December attracted about 20,000 music lovers from home and abroad. They made use of the opportunity to listen to the interpretation of Bach works by musicians from 11 countries and West Berlin. The performance of Johann Sebastian Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* in Leipzig's St. Thomas Church was conducted by Prof. Hans-Joachim Rotzsch, who is choirmaster of the Thomaner boys choir. Climax of the Bach Festival was, however, the production of his *B minor Mass* in the Great Hall of the New Gewandhaus.



One of the places in Leipzig where Johann Sebastian Bach played and worked is the Nikolai Church. Among the ensembles playing and singing in the church which has been carefully restored were the "Favorit" Ensemble from Leipzig and the "Capellchor".

Theatre anniversary

Last November the Meiningen theatre (photo) celebrated its 150th anniversary. The occasion was marked by a one-week theatre festival which met with broad interest. In the course of its history the theatre has made a significant impact on the development of the German theatre. It is the travelling years from 1874 until 1890 which are particularly noteworthy because they heralded an especially productive period and made the theatre known throughout Europe, from Moscow to London. The Meiningen company possesses historically valuable properties and scenery some of which is stored in the theatre building itself and partly in the town's State Museum. These include the historic décor of Schiller's play *Wallenstein's Camp* dating back to 1908/09 (photo). Today the well-known theatre whose company wants to live up to its reputation presents about 410 operatic and drama performances annually.



Environmental protection

These young scientific workers from four continents are at present attending a ten-month study course at Dresden's Technical University in order to inform themselves about methods of environmental protection. An excursion took the chemists, biologists and geographers to the Vesser Valley, a nature reserve in the south of the GDR listed by UNESCO as a biosphere reservation.



Guest students

These two young men from Algeria and their fellow student from the GDR are elaborating a new method for the high precision measuring of the inner cone of workpieces. This is part and parcel of the practice-related instruction given at the Breitenbrunn Technical School in Karl-Marx-Stadt County which recently celebrated its 25th anniversary. So far students from 25 Asian, African and Latin American countries have completed courses in the subjects of technology, machine-tool engineering, textile machine engineering as well as maintenance and repair work.

Lifesaving swimming

This "hold" is a major component part of the instruction of lifesavers. Such courses have been set up for interested young people at Berlin's pioneers' palace. Among other things they will learn that in moments of danger a human being possesses a strength far above what he would under normal conditions. This means, for example, that the grasp of a drowning person might endanger the life of his rescuer. For this reason the perfect mastery of this technique is a vital precondition for a future lifesaver.



Barkhausen Medal for Japanese Scientists

During December 1981 many events were held in the GDR to mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of Heinrich Barkhausen (1881-1956). One of his services to the advancement of human knowledge was his early recognition of the opportunities offered by low-voltage engineering for technical development. Modern electronics, automatic and remote control engineering, precision measuring and cybernetics are but a few of the areas stemming from Barkhausen's basic research work and which would be unthinkable without his theories.

During the Barkhausen celebrations a number of GDR and foreign scientific workers were honoured with the Barkhausen Medal. Among those presented with the award by Professor Hans-Jaachim Böhme (right), Minister of Higher and Vocational Education, were Dr Shigeru Nakajima (left), president of the Barkhausen Club in Japan, and his compatriot Dr Harumasa Ito.

Art experience

In our country handicapped people are in no way excluded from artistic and cultural experiences. At the invitation of the Dresden State Art Collections' youth club pupils from the Heidepark school for physically handicapped children make regular art appreciation visits to the Picture Gallery in the Dresden Zwinger. Our photo was taken during a tour of the Old Masters Gallery.



Kaleidoscope

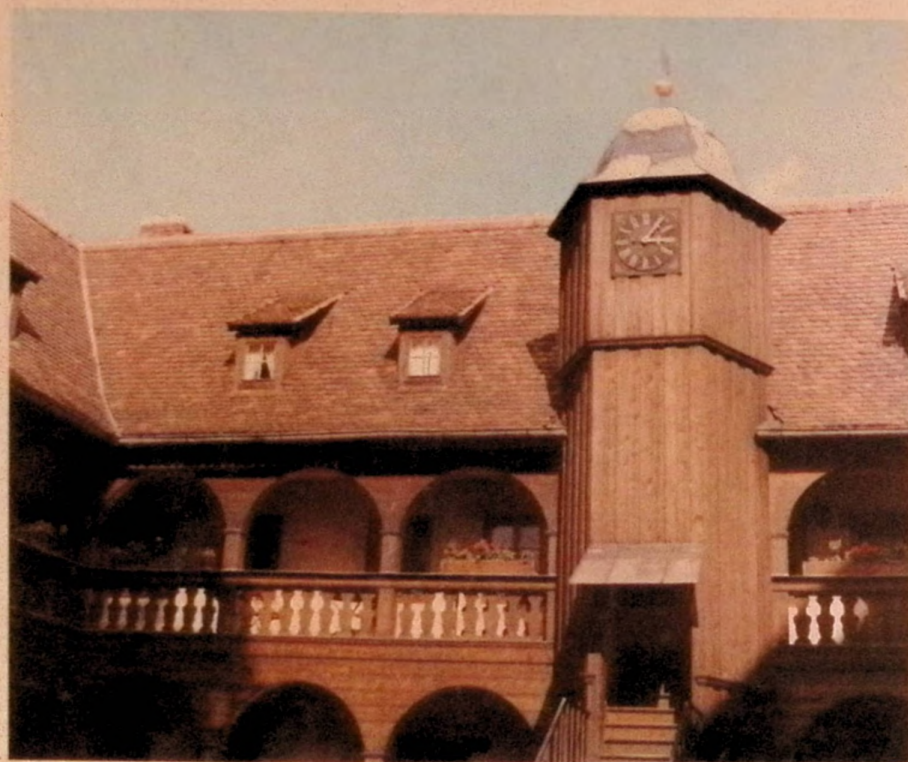
Introducing

Luther memorials in Erfurt

In preparation for the 500th anniversary of the birth of the great German Reformer Martin Luther next year comprehensive restoration and reconstruction work is being carried out at those places in the German Democratic Republic which are connected with his activities. These include several buildings in the town of Erfurt. From 1501 until 1505 Martin Luther read law at the town's university. Subsequently he joined the house of Augustinian Hermits where he studied theology and lived as a monk until 1508. In 1507 Luther was ordained as a priest in Erfurt's cathedral. The Augustinian monastery is one of the most important Luther memorials in the GDR. Large parts of this medieval building were badly damaged during American air raids towards the end of the Second World War. Other places bearing witness to Luther's activities in Erfurt include the St. Michaelis Church, the former university church, the former university church.

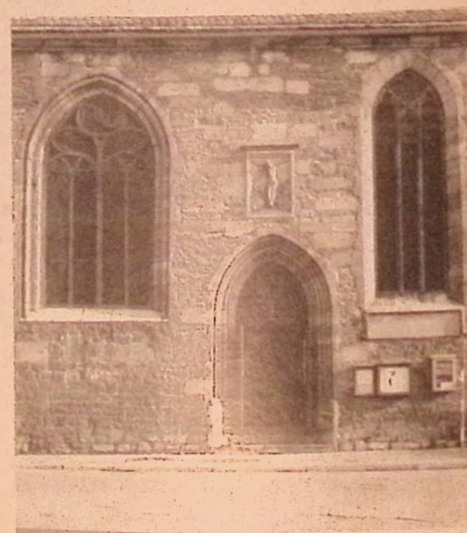


The Domplatz Square in Erfurt with the Cathedral and St. Severi Church.



The Renaissance courtyard of the Augustinian monastery.

The entrance gate of the St. Michaelis Church which served as the university's church during Luther's study years in the town.



More safety at sea

The first IMCO lifeboat built in the GDR is at present undergoing tests at Rechlin Shipyard on Lake Müritz. This self-righting boat which is completely watertight when closed meets all the demands made by the UN's Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organisation for the highest degree of safety at sea. A higher superstructure and a foamed polyester roof give the new boat a number of advantages over the glass-fibre polyester lifeboat that has been built in the GDR for the last fifteen years.



50,000th Ship In Rostock's Port

The 50,000th ship to moor in Rostock since the inauguration of its port in 1960 was welcomed last December. It was the 43,000 tonnes freighter *Chennai Ookkam* from Madras (India) which brought iron-ore to the GDR.

In the course of the past 21 years ships from 63 countries were cleared in the port and more than 208 million tonnes of cargo handled for the GDR's export trade as well as for numerous European transit customers.



Special training centre for the hard of hearing

This centre was opened in Ludwigslust, in the North of the GDR, at the beginning of last year. The young people sitting in a semicircle are apprentice gardeners in their first year of training; theoretical

knowledge is being taught with the help of a group hearing aid. Children attending the fourth to tenth forms as well as the budding gardeners, who come from all counties in the GDR, receive instruction at this up-to-date polytechnical secondary school for the hard of hearing.

Photos of the Kaleidoscope pages: ADN-Zentralbild (12), Klaus Schlage (3), Dieter Andree, Jürgen Bischof, Christoph Höhne. Editorial work: Brigitte Thal

Kaleidoscope

Sport



Ice star from Berlin

Fifteen-year-old Janina Wirth from the Dynamo Sport Club in Berlin won the junior world figure skating title at Oberstdorf in the FRG.



Athlete of the year

The traditional poll of the youth newspaper *Junge Welt* for the most popular GDR athlete in 1981 ended with Ute Geweniger, twofold Olympic winner and fivefold European champion in swimming, and Lothar Thoms, Olympic winner and fourfold world cycling champion, at the head of the list. The handball team of the Magdeburg Sport Club (see GDR Review 8/81, page 41) was named as the best team of the year. Ute Geweniger was also designated "World athlete of the year" and "European Athlete 1981" by the Soviet news agency TASS and the "Sofia News" respectively. Lothar Thoms received the prize of the international cyclists union for the world's best cyclist in 1981.



Five world championship titles for GDR gymnasts

The twenty-first world gymnastics championships held in November last year were quite successful for the GDR's representatives. In the individual women's apparatus events Maxi Gnauck took gold medals in the beam (our photo), the vault and the asymmetric bars. In the men's events gold was taken by Michael Nikolay (above) in the pommel horse and Ralf-Peter Hemmann in the vault.



Calendar Page of the Month



Erich Schmitt (58), cartoonist, press illustrator

Erich Schmitt was born in Berlin on March 11, 1924. Even as a small child he was passionately fond of drawing and painting. After finishing school he was apprenticed as a machine fitter; but he carried on with his hobby in every free minute he had. He offered his works to the press, with little success initially. But in the end the work of the self-taught cartoonist was accepted and then came the period in which his name was never missing from the *Berliner Zeitung*, a daily published in the GDR's capital. On page two of their paper the Berliners were able to see day for day Erich Schmitt's comment on world and other topical events. His popularity among both young and old grew enormously through such strip series as "Sister Monika", "Noah's Ark", "Ede, the zoo apprentice", "Voca-

tions Encyclopedia" and "Alberto's Circus". Erich Schmitt has also illustrated a number of children's books. His typical round-headed characters reveal the humour possessed by their creator. He is, so say his many friends, humorous and entertaining in every respect. With regard to the number of cartoons and drawings one can say without fear of error that he is a record holder. His popularity is proof of the punch of his pictures.

For his great services to the art of the political cartoonist he has been awarded a number of high honours including the "Banner of Labour" and the "Patriotic Order of Merit".

Personalities

Dr Klaus Pfützner, first secretary of the GDR's Theatre Workers' Union,

and Ruth Reinecke, actress at the Maxim Gorky Theatre in Berlin and a member of the Union's presidium, recently inaugurated an exchange of delegations between the theatre unions of Finland and the GDR with a study trip to Helsinki.

Eberhard Kube, pantomimist,

toured Sri Lanka, India and Afghanistan last year. The artist from Berlin gave about 20 performances entertaining 100,000 people with his show in Colombo, Bombay, Madras and other cities and towns. Apart from this he also made TV productions.

For The Tureen



Noodles with stewed meat

Ingredients: 500 g stewing meat, 200 g noodles, 2 carrots, 1 onion, celery leaf, 1 kohlrabi, 1 bay leaf, parsley.

Method: Boil the meat in two litres of water to which one tablespoon of salt and the vegetables, including the bay leaf, have been added. Boil the noodles in salted water; when done pour into a colander and rinse in cold running water. Place the noodles in a warmed tureen and pour over them through a sieve the liquid in which the meat was boiled. Now dice the meat and the vegetables and add to the noodles. Strew a little chopped parsley on each plate just before serving.

From the world of medicine

Early Diagnosis of Colon Cancer

As from this year a test for the early diagnosis of colon cancer developed in the GDR is to be introduced in screening examinations carried out in the factories. The test includes an examination of blood found in stools. This was announced at the Third Symposium on Approach Diagnostics held in the GDR in November 1981. Such tests are important for people aged between 40 and 50.

The symposium which dealt with diagnostic effectivity was attended by 150 physicians and natural scientists from 13 European countries as well as Cuba and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

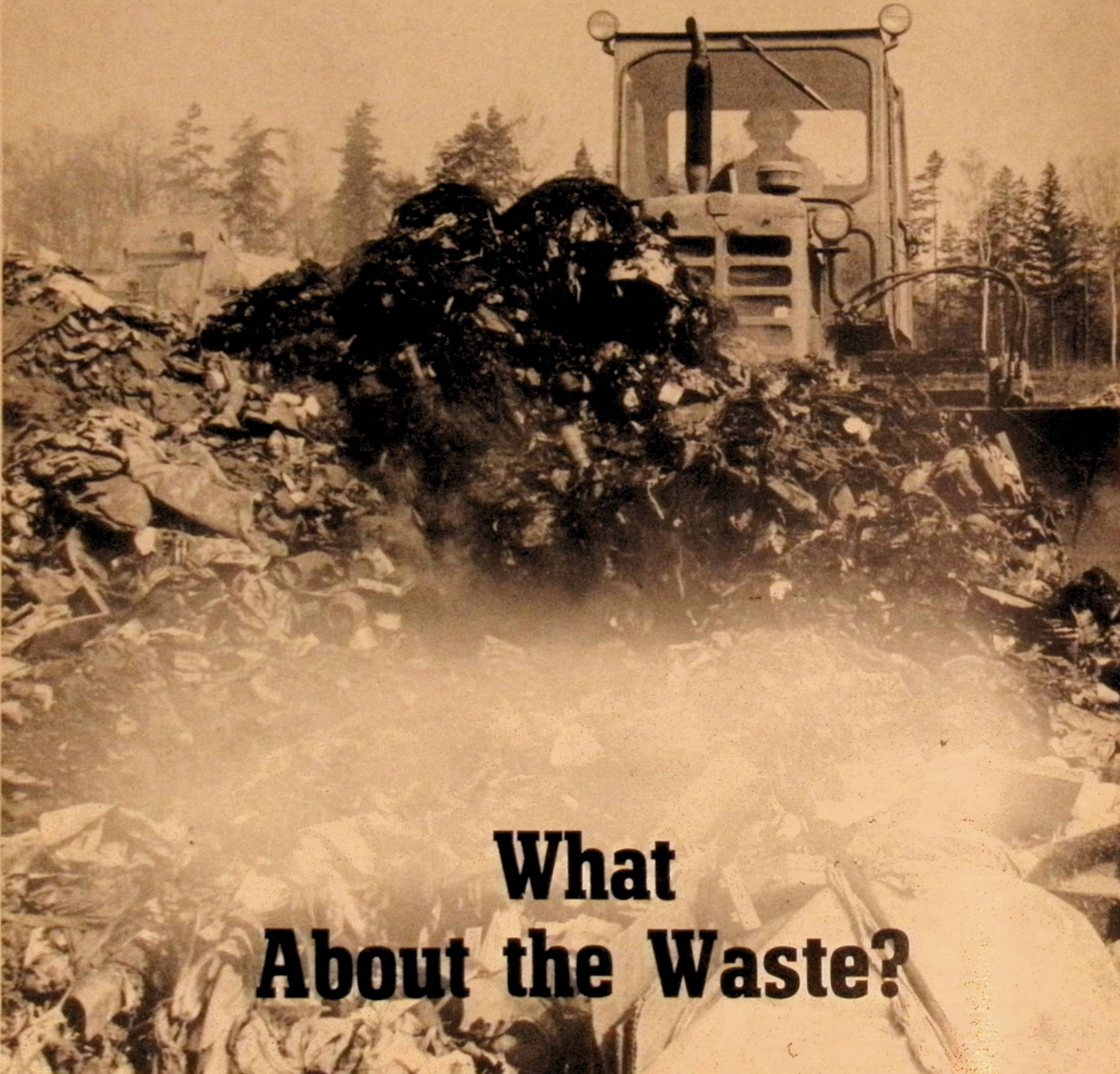
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

By Dr Gerd Horsch

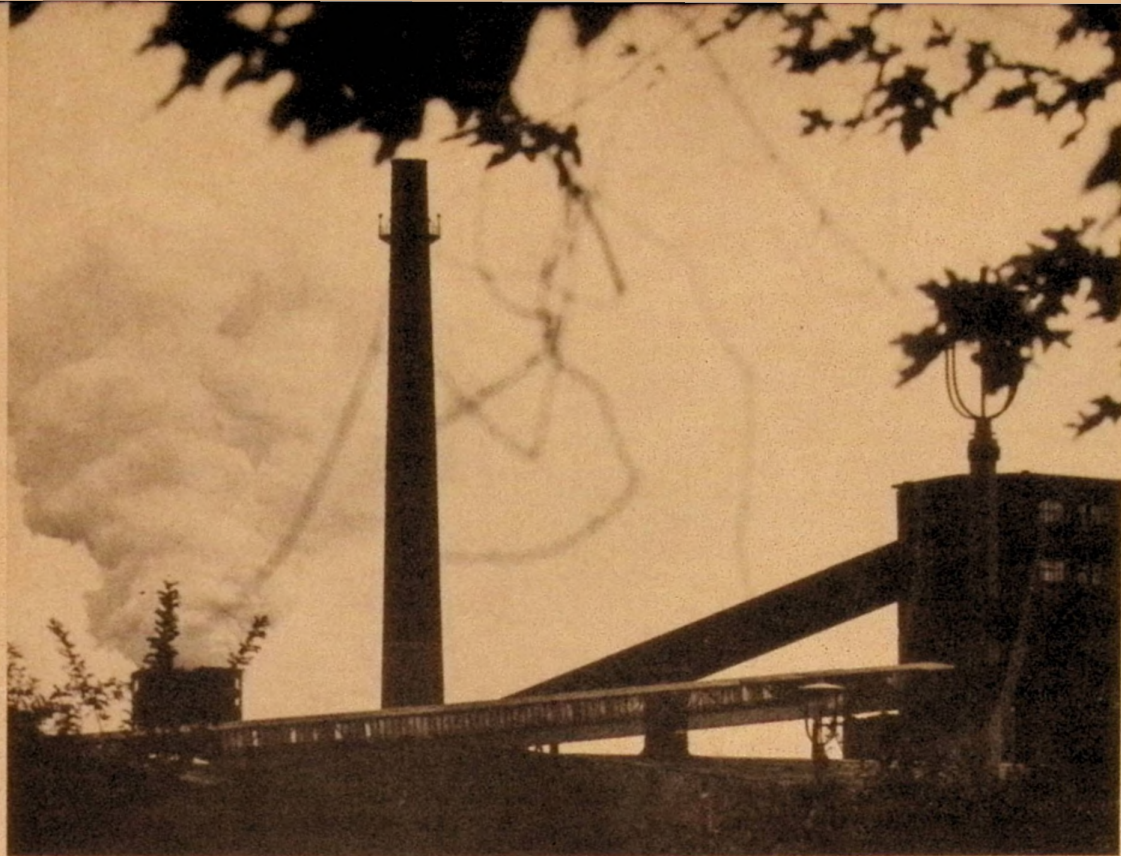
THE production of iron, coal and natural gas has reached enormous proportions in the world today. These huge amounts of utilised natural resources are accompanied by an ever-increasing amount of waste. Experts estimate that only three to four per cent of the materials taken from nature by man are put to practical use; the remainder is returned to nature as "waste". In the

sphere of production and consumption this amounts to about 20 kilogrammes per capita per day. This figure completely disregards the atmospheric pollution caused by the 300 million motor vehicles in the world.

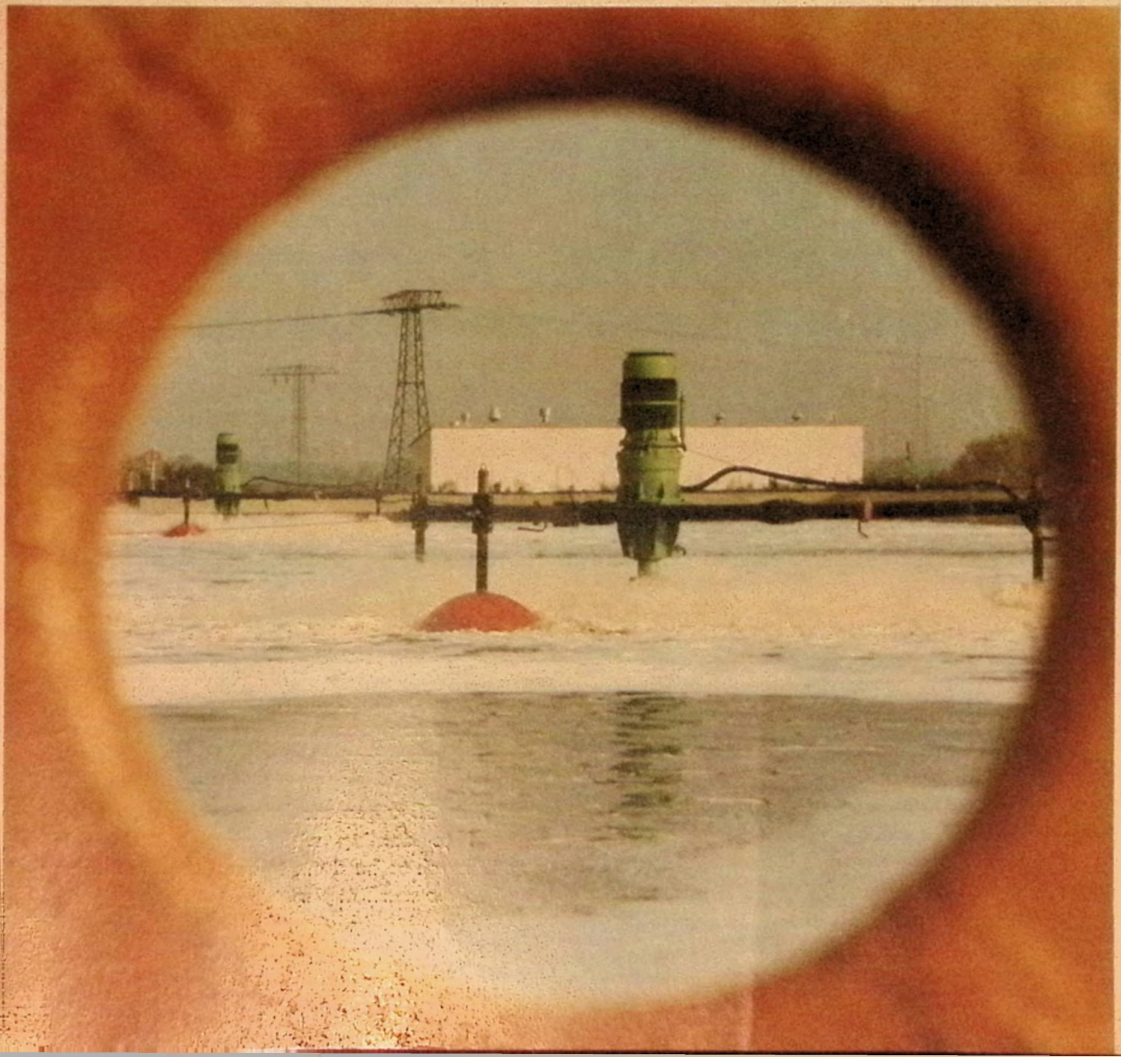
The GDR, too, has its problems with waste. The national economy of our republic registers between 350 and 400 waste products annually and they have a weight of



**What
About the Waste?**



One of the most important tasks of environmental protection is the lowering of atmospheric pollution. The power industry causes a considerable part of this pollution. All the GDR's modern power stations are fitted with effective dust filters. Far more difficult to overcome, however, is the emission of sulphur dioxide for which there was no economic countermeasure until recently: in the meantime a patented process has been introduced in the GDR whereby powdered limestone is added to the lignite before it is burned; this initiates a chemical process which binds the sulphur dioxide and results in the formation of gypsum. The mixture of ash and gypsum can be used as fertiliser, as filling material in the mining industry or as a neutralising agent for water.



The reduction of water pollution plays an extremely important part in the GDR's water conservancy programme. Despite increased industrial production there has been no increase in water pollution and in some places its quality has even been improved. The Schwedt Petrochemical Combine (photo) and other enterprises have invested large sums in water purification plants. Here at Schwedt waste water is mechanically, chemically and biologically cleaned and either re-used or returned to the River Oder.

Photos: ADN-ZB (2), Sütterlin



What About the Waste?

some 900 million tonnes. A mere 25 per cent of this mountain of waste is utilised in some way or the other.

At present all interested parties are making great efforts to keep the resulting threat to our natural surroundings within reasonable limits. It is a matter of preserving the earth, the waters and the air to say nothing of the fauna and flora for the whole of society. An attractively landscaped environment is, in the last instance, an integral part of the socialist way of life. It is for this reason, too, that socialist society so consistently champions peace and the ending of the arms race which contains such great dangers for humanity and its environment. Socialism distances itself from the dissipation of natural resources in every form.

On the other hand the reduction or the utilisation of the waste occurring in the factories and inhabited areas every day is, for a country like the GDR which is poor in natural resources, also a question of sensible economics. We are, therefore, actively interested in finding a large number of practical solutions guaranteeing the thrifty use of water and mineral resources and also permitting unavoidable waste to be recycled into other branches of the national economy.

Socialist society also offers all the necessary preconditions for consciously regulating the complicated problems involved in the process of exchange between man and nature in a manner that is compatible with the laws of ecology. The social ownership of the means of production allows environmental protection, which is being systematically implemented, to become the concern of all members of society. Our republic's economic strategy for the nineteen-eighties includes several big tasks in this sphere.

At the focal point of the GDR's environmental protection programme for the coming years stands the task of creating so-called "closed material circuits". The object of these is to make possible the introduction of manufacturing methods with little or no waste in the individual production processes. The attempt is also being made to use unavoidable waste as secondary raw

material in another branch of the economy or at least to dispose of it in a manner that will not harm our environment. Along with the tasks involved in water conservancy and the reduction of atmospheric pollution the GDR is making a three-pronged drive to overcome the problems of waste.

Firstly to reduce or even avoid production and consumption waste by the use of low-waste technologies and the utilisation of appropriate raw and other materials; through the use of recyclable materials and non-polluting consumables; and by raising the environment-consciousness of the workers. Through cooperation between various scientific institutions, state bodies, social forces, factories, etc., a number of technological and other solutions have been found which are characterised by a desirable low degree of wastage. Representative of many examples, we shall here mention only the timber industry. Following coal and oil, wood is one of the most important raw materials. Up till now only between a quarter and one third of the timber felled in the GDR was processed. It has been shown that through the use of the appropriate technologies wood can be almost fully processed. In the GDR there is now a programme for the step-by-step introduction of such technologies. As a result it has already been possible to greatly reduce the wastage in the manifold processing stages. After suitable processing the sawdust and chips from the sawmills are used as secondary raw materials in the manufacture of chipboard. The introduction of new processes in the cellulose industry has led to a better exploitation of the raw materials, and a more comprehensive and effective processing of the waste liquors allows a better utilisation of the "non-cellulose waste materials". All the "waste" that occurs during felling operations is now collected together and processed after which it is used for the production of chipboard.

These examples indicate a second way in which the problem of waste is being tackled in the GDR: the utilisation of unavoidable waste as a secondary raw material.

This, on the one side, includes the exact registration, division and processing of waste and its return to the original user. One

example of this is the processing of vegetable and animal waste in agriculture as fertiliser or the starting material for biogas. In this area the GDR has achieved a number of successes. The repeated use of one and the same material or product for the same purpose provides another opportunity for the winning of secondary raw materials. A typical example here is the multi-way bottle used in the beverages industry.

Last but not least the national economy of the GDR pursues the aim of returning waste to another area of utilisation after it has undergone suitable biological, chemical or mechanical treatment. The use of these secondary raw materials constitutes an important reserve in the economy of materials. The use of 1,000 tonnes of scrap metal, for instance, saves us having to import 1,500 tonnes of ore and 200 tonnes of coke. As a result of suitably cleaning old oil it has been possible to meet 65 per cent of the GDR's needs for reinforced motor oils and 30 per cent of its needs for four-stroke motor oils.

In the GDR great attention is also given to the processing of waste paper. If the republic's paper industry can utilise a further 50,000 tonnes of waste paper annually (it is estimated that households in the GDR burn or throw away more than 100,000 tonnes of paper a year) this would lead to a saving of 125,000 cubic metres of solid wood; this is equivalent to 500 hectares of forest. This fact led the GDR to introduce a new price system for the purchase of waste paper and other scrap materials some time ago.

Where it is not possible to utilise waste materials the third prong comes into its own: They have to be incinerated, composted, tipped or returned to the environment in a manner involving no hazards. Following the development of a fully mechanised method of refuse processing it is possible to process town refuse into a compound manure that can be used as a fertiliser.

The GDR has made progress along the road to dealing with waste but there is still much to be done to keep the mountains of waste small in size.

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was photographed by Carla Arnold

Our Back Cover

Since early winter last year Karl-Marx-Platz square in Leipzig has been
enhanced with an architectural attraction in the shape of the New
Gewandhaus. Read also our article on pages 40 to 45.

Photo: Carla Arnold

