

GDR REVIEW

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The foundation for security strengthened

THE PEOPLE of the German Democratic Republic have always been aware of the fact that the policies decided on at the congresses of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED) are purposefully put into practice. This is just as true for the republic's consistent attitude on the policy of peace and detente, its work for understanding and good neighbourliness, as it is for the economic and social-welfare policies. The policies followed by the SED remain directed towards the welfare of all the people in the republic including the labour veterans as well as the very youngest.

During the course of the last few months and in view of the international crisis situation that has led, here and there, to considerable cuts being made in budgeted social expenditure or at the very least their being debated, there have doubtless been people who have expected, or even feared, similar measures in the GDR. But anybody having such ideas was shown differently a couple of months ago. The policies laid down at the Tenth SED Congress in spring 1981 will not be cut back in any way but will be purposefully and systematically continued. In spite of the more complicated conditions in the world today, the socialist planned economy once more proved its dynamism last year.

This was clearly shown at the Third Plenary Session of the party's Central Committee last November. After General Secretary Erich Honecker had reported to this body that the net monetary income of the population had increased by more than 3,000 million marks between the beginning of the year and the date of the meeting—that is 3.2 per cent more than the corresponding period of the previous year—he went on to speak about considerable wage and salary increases for more than a quarter of a million people working in the health and social-welfare services. The report delivered to the session by the Political Bureau stated: "A marked increase has been made in the incomes of 190,000 nurses, children's nurses, midwives, ancillary medico-technical staff, physiotherapists and other graduates from medical training schools; for 10,000 members of the medical craft trades such as orthopaedic mechanics, dental technicians and opticians; as well as for about 43,000 cooks and kitchen staff, stokers, cleaning and laundry staff, and other personnel employed in the medical and social services." The report pointed out that the incomes in these groups of medical personnel had been considerably lower than those in other sections of the national economy. Now it will be possible to overcome

more rapidly the shortage of labour that is present in certain fields and to improve still further free medical care, particularly hospitalisation, for the population. The meeting of the Central Committee also announced wage increases in various branches of the community services which, like those already mentioned, came into force last December. Following a proposal made by the Free German Youth movement apprentices' pay and student grants were increased as from September 1981; since that month students attending the 11th and 12th forms of the extended secondary schools have also received a financial allowance. The conditions for granting interest-free loans to young married couples were improved.

But these were not the only things. There has also been a 100 per cent increase in the child allowance for the third child and a considerable increase for subsequent children in a family. The plenary session reaffirmed that the housing programme is to be continued without any cuts. Increases in the net income of the people have also been planned. In this connection the meeting stressed that the supplies of the daily necessities at stable prices to the population will be increased correspondingly and that industry must ensure the development of new high-quality consumer goods for the home market. The report also pointed out that the ever more complicated tasks facing the foreign trade organisations of the republic must be more purposefully solved than hitherto.

These new social-welfare achievements of the GDR are, just like all past successes, a result of the steady growth of the republic's national economy as a whole and particularly as a result of the creativeness of the workers themselves. This decisive element, hardly ever mentioned in the firms of the capitalist countries or at the most credited to the cleverness of the managers, is always given prominence by socialist society and with full justification. And it is indeed the thought which thousands of workers give to their work every day that leads to such results in the productive sphere. To these come in increasing measure the advances made by our scientific workers and even those made by the students whose research work is ever better meeting the needs of industry and opening up the road to new ways of solving the problems facing us. Everybody participates in bringing about our successes and everybody receives, therefore, a corresponding share of the increased national income.



Joint effort, research and planning has long traditions in our country and it is clear to all that any further improvement in our living standards cannot be made without good work. At the Central Committee meeting it was said that the words "good work" have a solid ring in our republic because they are also linked with job security. And it is this security which gives rise to ever more and more workers thinking in a creative manner about their own work. In the collectives in which they work as well as in their trade union groups they thrash out what contribution they can personally make to improving productivity for it is certain that this will benefit the individual just as society at large.

Of course, not everybody thinks like this: that would be an ideal

condition from which we are still quite a long way off. But our past achievements and advances, to say nothing of the present ones, provide good and convincing arguments.

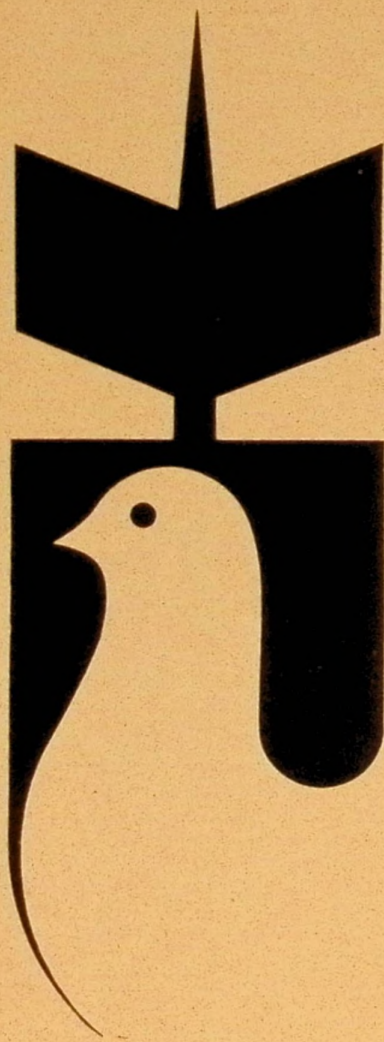
Eberhard Günther

Photos: Carla Arnold (2), Lothar Wlocka, ADN-ZB, archives



Let Us Safeguard Our Common Possession — Peace

Concerned about the policy of intensified arming pursued by aggressive forces in NATO and particularly about the decision of the Reagan administration to go ahead with the manufacture of the neutron bomb, representatives of the GDR's International Friendship League addressed a letter to leading figures of friendship societies with the GDR. We are publishing here excerpts from the replies they received.



**Tullia Caretoni Romagnoli,
president of the
Italy—GDR Society**

"There is no doubt that we are currently encountering the most critical period for world peace since the end of the Second World War. The decision to go ahead with the production of the neutron bomb mirrors a situation which is getting worse daily. Let me assure you therefore that our Society and its national executive wholeheartedly agree with you on this question. We, too, consider it imperative to sharply denounce the US President's arms build-up programme and to do something against it by launching a massive peace campaign. It is also true that our generation, which has gained plenty of experience in the course of the last thirty years of successful struggle for peace, must look with interest and confidence to those forces which have newly joined the movement and to the mobilisation of the young generation.

The peace movement in Italy is constantly gathering momentum. The peace march to Assisi, for example, united hundreds of thousands of people from all walks of life in what turned out to be the mightiest demonstration in Italy for years. There is a growing number of such activities in Italy and, as you will have noted, the consciousness of the popular masses throughout Western Europe has matured

IN THE NAME OF LIFE

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and continues to do so. This is demonstrated by their acts.

I think that in view of this new situation the work of organisations such as ours is valuable since we contribute to international friendship and the safeguarding of our common possession, peace. And this is particularly so in two countries like Italy and the GDR where a great number of people live who suffered terribly under the fascist yoke. It is within this framework that we must organise our future activities."

**Prof. Friedrich Epstein,
president of the
Austria-GDR Society**

"Like you and all other people who have retained their common sense, humaneness and a sense of reality, I am deeply concerned about the recent aggravation of the international situation which has been evoked by the infamous decisions on 'completing arming' and the production of the neutron bomb and which is now assuming alarming proportions.

I also agree with you that in view of the situation with which the world is confronted every human being has the moral obligation to raise his voice in protest against this threat to the whole world, but to Europe in particular, emanating from the irresponsible and insane nuclear arms race that is being instigated by the present US administration.

We are currently witnessing how the peoples of those countries which the nuclear strategists plan to convert into nuclear bases are putting up mounting resistance to the threat to their own and their children's lives.

They may rest assured of our sympathy and solidarity with their struggle!

Ever since its foundation 32 years ago the German Democratic Republic has played an outstanding and honorable role in the struggle for peace and against the arms race.

In my view, this fact alone should inspire and obligate all friendship societies with the socialist German state and their partner organisation, the GDR's International Friendship League, to campaign for the promotion of friendly relations between the peoples as part of the worldwide striving for peace.

I believe that in the present strained international climate it is particularly important to set aside everything which separates people and concentrate on the vital question of mankind, the safeguarding of peace."

**Prof. Georges Castellan,
president of the
France-GDR Society**

"I very well understand your alarm at the threat of a renewed escalation of the arms race. You may rest assured that our France-GDR Society, including its national presidium, shares your concern.

During our last meeting in Berlin in July we had a comprehensive exchange of views on these issues which helped us to better understand the individual approaches of our Societies to the question of the maintenance and consolidation of political and military detente.

We are sure that the continuation of our joint efforts to make our peoples' call for peace heard is a positive contribution towards the convening of a European disarmament conference."

**Karl Beul,
chairman of the American Society
for the Study of the GDR**

"World peace and better understanding between all people are vital prerequisites for the further development of mankind. In this context the criminal plan of the Reagan administration to manufacture the neutron bomb and deploy it on European territory has to be considered as one of the greatest crimes against humanity.

Of course it is true that millions of US citizens are basically opposed to this insane project and to the huge spending on armaments but most of these thoroughly decent and peace-loving people are still ignorant of the fact that the socialist states are genuinely interested in peace.

Anti-communism, manipulation, distortions, mysticism, dehumanised cultural trends and deeply rooted racism—all these factors are powerful tools in the hands of the ruling class...

We work for peace and try in all sorts of ways to bring home to our people the importance of world peace and of opposition to Reagan and his clique..."

**OP THE
ARMS
RACE!**

Let Us Safeguard Our Common Possession — Peace

John Randolph,
vice-president of the US Committee
for Friendship with the GDR

"We are distressed and angered at the decision of the Reagan administration to unilaterally proceed with the production of the neutron bomb ... By the time you receive this letter we will have all joined in the AFL-CIO Solidarity Day throughout the US and particularly here in Los Angeles where all the Peace Forces, Anti-nuclear demonstrators, Civil Rights organisations, Labor, Communist Party, NAACP, Socialists, Peace and Freedom Party, California Democratic Council, etc. are issuing calls to their membership to come out on September 19. There will also be banners against the neutron bomb.

Leading the actors' unions in educating our people are many of the artists who went to the GDR on the delegations of the friendship society. Everyone of them—52 leaders on both coasts—came back aware of the hunger of the people in the GDR for peace and their deep opposition to the neutron bomb..."

**Prof. Peter Schäffer, member of the
San Francisco Bay Area branch
of the US Committee
for Friendship with the GDR**

"Recently the US government took a number of alarming decisions and we know that it is not yet possible to foresee the long-term consequences of this policy. On August 6 of all days, the 36th anniversary of the mass murder in Hiroshima, the decision was taken to produce the neutron bomb. Other new horrible mass destruction weapons have been added to the stockpile just recently. Simultaneously a massive number of social cuts was put into effect with the beginning of the new financial year on October 1. This step destroyed all achievements gained by the working population in the course of the past fifty years at one blow. The cuts not only affect the social insurance scheme, unemployment benefit, old age pensions, and contributions to the health service—they also constitute a massive attack on cultural establishments because the subsidies for museums, public libraries, etc. have been reduced or completely withdrawn. The same holds true for the educational system and research work (even for the natural sciences if they have no obvious military importance), for public transport, food coupons for the unemployed, the provision of meals for children of poor families and for other spheres. All this is not done in order to have a well balanced budget but to free billions of dollars for an unlimited arms build-up. This kind of approach is out of all proportion—how many schoolchildren must go without a hot meal to finance one single nuclear warhead?

So far, few Americans are aware of the consequences for everyday life in their country that will be brought about by these radical changes. Most US citizens will only come to understand when they actually experience the cuts themselves. It will be then that Reagan's 'economic reorganisation' play will be exposed. Neither can many people imagine—at least not yet—the international consequences of this criminal and utterly unrealistic policy of confrontation and intensified arming.

However, there are, though still rather weak, signs of opposition. Protests at the MX missiles plans, for instance, have resulted in certain limitations being placed on the original concept.

We can certainly say that the vast majority of the American population wants peace. But there is general confusion as to who is endangering peace and what should be done to safeguard it. Constant

massive manipulation by our mass media does not fail to ensure that this confusion continues with those advocating peace being misled.

All this is justified with the lie of a threat from the East. Apart from the Communist Party of the USA and some of its supporters, hardly anybody has come to realise that the main, even the sole, threat to peace emanates not from Moscow but from Washington and that it is the consistent peace policy of the Soviet Union and the other states of the socialist community which sets bounds to the imperialists' insatiable greed for power.

Despite the strong propaganda campaign of a threat from the East, people are beginning to doubt whether enforced arming is a suitable means of countering this supposed threat. There is an increasing abhorrence to the development and production of ever more ghastly weapons of mass destruction such as the neutron bomb. And though the majority know little or nothing at all of the interrelationships they are becoming indignant at the cuts in the social services reducing the living standards of the broad mass of the population with the exception of the privileged upper class.

In a recent opinion poll 70 per cent of those asked expressed their concern for peace. They feared that a war would break out within the next ten years. In their view war is inevitable like a natural catastrophe, or will be 'forced upon us'. This echoing of nazi propaganda from the late nineteen-thirties is by no means a mere accident.

However, the mass campaigns in the West European countries are beginning to have their impact on the US population especially because of their demand that Western Europe must not become a radioactive wasteland for the sake of the USA's aggressive plans."

Photo: ADN-ZB

ACT NOW FOR PEACE



THE BASIC RIGHT OF MAN



Socialist States Propose

Ban the Neutron Bomb

LAST DECEMBER a majority of the 36th UN General Assembly endorsed a resolution moved by the GDR and backed by a number of socialist and non-aligned states, demanding a ban on the production, stockpiling, proliferation and use of the neutron bomb, and calling on the Geneva Disarmament Committee to start immediate talks on concluding a relevant convention.

Significantly enough, the USA and other NATO states voted against this resolution, underscoring the urgency of this initiative of the GDR and other states in the UNO.

On August 6, 1981 the Reagan administration gave the go-ahead for the production of 1,180 neutron warheads, to begin with. This was a victory for those aggressive forces in the USA which had urged the immediate manufacture of the neutron bomb and its deployment in Western Europe as early as 1977, ignoring ever since the unremitting protests of the international public, the doubts and opposition of some NATO allies, and the warnings and peace proposals of the USSR.

The USA began developing the neutron bomb back in 1959. In August 1961 the Soviet government issued a statement condemning the bomb. In December 1977 Leonid Brezhnev suggested that both sides renounce the production of neutron weapons. In February 1978 the USSR submitted to the Geneva Disarmament Committee a draft convention on banning the production, stockpiling, deployment and use of neutron weapons. At the 26th CPSU Congress in February 1981, Leonid Brezhnev reiterated the Soviet willingness to refrain from producing neutron bombs as long as other countries did likewise and to con-

clude an agreement prohibiting the neutron bomb. All these initiatives, including that of the GDR at the UNO, were prompted by the desire to save humanity from this new weapon of mass destruction and to prevent another round of the arms race.

The USA, however, continues to turn a deaf ear to these serious proposals. Recently the Americans announced at the UN Political Committee that the production of the neutron bomb would go ahead.

This bomb, like the Pershing II and Cruise medium-range missiles, is a first-strike weapon. In accordance with the American nuclear strategy defined in US Presidential Directive 59, the neutron bomb, too, is designed to make it easier for the USA to wage and limit a nuclear war to Europe. The Americans are obviously calculating on surviving such a war as winners. Neutron weapons dangerously lower and blur the nuclear threshold. Planned to be deployed in Western Europe, these weapons enhance the risk of a nuclear conflict on our continent. The go-ahead for the production of the neutron bomb, like the NATO missile decision taken in Brussels, is part of a comprehensive plan to step up the arms race and confrontation.

Hence the struggle of the popular masses against all these weapons is one and indivisible.

J. F.

WARNINGS—

PROTESTS—

ACTIONS

Vienna. Josef Cap, chairman of Austria's socialist youth organisation, pointed out that with its demand for the unilateral removal of Soviet medium-range missiles the USA was seeking to gain military superiority. He described Reagan's "zero option" as a cock-and-bull story—all the more since only one day after the President's speech the US House of Representatives adopted the USA's highest ever military budget.

London. Alf Lomas, deputy of Britain's Labour Party to the European Parliament, called the US move for a "zero option" a



IN THE NAME OF LIVES

concerted action against the growing peace movement in Western Europe.

Paris. In a radio interview the General Secretary of the French Communist Party, Georges Marchais, branded President Reagan's so-called "zero option" a diversionary move. Saying that the true aim of Reagan's policy was the very opposite of a genuine zero option, he referred to the US plans for the deployment of new medium-range nuclear missiles in Western Europe, the decision to go ahead with the production of the neutron bomb and further facts testifying to the US policy of intensified arming.

Bonn. Rudolf Hartung, federal secretary of the Young Socialists in the FRG, described the proposal of the so-called "zero option" advanced by US President Reagan as a deliberate step to mislead international public opinion. It was well known, he said, that the USA has installed sufficient additional medium-range missiles on submarines in European territorial waters. Rudolf Hartung underlined that disarmament talks could only be successful if the forward-based weapon systems of the USA and its NATO allies, too, were "all dismantled and destroyed".

Madrid. In mid-November 1981 about half a million Spaniards added weight to their demands for peace and disarmament in what turned out to be the mightiest rally in their country's recent history. This demonstration in Madrid had been arranged by more than 200 parties, organisations and trade unions. Shouting "Away with the US military bases!" and "Yankees go-NATO no!" they marched through the streets of their capital city.

Rome. About 8,000 Italians joined a peace march from Curtanone to Mantua. During a subsequent rally the participants protested above all at the planned siting of new US medium-range missiles. The demonstration had been jointly organised by all of Italy's left-wing political parties, its three major trade union confederations, artists' associations and local councils.

Wiesbaden. In mid-November last year thousands upon thousands of FRG citizens demonstrated against the further expansion of the airport at Frankfurt (Main) into a NATO military base. 150,000 people took to the streets in Wiesbaden (our photo), forming an eight-kilometre-long march column. They carried banners sharply denouncing NATO's policy of enforced arming and the Brussels missiles decision.

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.

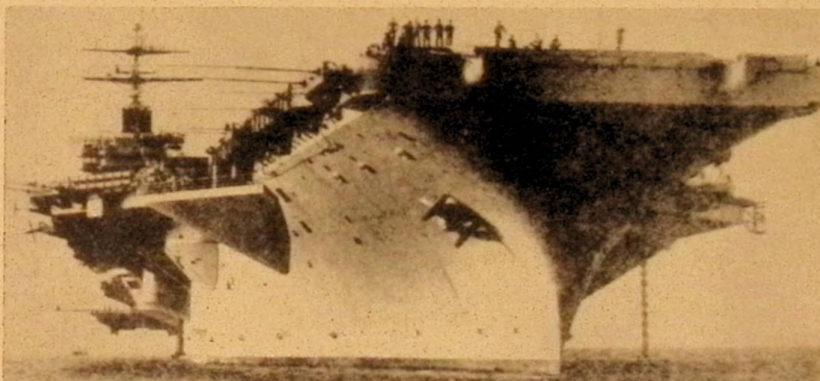
● The fourth nuclear-propelled US Nimitz aircraft carrier whose keel was laid down last November costs 1,200 million dollars—that is as much money as is needed for

● the construction of ten chemical fertilizer works!

And who is pocketing top profits for the Nimitz aircraft carrier?

● Above all the shareholders of the General Dynamics and Litton Industries companies.

Photos: ADN-ZB, repro/archives



TOP THE ARMS RACE !



Johann Friedrich Löbber



On the tricentenary
of the discoverer
of European porcelain

By Professor Eberhard Wächtler
of the Freiberg Academy of Mining
and Dr Willi Goder of the Meissen
State Porcelain Manufactory

JOHANN FRIEDRICH BÖTTGER has gone down in history as the discoverer of the first European porcelain and thus of today's Meissen porcelain (often commonly known as Dresden China).

The tricentenary of his birth falls this month, on February 4 to be exact. He was born in Schleiz in Thuringia as the son of a mint-master. His childhood and youth he spent in Magdeburg with his grandfather who was also a mint-master and goldsmith. It was here that he came into contact with the art of metal-working and with the gleam of gold at an early age. In 1696 Böttger was apprenticed to the Apothecary Zorn in Berlin. After having read a number of tracts on alchemy the young apprentice thought he had found a way of making gold. When, in the presence of several witnesses in the apothecary's laboratory he "changed" a number of silver two-groschen pieces into pure gold, he received the name of "goldmaker" overnight and was only able to escape the clutches of the Prussian King Frederick I by hurriedly fleeing.

The direction of his flight—Wittenberg—had been indicated in his day by Johann Kunckel who achieved fame by making ruby glass. Here, where Lucas Cranach painted and had run the town's only apothecary's shop, Johann Böttger wanted to perfect his knowledge of chemistry and drug making as well as carry on humanist and philosophical studies at the university where Philipp Melancthon and Martin Luther had once taught. But before he was able to have his name added to the rolls of the renowned university in the Electorate of Saxony he found himself in the hands of Augustus the Strong, Elector of Saxony and King of Poland, and quite unexpectedly and under constraint in the Electorate's residency, Dresden. In the laboratory of the Electoral palace, in the so-called "gold house", Böttger was ordered to make gold just as Kunckel had been many years previously. His efforts were, however, just as unsuccessful as those of Kunckel.

About 1704 the Saxon scholar Ehrenfried Walter von Tschirnhaus and the Freiberg

Probably the oldest picture of Böttger: Böttger stoneware (on facing page).

Sake flask with "Indian" flowers: Meissen, between 1725 and 1730.



minerologist and metallurgist Gottfried Pabst von Ohain directed Böttger's love of experimenting in another necessary and far more realistic direction: Delft faience, Chinese red stoneware and white porcelain. This experimenting was done in a secret laboratory in the Albrechtsburg castle at Meissen in 1705 and 1706 and—after ensuring that Böttger and his closest collaborators could not be captured by King Charles XII of Sweden during the years 1706 and 1707—in a laboratory on the Virgin's Bastion, the site of the present Brühl Terrace in Dresden.

In the very short time of a few months filled with systematic and extremely concentrated research work the first European red stoneware, called "jasper porcelain" by Böttger and known as Böttger stoneware since the twentieth century, and the first white European porcelain had been discovered. The first established proof of a successful firing of white porcelain with the formula for the body materials is contained in a laboratory note bearing the date, January 15, 1708. Thus Böttger and his co-workers had not only succeeded in wresting the secret of porcelain manufacture from the Chinese and Japanese but also in giving the world its first hard porcelain in place of the soft. This discovery provided a crowning climax to Böttger's chemical experiments and his tireless spirit for research and also enabled him to solve other tasks almost effortlessly.

In a memorandum dated March 28, 1709 Böttger presented his discoveries to the monarch; these included the "good white porcelain together with the finest glazing and all the necessary colouring materials," and added with full justification, that they were as good, if indeed not better, than the East Asian wares. On January 23, 1710 a royal decree announced the foundation of various manufactories including one for porcelain. On June 6 of the same year this porcelain manufactory was established in the Albrechtsburg castle at Meissen. Johann Friedrich Böttger was appointed Administrator of the Meissen manufactory which later achieved renown throughout the whole of the world.

Böttger, his era and the productive forces in Saxony at that time

European porcelain was discovered in Dresden, the residency of the Electorate of Saxony. The proximity of rich deposits of the necessary raw materials—kaolin, feldspar, quartz and calc-spar—had a favourable influence on the development of porcelain

manufacture. In addition to this there was another, no less significant, factor: the great wish of the court in Saxony to possess porcelain coupled with the presence of highly developed productive forces possessing long traditions.

Porcelain imported from China and Japan was worth its weight in gold in all the European states. The production of "white gold"—the use of this name was not exactly a misnomer—became more and more the declared aim of quite a number of rulers in Europe. Experiments were made in Italy, a country with great traditions in glass-making, in France, in England, in Holland and elsewhere. Interesting and beautiful ceramic and glass-like substances were manufactured and formed, but they were not porcelain.

In the Electorate of Saxony people had not remained idle either. The development of rural pottery had achieved quite noteworthy traditions. Stoneware from Freiberg enjoyed a good reputation everywhere. And with regard to its quality Saxon glass was as good as Bohemian.

From the sixteenth century on the Electors of Saxony had stabilised their rule. They belonged to the politically reactionary "winners" of the early bourgeois revolution in the shape of the Reformation and the German Peasant War. But although they had inflicted a defeat on the revolution they were unable to continue their rule in the manner they had till then. They introduced administrative and school reforms which enabled the bourgeoisie, that is mercantile capital, to make further inroads into the trades, particularly the manufacturing trades.

Dresden, Leipzig, Chemnitz (today Karl-Marx-Stadt), Zwickau, Plauen, Grimma and Torgau became centres of manufacturing.

The residency, Dresden, was a trade centre of a special sort. From the sixteenth century on the Electors freed craftsmen, artists, inventors, mechanics and so on from compulsory guild membership; 61 goldsmiths during the lifetime of Augustus the Strong alone. The most important of these was undoubtedly Johann Melchior Dinglinger whose works are still widely admired in Dresden's Green Vault museum today.

The furniture, tableware and jewellery manufactured in Dresden was in no way overshadowed by its French archetypes. Lace from the Erzgebirge Mountains feared no competition with lace from Flanders. A window reflecting the industriousness and skills of the arts and crafts was Leipzig Trade Fair.

The Saxon German particularist state

was, at that time, also one of the traditional mining centres in Europe. The minerals and ores found on its territory had been mined, processed and put to good use for many years. Freiberg, where the Electoral board of mining had its seat, was regarded as the capital of Erzgebirge Mountain mining and metallurgy.

Augustus the Strong profited from the fact that the German Electors had used the weaknesses of the central authority of the German king to take the mining and metallurgical industries completely into their power in 1356. It was he who determined with the state apparatus at his disposal the size of the mines, the water drainage systems and other mining and metallurgical plant. His board of mining laid down the wages, the length of a shift and also the punishments to be meted out for misdemeanours. Of course the Electorate of Saxony needed capital for its mines and metallurgical plants but the Elector had the last word in the amount of profit made. He subjugated almost the whole of the metallurgical industry, it was "his" property. Between 1650 and 1730 about 4.5 tonnes of silver were produced annually and about twenty-seven per cent of the total income went into the coffers of the Elector. They provided a solid foundation for the political plans of Augustus the Strong. With the aid of this wealth he succeeded in acquiring the Polish crown, even though he did have to give a part of his country in deposit for a million gulden and 1,500,000 Reichstaler.

The king energetically promoted the expansion and competence of his manufactories. He made sure that his influence was all-powerful in the metal-working, glass and ceramics industries. As a result he more and more clearly became one of the most important driving forces for the development of the productive forces in Saxony.

After the appearance of porcelain in the Dresden laboratory its manufacture immediately went into full swing at Meissen and soon achieved a body quality, hardness and white colour that would not be produced by the Chinese until about another 250 years had passed. But to regard porcelain purely as a new material would be to completely ignore the cultural and historical aspects.

At that time Dresden was the centre of the most brilliant festivals in Europe. Augustus the Strong used them to demonstrate the material and intellectual capacity of his country. Damask from Grass-Schönau decorated the tables, and porcelain gradually superseded wooden and metal tableware.

The new material also broadened the sphere



Meissen Porcelain Manufactory in the middle of the eighteenth century: workroom for the painters and gilders.

of the visual arts. It became one of the most significant decorative elements in the rooms and halls of the palaces, in theatres and in churches. And in the end porcelain itself gave rise to creations which, although stemming from traditional folk-art ceramics, were new in form. These creations corresponded initially to the policy of luxury followed by the royal court but soon became a part of the German national culture that was developing.

Böttger, Höroldt, Kaendler—Heritage and claim

Böttger's experiments with ceramics in the casemates of Dresden's fortress had led to an achievement of golden value: to "white gold".

He personally experienced the climax of what his discovery brought about, but not more. He had helped progress forwards; scientific and technical, as well as social progress. He did not, it is true, discover the "philosopher's stone", but he did open up the mineral deposits of the Electorate of Saxony so that they could serve the mercantilism of his day. But what all this triggered off went far beyond the pretentious aims and desires of the Dresden court.

After Böttger's death the painter Johann Gregorius Höroldt began to expand the palette and raise the quality of porcelain colours and to develop the first ornamentation for the porcelain from Meissen. Höroldt's *chinoiserie*s, seascapes and landscapes laid the foundation stone for European porcelain painting as such and are counted

as objects of value in museums and collections from Paris to Leningrad.

Ten years after Höroldt, the sculptor Johann Joachim Kaendler started to work in Meissen as a modeller; he had been trained by Benjamin Thomae and had helped with the sculptural work in the Green Vault of Dresden Palace. Höroldt and Kaendler, both of whom were great artists, gave the new material, the white porcelain with the blue crossed swords, the form and decorative elements which determined the style of porcelain in the whole of Europe. Their work became the model for the products of the various European manufactories and has remained so until the present day.

Building up on this great and valuable heritage the Meissen State Porcelain Manufactory, as a nationally-owned enterprise, has succeeded in achieving a new prosperity during the course of the last thirty years. It has retained its character as a genuine manufactory. Because of the important social changes that have taken place in the German Democratic Republic the workforce of this old enterprise that is so full of tradition regard themselves as more than just the continuators of a valuable heritage that has been handed down to them by many generations of porcelain artists since Höroldt and Kaendler. A heritage which with its great diversity—the Manufactory has more than 25,000 forms in its possession—is as carefully cared for as that of Böttger. Together with the production of the traditional models that are sent to all parts of the world, the 1,350 members of the Manufactory's workforce, more than half of whom are porcelain modellers and painters, are

increasingly endeavouring to add new elements to the heritage and thus meet the growing demand for agreeable but contemporary porcelain from Meissen. In this the Manufactory is maintaining a line of tradition to which it has adhered at all times; that of making a creative contribution to the style of the particular epoch.

During the course of the past decades a number of artists of prominence have risen from the ranks of the highly-qualified skilled workers at the manufactory. These include the designer Ludwig Zepner, the painter Heinz Werner and the modeller Peter Strang. They have guided a whole collective towards the artistic development of Meissen porcelain and have added new elements to the traditional heritage which have received recognition and acknowledgement at international trade fairs and exhibitions as well as immediate sales on the international markets.

These artists can be counted among the direct successors to Höroldt and Kaendler. Since the eighteenth century a number of external artists have always had connections with the manufactory. The utilisation of one's own together with outside cultural trends and creative forces is something new in the manufacture of porcelain of a unique character. But as a result of this Meissen porcelain has become, both with regard to quantity and quality, a medium for visual artists.

"Porcelain today—The latest from Meissen" is the subject matter of an exhibition to be mounted in the Albertinum of the Dresden State Art Collections that will display the latest developments of recent years as well as unique pieces made by these artists.

Johann Friedrich Böttger is also honoured by an exhibition bearing the title "Böttger and his era—The oldest porcelain from Meissen" being held in Dresden's Porcelain Collection as well as by a symposium devoted to "European porcelain—Traditions and future". The most important and permanent honour for Böttger, however, is the continuance of the undertaking of which he was the first Administrator—the Meissen Porcelain Manufactory.

Clock case decorated with flowers and song birds, probably the work of Johann Joachim Kaendler: Meissen, about 1760; new model.

Porcelain painters at work.



The typical working methods of a manufactory are still in use today: every item is hand formed.

Parts of the Swan Service, the work of Johann Joachim Kaendler and Johann Friedrich Eberlein: Meissen, 1737-1741; new model.



Photos: Werkfoto VEB Staatliche Porzellanmanufaktur Meissen (7), Eberhard Buschmann

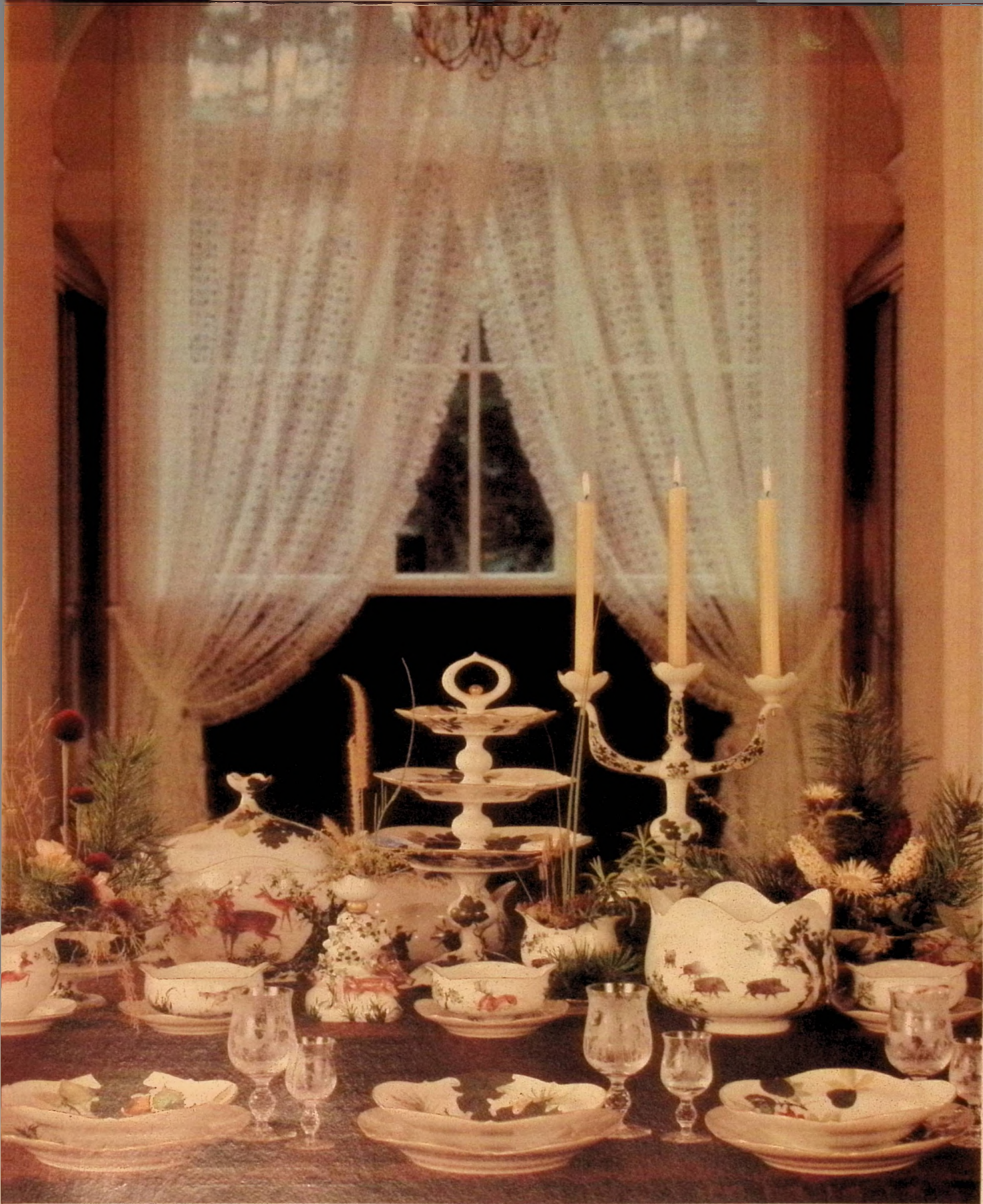


Table service by Ludwig Zepner with decorative elements by Peter Strang, the painting, "The Chase", was executed by Professor Heinz Werner and Rudi Stolle: Meissen, 1973.



Professor
LOTHAR KOLDITZ
New President
of the GDR
National Front's
National Council

AT ITS meeting on October 30, 1981, the National Council of the National Front of the German Democratic Republic elected Professor Lothar Kolditz its new president. He succeeded in office Professor Erich Correns who died at the age of 85.

The chemist Lothar Kolditz is an ordinary member of the Academy of Sciences of the GDR and has been director of its Central Institute for Inorganic Chemistry for two years now.

The new president of the supreme body of the GDR's socialist mass movement was born in 1929 to a worker's family in the small village of Albernau in Saxony. After passing his secondary school leaving examination he embarked on a course of study at Berlin's Humboldt University. In 1954 Lothar Kolditz obtained the degree of a doctor rerum naturalium, and in 1957 he was awarded the degree of a doctor rerum naturalium habilitatus. In the same year he was appointed professor. Between 1957 and 1962 Professor Lothar Kolditz was a university teacher at the "Carl Schorlemmer" Technical College for Chemistry in Leuna-Merseburg and later at the Friedrich Schiller University in Jena. He then accepted an appointment at the Humboldt University. As director of its First Chemical Institute and later of the Department for Chemistry and as vice-president for Natural Sciences at the university, a post he held for many years, Professor Kolditz made outstanding contributions to scientific research and development work as well as to the training of junior scientific workers.

His thoroughly humanist beliefs and his commitment to the ideals of socialism and peace determined his active participation in the work of the GDR's National Front. In 1980 he was elected a member of the National Council.

Professor Lothar Kolditz has no party affiliation. For his scientific work and his political activities, which have been highly appreciated at home and abroad, he was awarded the GDR's National Prize and further high state and social distinctions.

In a speech following his election, the new president of the National Council expressed his thanks for the confidence placed in him that was revealed by the unanimous vote in his favour. He assured the meeting that he would do his utmost for the further development of our socialist homeland. He said: "At this meeting of representatives of all the classes and sections of our people, I propose that we renew and reaffirm our pledge to continue to cooperate under the leadership of the working-class party in translating into practice the historic decisions of the Tenth Congress of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany."

Underlining the fact that the advocacy of peace was the supreme principle governing the activities of the broadly-based socialist movement in the GDR, Professor Kolditz sharply condemned the insane policy of intensified arming pursued by the USA and NATO. He stressed: "I wish to call on everyone that we stand together and do everything in our power to ensure that the fruits of human intelligence will not be abused for barbaric purposes... It is good to know that the authority of our people in the struggle for peace has endowed the National Front of the GDR with great strength and a powerful voice."



Work for the rapprochement of the peoples

From the concluding address delivered by Professor Georges Castellan, president of the France-GDR Society, at the Ninth National Congress of the Society

"The course was good till now and it will be held. The course, that is to say, our principle agreement to work, despite different political, religious or philosophical views, for the rapprochement of the peoples of France and the GDR—an absolute necessity for peace and security in Europe. Today we again solemnly underscore this intention and, in view of the present situation, we lay special emphasis on our will to work for the strengthening of peace. In view of the forced arms race we cannot hide our anxiety, something that was noticeable in the majority of contributions to the discussion.

For this reason more than ever before we wish to underscore the justified connection between our specific activity and that in the service of peace. We shall continue to respect the specific features of the movements with whom we work together and in which many of our members take part. But we also want to retain our own character and this expresses itself above all in the fact that our first task is the dialogue with the people of the GDR so that we can build up peace together in the heart of our old continent."

See also our article about the national congress on pages 41 to 43.

Understanding and friendship generate a great strength

By Senator Tullia Romagnoli Caretoni, president of the Italy-GDR Society

THERE is no doubt about it: the threat of war puts all people of good will into a state of fear and alarm. But even in the successful years of detente the struggle for peace never abated for political detente was never linked with a true treaty on disarmament. Just because of this, and it is deliberately recalled here, the friends of the GDR have always placed this aspect in the foreground.

In view of the dramatic events all forces, including the friendship societies, which until recently justifiably carried on their work independently of those bodies especially devoted to the problems of peace, must today stand close together. All must be mobilised in this spirit.

From the contributions to the discussion at the congresses of the friendship societies in France and Austria we have heard that this standpoint is also shared by our sister organisations.

It is not just a question of adding our voice to the protest of the peoples against war, rather must we join the new front which is beginning to form; there are two reasons for this:

Firstly it is only through understanding and friendship among the peoples, particularly those in different social systems, that a mighty force of peace speaking with one voice can be generated. And who if not the societies for friendship with the GDR have created these connections. Secondly a friendship society such as the one in Italy, which is a mass organisation whose active members stem from the ordinary people, must maintain close contact with this new reality that has sprung up among the people, a reality which transcends ideological bounds and is an element of the common struggle for the defence of peace.

The contemporary peace movement is the result of several factors which are connected with one another: never has a movement of the working people in the West ever neglected this question; a number of countries, of which the GDR is one, have made it a focal point of their own policy. Lastly groups of people, especially young ones, have arisen; in Italy many Catholics are members of these groups which want



to give an answer to the new dangers emanating from bellicose imperialism. Personally I should like to add that this commitment could also serve to give one or two groups which till now have been more than ideologically confused a positive orientation.

As we know, the situation is serious: in the main it is the peoples in Europe, those who are first threatened, who must react with determination. If new hope has arisen in recent weeks then this is thanks to the peace marches as well as to the fact that the USA had to take note of the fact that not the whole of Europe obeys their orders and that certain European governments cannot eliminate the public. We must arrange the activities of our friendship society within this framework. We should not relinquish our specific character as friendship society but we must accept the challenge which simply consists in that humanity wants to survive. Peace struggle does not mean today as it did once taking a decision for one side, is not the desire to live in a socialist or a capitalist system but means purely and simply to find a way of living.

It is a question of living together and understanding each other. In all of these years the friendship societies have tried to bring this about. The people have to be convinced of peaceful coexistence so that peace can be built up.

Photos: K.-H. Böhle

The Dictate of the Hour

IT IS obvious that the anti-war movement has become a force that nobody can ignore any longer—this statement is impressively backed up by the millions of people in all the NATO states who, since the autumn of last year, have joined together in great peace rallies. Despite the attempt of the most reactionary wing of NATO and the Pentagon to brand all who act for peace and disarmament and oppose NATO's arms race as communists the peace fighters' front grew, and still continues to grow, drawing in ever broader strata of the population.

Following the big demonstrations of last October in which more than two-and-a-half million people participated this fact again became clear last December on the anniversary of the fateful Brussels missiles decision: 300,000 people in Athens, 200,000 in Barcelona, 70,000 in Copenhagen and other Danish towns, 50,000 in Hamburg, 40,000 in Bern and just as many in Treviso and other Italian towns—these are but some of the great rallies at which the demand for the cancellation of the Brussels missiles decision and for constructive steps towards an armaments stop and disarmament was heard. It would, however, be quite erroneous to assume that NATO and the Pentagon will voluntarily give up their armaments plans which are as dangerous as they are profitable just because millions of people in all countries want peace and detente. On the contrary they do everything they can to free themselves from the growing pressure of the peace movement that is opposing their armaments policy. That, at any rate, is the result of a secret conference held in NATO headquarters in Brussels at the end of last year. After that meeting all the mass media controlled by them opened up a barrage of misleading information: building up on the fact that the majority of people in the western world know little, and in many cases nothing at all, about the concrete and far-reaching proposals for peace and detente made by the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries. The mass media of the West do their utmost to convince people that the Soviet Union is responsible for the armaments spiral and that the biggest danger threatens from the East.

Extremely embarrassing for them, however, is the fact that just those circles with the most exact knowledge about the relation of forces utterly scotch the story of Soviet arms superiority. No less a person than the Italian General Nino Pasti (ret.),

at one time deputy commander of the NATO forces in Europe and responsible for nuclear weapons, declared at a press conference last December in Helsinki that Washington's propaganda campaign about an alleged superiority of the Soviet Union is nothing but a fabrication without any foundation whatever.

The latest bluff of the NATO strategists and their opinion-makers is that the peace movement should stop its activities for an indefinite period of time in order not to disturb the Geneva talks between the USA and the USSR.

It calls for a good deal of cool cheek to call all those people whose powerful campaigns were decisive in getting the USA to the negotiating table a disturbing factor. On the contrary all experience shows that it is only when the peace forces do not relax in their struggle that it will be possible to achieve constructive results in the direction of detente and disarmament. Let us recall: when NATO took its "two-track" decision in Brussels it was only the armaments side that was put into motion. Negotiations were vigorously rejected and not a single constructive proposal was made although it was already known that the Soviet Union was ready to enter into immediate talks and that it had long since put forward proposals for an armaments stop and step-by-step disarmament. Only when the demands of the peace movement in the USA and the European NATO countries could no longer be ignored did the Reagan administration declare its readiness to open talks with the Soviet Union. That, however, can be nothing more than a beginning. It is now a question of seeing that the talks lead to tangible results. But this will, in the last consequence, depend on the peace movement not letting its capacity for action be restricted, despite a covert campaign to the contrary, but in backing up its demands through new and even more powerful campaigns and actions: The repeal of the Brussels missiles decision! A stop to nuclear arming! Constructive steps towards disarmament!

There is not the slightest doubt about it: with their peace movement the peoples have created a force which can play a big part in ensuring that we and future generations enjoy a secure peace despite the resistance of the arms worshippers. It is the dictate of the hour to use this force in the name of life and for the sake of humanity.

Photos: Rose (3), Ackermann (3), Schäfer, Mall, ADN-ZB







HELP FROM THE GDR

A deep-reaching wave of solidarity with People's Poland has encompassed the whole of the GDR.

On the republic's railway network trains laden with urgently needed necessities of everyday life—food, medical supplies, clothing and other items—are travelling towards the frontier stations.

From Berlin and the county towns convoys of trucks are making their way along ice and snow-covered roads to Warsaw and other long-standing partner towns in People's Poland. They are carrying material donations from schools, factories and social organisations from all parts of our republic.

The significance of proletarian solidarity

and socialist internationalism becomes particularly clear in difficult days. The help we are today extending to fraternal friends in our neighbouring socialist state perpetuates the firm fraternity against imperialism and fascism of German and Polish Communists which is represented by such names as Rosa Luxemburg, Wilhelm Pleck and Julian Marchlewski. They were among the founders of the strong traditions of firm friendship which, since the defeat of German fascism in the struggle against which so many Polish soldiers also gave their lives, has grown up between our two peoples under socialist conditions. This friendship is a factor of the greatest importance for

peace in Europe. The forces of counter-revolution will be able to destroy neither this fraternal friendship nor the socialist foundations of People's Poland itself.

At this moment the people of the GDR—Communists, members of the other parties, people of no party affiliation and all the forces united within the ranks of the National Front—give voice to their solidarity and readiness to do all they can so that a victory will be won over the counter-revolution in People's Poland and the situation normalised in that country. Our Polish neighbours can rest assured that the German Democratic Republic is to be relied upon in every situation and at all times.



The Polish Navy sent a number of transport ships to Stralsund to enable large quantities of food to be shipped to the Polish people as quickly as possible.

Photos: ADN-Zentralbild

Workers at all factories in the GDR made donations to the special "Aid for the Children of People's Poland" Fund at Berlin's Post Office Giro Centre—Account No. 555.



At Arnstadt station in Erlurt County school pupils helped unload and load Christmas parcels for Poland's children.

Joy among the children of the province of Kalicz on receiving the Christmas presents sent them by children in the GDR.

One of the convoys of trucks from the GDR has arrived in Warsaw. The truck is delivering fresh milk every day.





World Forum of Beautiful Books in Leipzig

GDR REVIEW spoke to Klaus-Jürgen Heiber,
head of the secretariate of the 1982
International Book Design Exhibition in Leipzig

In May 1982 the International Book Design Exhibition (iba) in Leipzig, the world forum of beautiful books as it is often called, will open its doors. Are preparations running according to the planned schedule?

Yes, so far we have realised all the goals we set ourselves. At the moment applications and exhibits from 73 countries throughout the world have been received. For comparison, at the 1977 "iba" a total of 71 countries took part. We are nevertheless continuing our efforts to obtain further first-class works from all continents.

When is the final deadline for entries to the competitions?

If possible the exhibits should be here by the end of February so that they can be entered into the main catalogue and the seven special catalogues. But entries are possible up to the middle of April when the international jury meets for the first time.

Is it possible to make an evaluation already, irrespective of the final result?

I am not in a position, of course, to anticipate the findings of the jury and the organisers. However, the works that are to be exhibited show that after five years since the last exhibition the "iba" will once more do justice to its reputation. Leipzig is well known among experts as the city of the book, and that means of book art too. The 1982 Leipzig exhibition is particularly important in view of the fact that in June of this year UNESCO is due to hold the World Book Congress in London. And internationally the "iba" is receiving more and more attention. This is confirmed by our good partnership with numerous book art institutions, artists,



publishing houses and associations abroad. Many of them have been participating in the International Book Design Exhibitions since 1927.

«Catchword "partnership". The preparatory work for the "iba" is also a collective affair, isn't it?»

Yes, it is. Together with experts from the management side of the publishing world and from artists' associations of socialist countries we have exchanged experiences at four international conferences. All in all the preparation for the exhibition is the work of a very large collective. Furthermore, in all socialist countries there are national "iba" preparatory committees which put together their national contributions and in reference to the participation in special exhibitions organise competitions.

From the capitalist countries of Europe we receive to a very large extent the "best designed books" of the years 1977 to 1981 which won prizes in national competitions. Good and continuous cooperation exists, for example, with publishing associations and book art institutions in Finland, Norway, Great Britain, Austria, Switzerland, Belgium and the FRG. The exhibition is considerably enriched by individual entries from publishing houses and artists for the national and special exhibitions.

An important task for the GDR preparatory committee is the gaining of new participants. What is the score on this front?

We see as one of the main aims—and quite in keeping with the spirit of UNESCO's programme of promoting books—the gaining of developing countries from Asia, Africa and Latin America. We are expecting, for example, interesting collections from Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh, Brazil, Ghana, India, Iraq, Iran, Kenya, Colombia, Mozambique, Thailand, Venezuela and Cyprus. Taking part for the first time at an "iba" will be, among others, Botswana, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Mali, New Zealand, Papua-New Guinea, Singapore, Tonga and Zimbabwe.

You spoke of the gaining and promotion of young national states. Is this because in relation to book production and book art they still have few traditions?

That varies from case to case. Many—and it cannot be otherwise after liberation from the colonial yoke—are still at the beginning stage of building up their own national book system. Nevertheless the works that will be on display are most interesting: especially the illustrations in the books reveal a great richness of forms, the originality of which can often be explained by the upkeep of cultural traditions of the peoples.



The international jury at work taken during preparations for the 1977 "iba". This time the jury will again consist of experts from more than 15 countries.

The Trade Fair House on Leipzig's Market Square, a representative exhibition centre for books from throughout the world. The annual Leipzig Book Fair is also held here.

Dear GDR Review Reader,

As we announced in GDR Review 1/1982 you will find the second part of our competition in this issue. Here, very briefly, is what you have to do.

In our January issue we showed you on page 24 ten GDR products, each marked with a letter of the alphabet. Today we are showing you on the page opposite the trademarks of the firms which manufacture these products: these trademarks are each marked with a number. All you have to do is match the letters with the numbers—if your answers are all correct you have the opportunity of winning one of the many prizes that will be drawn from among the correct entries. In entering the competition you agree to accept the published result as final and uncontested. The prizes include reflex cameras, watches, opera glasses, photographic books, art and crafts products as well as many other items.

In order to facilitate your entry and make it easier for us to find the winners you will find below a diagram containing the ten letters marking the products. You only need fill in the appropriate figure marking the trademark in the space underneath, paste or draw the diagram on a postcard and mail this to our office at the following address:

Editorial Office
GDR Review
Verlag Zeit im Bild
DDR - 8012 Dresden, Postfach 61

The closing date for the competition is March 15, 1982 (postmark).

Lots of luck!

The Editor
GDR Review

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J

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MAGAZINE FROM THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

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and facts

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OUR NEW COMPETITION



PENTACON

1



5



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8



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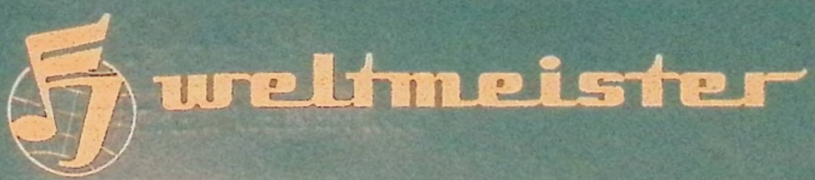


Meissen

6



9



4




10



Dialogue

GDR REVIEW READERS QUESTION



*Flowers and best wishes for Jürgen Schulze
after his re-election as shop steward.*

The “World Peace”
Work Brigade ➤

PART 4

In the name of the work brigade the questions were answered by Klaus Engmann, Gerhard Mann, Jürgen Menzel, Jürgen Schulze.

About the advantages of being a member of the trade union

— What are the main tasks of the trade union?

The trade union — here in the GDR it is the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions (FDGB)—is the biggest class organisation in our republic and represents the interests of all working people. It is responsible for the running of the socialist emulation contest, the innovators' movement, the social insurance scheme, health and labour safety, labour law, further qualification, the promotion of intellectual and cultural activities, the holiday service, mass sports and leisure activities.

— What is your attitude towards the trade union?

Jürgen Menzel: A good one because I benefit as a result of my membership.

Jürgen Schulze: It brings advantages, what's more to be said? We stand behind our union.

Gerhard Mann: There's no question about it—our relationship to the union is a good one. After all, the trade union is us ourselves.

Klaus Engmann: That's what I think, too.

— What opportunities and advantages does the trade union give you?

Jürgen Menzel: Oh, quite a lot actually. For example, there is the claim to a trade union holiday place, and to sick benefit. Through the union we receive a one-third fare reduction for a rail journey of any length once a year. Further, the union has a say in how housing is to be allocated; who is to receive a kindergarten place; the granting of the paid household day release in cases where normally no entitlement exists—to which, incidentally, unmarried men with children are also entitled; the granting of applications for a reduced working week. It finances the factory sports club...

Jürgen Schulze: ... obtains and pays, in part at least, for tickets to special cultural events; financially supports excursions and similar activities arranged by the work brigades, departments or factory as a whole; offers opportunities for further qualification for which it also pays a book allowance and bonuses for a good showing... And without the agreement of the factory union committee nobody can be dismissed.

— Is there a law in the GDR that protects workers against dismissal?

Yes, there is, the situation is quite clearly defined in the Labour Code.

— Is it possible for the union to take action over the wages of an individual worker?

Here we don't have wage fights like there are in the capitalist countries. But if we were of the opinion that a worker is being paid incorrectly which, although not often, does happen now and again, then the shop steward would take it up with the union committee of the department concerned and the matter would be put to rights with the management. It is possible, for instance, that a worker might be put in a lower wage group than he should be: after a thorough investigation by the trade union he would be reclassified.

— Are you all members of the union in your brigade?

With the exception of one, yes.

— What is the degree of trade union membership in your factory?

Gerhard Mann: I don't know the figure for the whole factory. In our department, of which our "World Peace" work brigade is a part, there are three workers out of 91 who are not members of the union.

— Are you forced to become members of the union?

But of course not, membership is voluntary.

— Is trade union membership obligatory for workers and intellectuals?

It is open to both and, as has already been said, it is voluntary.

— Does a person get black looks if he is not a member of the union?

No. You're cutting off your own nose, if only because of the various advantages you miss out on by not being a member.

In the GDR there are 8,225,000 working people and 492,000 apprentices.

The Confederation of Free German Trade Unions has 8,806,754 members. Nearly all pensioners remain members of the union.

(Taken from the Statistical Yearbook of the GDR 1980)

— Do you pay trade union dues and how much are these?

Gerhard Mann: Of course we pay dues, the amount varies according to income.

Klaus Engmann: Last month, for instance, my gross income was 1,175 marks and my union dues amounted to 12 marks. That's about one per cent; the others pay about the same.

— How are union elections run?

In the groups they are held as open elections where everybody shows his agreement, rejection or abstention by raising his hand. Before this takes place, the previous committee gives its report. After being elected the new committee puts its working programme forward.

The elections to the department union committee are secret and are held after the members have proposed their candidates. The same applies to the elections to the factory union committee.

— Who can be put forward as a candidate?

Everybody proposed by the union group, by his labour collective.

— What protection is given against pressure by the works' management?

I beg your pardon? Our trade union officials receive every support from the management. They are officials with equal rights just like the members of the management and the SED factory committee. They all work together, pull on the same rope, so to speak. There's no pressure, no danger. No, not here.

— Would it be possible in an extreme case for the trade unionists in the brigade to vote a superior out of office?

It certainly is possible that we would adopt such a course of action if there were good reason for it, such as his having misused our trust, for instance. But we cannot vote state managers, the foreman, head of the department and so on, out of their positions. However, we can cause such a measure to be instituted through the factory union committee.

— How can a worker influence the work of the trade union?

Oh, there are many opportunities for doing this. One works by taking an active part in what goes on in your own union group.

— How many members of the work brigade take an active part in trade union work?

Jürgen Schulze: The individual commitment of our members varies, of course. Ten of them, they are our union officials, are very active. But this does not mean that the

others do nothing at all; they, too, are drawn into the various activities.

— How often do you have meetings at your place of work which are attended by all members of the brigade and what questions are discussed?

We meet together at least once a month and in addition whenever tasks set by the factory plan or other happenings within the factory call for it. We also get together to discuss topical political events and, at times, even to discuss big personal problems. We discuss things like labour discipline, work quality, we talk about international solidarity and sometimes—as already said—about quite personal matters. These are just a few examples...

— Are trade union meetings regularly attended?

Yes, they are. We get together once a month at the group meetings. The shop stewards have a general meeting once a quarter.

— How does your trade union organise and take decisions at its factory meetings in order to sort out production problems in the factory and also problems in the social-welfare sphere?

As we are a large factory we hold such meetings on a delegate basis which means that the shop stewards go along. If it is a question of social-welfare, our social insurance officer is also present. If labour safety is on the agenda then the labour safety officer is invited. All the decisions taken are in the interests of the workers, that's a principle here. At these meetings the union can, and does, call on the works' director to clear up certain problems. But as a trade union we do not have to make demands in order to achieve our rights as is the case in Western countries. We do not need to. Our factory is, after all, nationally owned and that means that the management also represents the workers' interests. The criticisms we make have to be seen as an energetic reminder to make sure that the law, and also the decisions we have reached jointly, are implemented in full measure.

— What part does the trade union play in the planning and management of your factory in Singwitz?

Long before the start of every new plan its details are discussed with the workers in the union groups. During this plan discussion we already talk about ways and means of meeting the new targets in the quickest and best possible way. And as the degree of plan fulfilment has a direct bearing on the size of the end-of-year bonus it is clear that everybody is interested and takes part in the discussion.

According to what organisational principles is the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions structured?

The FDGB is organised on the principle of "One enterprise—One trade union". This means that all trade unionists in any one factory, whether production or office worker, or member of the intelligentsia, belong to one industrial union. The organisational structure of the FDGB is governed by the principle of type of production and region. The FDGB unites fifteen industrial and other unions, these include; the industrial unions for the building and wood-working industries, the chemical industry, the glass and ceramics industry, the printing and paper industry; the health workers union, the art and allied professions...

The national executive of the industrial and other unions guide the work of their organisations on the basis of the decisions taken by the National Executive of the FDGB and its national delegate conferences. The National Executive of the FDGB guides the work of all unions as a whole. There is a County Executive of the FDGB in each of the GDR's fifteen counties. These guide the work of the 189 District Executives, check their work as well as coordinating the activities of all unions in the county. The basis of the FDGB is formed by the trade union groups in the enterprises, institutions, administrative offices, etc.

The organisational structure of the FDGB is based on the principle of democratic centralism. This principle means that all trade union officials and committees, from the group at the lowest level right up to the National Executive, are elected by the members. The members of these various bodies are accountable to the people who elected them. It further means that the decisions of the superior bodies are binding on the lower committees and all members of the union. Officials can be recalled at any time by the members and committees if they violate the statutes or decisions and thus no longer enjoy the trust of the members.

All of us are the owners

— When the plan is put forward have the SED and the FDGB the task of making the workers accept it? Or is it possible for the union to propose an amended plan based on the workers' demands which is perhaps more realistic in its aims and easier to carry through?

Well, it works like this. Basing its work on the Plan Directives passed at the SED's congress, the State Planning Committee attached to the Council of Ministers draws up a draft plan which—in the last instance when it has been broken down into the figures for each labour collective—is then discussed by the workers. Ninety per cent of the workers took part in the discussion on the current Five-Year Plan. Amendment proposals are, therefore, made while the plan is being drawn up, "from the bottom to the top" so to speak. Our deliberations are not directed to reducing the goals of the plan but towards fulfilling and over-fulfilling them. Our brigade, for instance, has set itself the aim of improving on the rejects quota put forward by the management for us.

When the People's Chamber has passed the bill on the plan then, of course, the management, the SED and the trade union have the task of ensuring that its provisions are fulfilled.

— There must be an awful lot of pussy-footers around, not everybody is all that enthusiastic about work. What do you do with such people?

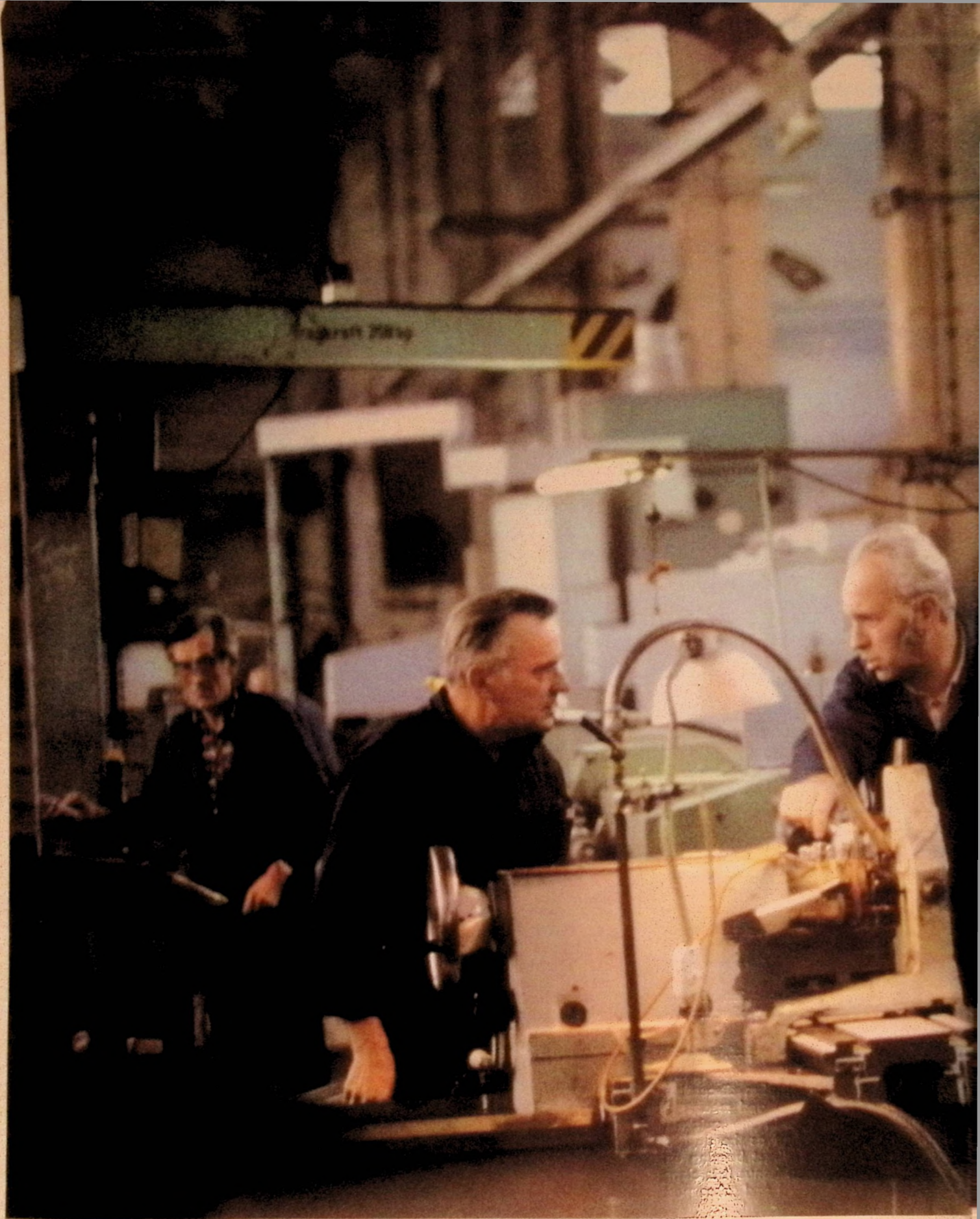
Give them "a kick on the shins". But seriously, there are, of course, discussions in the collective; we are hard on that sort of thing. But it is rather a different matter when somebody cannot do as much as he or she should and would like to. There the collective helps out so that the person concerned soon catches up on the performance of the others.

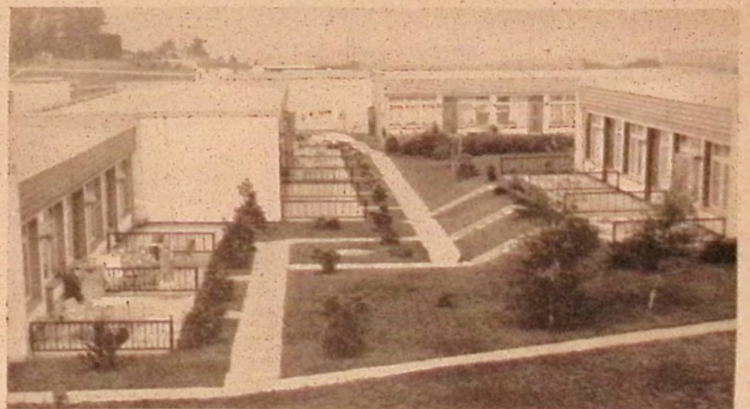
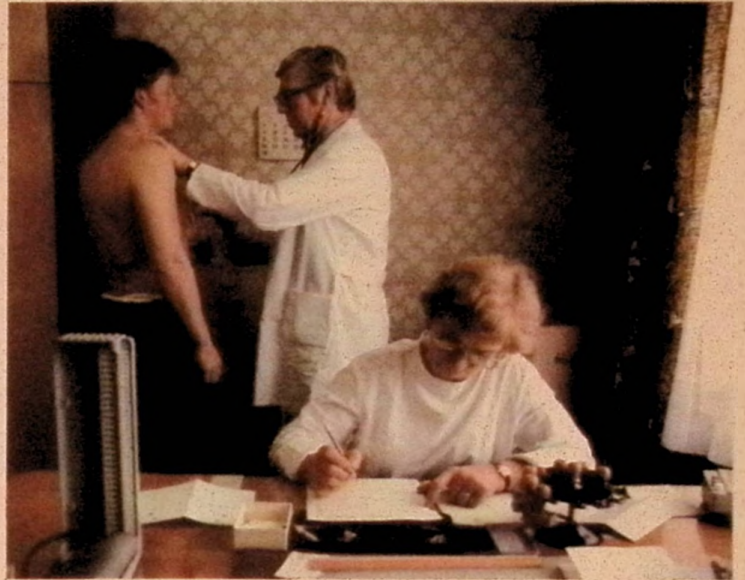
— How can the "World Peace" Brigade negotiate with the manager in order to improve productivity?

Gerhard Mann: We have no manager in the old sense of the word. What we do have are state-appointed managers such as our foreman Karl-Heinz Fischer, for example. He is responsible for ensuring that working time is fully utilised, that new machines and appliances are brought into use, that the machines are properly cared for, in short, all those things that have a bearing on productivity. He discusses such points with us.

Jürgen Menzel: I do not quite understand what is meant by negotiate. Here in our country it's like this: the means of pro-

Continued on page 32





From top to bottom:

*To and from work quickly with the factory bus.
The factory medical centre is situated in the works' grounds in
Singwitz. Treatment here is free of charge, just as everywhere else
in the republic.*

*Bungalows on the shore of the Bautzen Reservoir—a holiday spot
built under the auspices of the trade union and the factory for the
workers.*

duction do not belong to some private individual but to all of us. Logically this means that we are all interested in raising productivity. The gain is ours. Perhaps it could be explained best by saying that the desire to increase productivity also comes from below, and that means it comes from us workers.

- As an old active trade unionist I am particularly interested in the work of the disputes commissions.

The disputes commissions are social bodies for the administration of justice in the factories of the GDR. Apart from labour law their sphere of competence also covers misdemeanours, petty crime and straightforward litigation under civil law. In their work and deliberations the disputes commissions are, of course, bound by the Constitution, the laws and other legal regulations of the GDR.

The members of the disputes commissions are elected by secret vote for a period of two years. The candidates are put forward by the factory trade union committee from members of the workforce. The composition of a disputes commission should represent a cross-section of the particular enterprise.

During its deliberations on misdemeanours, minor offences and the like, the disputes commission can stipulate educational measures, reprimand the offender and cause him to make restitution for damage inflicted. In the case of civil or other legal disputes the commission tries to bring about a reconciliation that accords with the principles of socialist law.

The deliberations leading to all decisions are, in every case, public.

Trade union against political power?

- Is the trade union subordinated to the state?

We are, of course, subject to the laws of our state.

- Is your trade union attitude directed towards cooperation with or fighting against the political power? Is there any contrast between the party and the trade union?

Jürgen Menzel: To be quite honest such a question would just not occur to us here. Our social system means that all work hand in hand. There is no division between political power and the trade union.

Gerhard Mann: The FDGB is a mass organisation that works in close cooperation with the state; the two arrive at joint decisions...

Klaus Engmann: ...whereby the union gives impulses that have a direct bearing

on political affairs. It is a relationship of mutuality.

Jürgen Schulze: The chairman of the FDGB's executive body is a member of the SED Central Committee's Political Bureau as well as being a member of the State Council and a deputy to the People's Chamber.

Gerhard Mann: In our nationally-owned factories things are like this: the management can be likened to a triumvirate consisting of the director as the state manager, the secretary of the SED's factory group committee and the chairman of the trade union committee. All three are duty-bound to manage the factory's affairs in such a manner that it reaches the targets set it in both the economic and social spheres—to the benefit of the whole of society.

- Do you think that the mechanism of trade union democracy is efficient?

Yes, of course. We exercise and apply it ourselves. The union applies the principle of democratic centralism and this offers really everyone the opportunity of joining in the work and decision-making.

- Why is there only one trade union in your country although you have several parties?

We do have industrial unions covering the workers in the various branches of industry: the metal-working industry, the mining and power industry, for example. They are all united in the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions. And this organisation represents the interests of each one of us: for peace, work, social stability... There is, indeed, no cause to lead trade union work in a different direction. And how does the old slogan run: Unity is Strength!

- Do independent trade unions exist in your country?

What would be the point of them? We have already said that the SED, the government and the trade union represent the same interests—namely ours. That is, if you like to look at it that way, a beneficial dependency for us. Whom should the trade union be independent of—of our own interests perhaps?

- What sense is there in you being a member of a trade union, that is, an organisation that defends the interests of the workers against attacks from the employers, when your factories are nationally-owned?

This should be quite clear from the answers which we have already given.

- Has the trade union in the GDR contacts with unions in other countries?

Yes, it has. The executive of the FDGB has links and contacts with many trade union organisations in other countries.

- What sort of information do you have

about the Western countries and in particular about the trade union struggles for a better life for the workers in Italy?

The press, radio and TV in our country bring a lot of reports about this.

- What tasks will face the trade union in the future?

Jürgen Menzel: With the further development of society the tasks of the trade union are bound to change. We see it this way: the tasks arising from the plan will become bigger and greater in scope. However, it is not more muscle-power that is to be used to carry them through but the application of modern technology. Here the trade union has got to keep an eye on further qualification; this it already does but it will have to do even more in that direction in future.

Gerhard Mann: Our union will continue to show its solidarity with, for example, the developing countries as well as with the struggle of the workers in the capitalist countries. We are not untouched by the complicated situation in the world. We are not sitting behind a high fence over which we cannot look. That's one point. Another one to which we shall have to pay more attention in future is that of protecting the health of the workers. The union groups will have to be empowered to apply for more preventive and restorative courses of treatment for their fellow workers.

Socialist emulation contest— all pull together

- What is the socialist emulation contest?

Briefly it is the integration of all the tasks of a work brigade and/or trade union group in order to be able to fulfil or overfulfil the plan targets as quickly and as well as possible. On the one side the workers within one brigade emulate each other, and on the other the brigades in one department emulate each other to the same end.

- Do you regard the socialist emulation contest as a civic duty with the object of enriching society as a whole and of creating still greater benefits for all citizens?

Yes, we do. And we must not forget that it isn't simply a question of achieving better results at work. After all, the lives of all of us are also enriched by the contest because an integral part of it everywhere is to further broaden our minds and to frequently organise jointly our leisure time in a meaningful way.

- Have you the feeling that all your effort in the emulation contest is just a sacrifice?

No, it is anything but a sacrifice. And we even receive a bonus for good results.

— Who initiates and stimulates the socialist emulation contest? The trade union, the party, the management, the state, or the working people themselves?

All of them. There is no division between them.

— Is the socialist emulation contest the concern of everybody or is it just that of workers with a high degree of political and social consciousness?

Everybody in our brigade joins in because everybody earns through it and everybody would like to earn good money. The emulation contest is not just a question of consciousness alone. Every good result brings something for all, and all take part.

— Do you find pleasure in your work despite the automatic repetition of the same operations again and again?

Jürgen Menzel: Obviously, otherwise we would not work at our trade.

Klaus Engmann: I like it a lot better with the modern NC machines. And the work is not all just the same. We make twelve different sorts of shafts; this in itself makes for variety. And it's fun to work with the new machines.

— Is your socialist emulation contest more concerned with the quality or with the quantity of the work done?

For us it is a question of both.

— Does the contest stand in relation to the development of your factory and is it planned?

Yes, of course it is. The whole development and production of our combine harvester is a result of the emulation contest. And for the fulfilment of the plan targets the management depends on the emulation contest.

— Are there legal stipulations for the running of the socialist emulation contest?

Yes, it is clearly stipulated that the workers are to receive a material share in the results of the contest.

— Aren't you of the opinion that in this contest it is more a question of the dependency on the machine and productivity than a humanisation of the work even if this is rather less productive?

It is not we who work more quickly but the machines. And when it is a question of higher productivity, then through the use of modern machinery. The socialist emulation contest calls on us to help increase productivity by making proposals for improving the work.

— Here in Denmark we have the so-called piece-work system. My question is whether your contest cannot develop into the same

thing? Is there not in your contest the danger that the worker can be ruined by it?

No, that is not possible. We take part in our contest voluntarily and endeavour to achieve the highest possible performance. And the trade union ensures that we are not ruined in the process.

— Has the socialist emulation contest any negative aspects for the national economy and for the relations between the workers themselves—for example, envy among the workers, snooping on the part of the political commissars etc., or has socialist culture abolished such attitudes?

To be quite honest we do not really understand your question. We don't have snoopers here. And envy—where is this to come from? A worker who fulfils his norm quickly tells the others how he did so without having to be forced to.

— How big are your successes in the socialist emulation contest? Have you reached the targets you set yourselves?

The factory management has already confirmed on several occasions that we have done outstanding work in fulfilling our plan targets. We have been awarded the title "Socialist Labour Collective" consecutively for seven years now. This award is made annually by the management to those collectives which have fulfilled their plan targets in the socialist emulation contest. A better performance pays out for us: last year we received the highest end-of-year bonus in the department.

Machines that are in demand

— The harvester and tractor manufacturing factories in many countries are sending their workers on enforced leave because the demand for their products is so low. What is the situation in your place? Have you sufficient orders for the future?

We are not in a position to make all the machines that are needed here at home and abroad.

— Production is more rapid in industry than in agriculture. Do you think that your product, that is a combine that can only be used in farming, will one day arrive at the point where the market for such expensive equipment will be saturated?

No, things will not get that far. There is wear and tear to consider and also the modernisation of the machines. It is a question of bringing in the harvest quickly and without losses with them. Such expensive machines pay for themselves. In addition to this the developing countries are just starting out in this field...

— Are all your workers aware of the difficulties involved in selling the machines in capitalist countries?

The competition is sharp to be sure. But our machines are, nevertheless, in demand.

— Is your product competitive with regard to both price and technical standard?

Certainly. This is shown by the gold medals we have been awarded at various international trade fairs.

— How do you see the further development of your combine harvester?

We expect that it will continue to improve steadily. At the moment our designers are working on the development of a more modern type, and many of our suggestions are being incorporated.

Other points of interest

— Is there a family planning advisory centre where you live?

There is one in Bautzen, our district town.

— Is birth control a matter purely for the couple concerned?

Yes, it is.

— Does your family think that two or three children are sufficient?

Jürgen Menzel: Even that's hard for some. But joking apart, I have already fulfilled my "plan".

Klaus Engmann: I would like two children, preferably a boy and a girl.

— Have people in the GDR the right to have no children at all?

Yes, they have.

— Are you for or against demographic growth? Why is the GDR promoting an increase in the birth rate? Is it not sufficiently populated with a population density of 160 people per square kilometre?

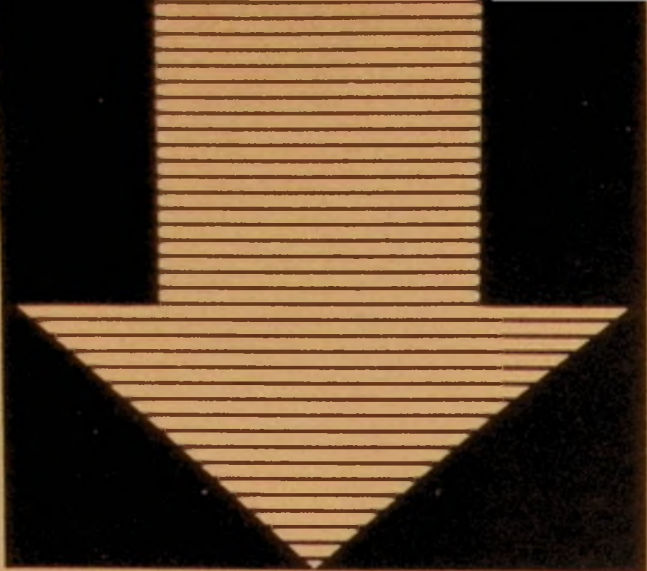
The number of old people in the GDR's population is very high. That is why the republic is endeavouring to maintain at least the present population level.

— I fought as a partisan and would like to know if the anti-fascist struggle of the Italian partisans is at all known in the GDR.

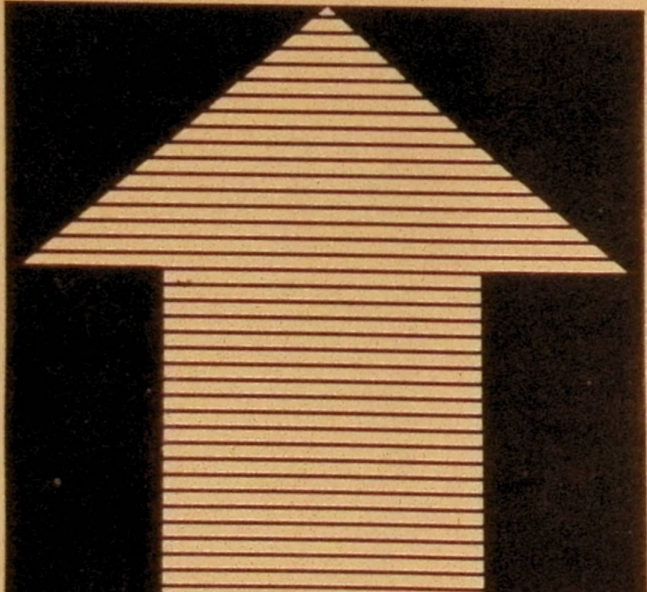
Yes, there are books, newspaper articles and films about it. There are also reports on TV and the radio.

— Who pays for the schoolbooks during the period of compulsory schooling: the parents or the state?

Continued on page 40



WHO THREATENS WHOM?



For decades politicians and the mass media in imperialist states have untiringly attempted to persuade their listeners or readers that "the East" constitutes a threat to their countries. Yet which language is spoken by the facts? Which objectives are served by the insistence on a "danger from the East"? Whose interests are at stake? GDR REVIEW provides answers to these questions in a series of articles.

IN THE USA politics and everyday life are increasingly being subjected to the requirements of the military-industrial complex. One of the most dangerous components of this complex is the giant General Dynamics concern, the main trading partner of the Pentagon.

Based in St. Louis, Missouri, this concern does not actually belong to the traditional arms manufacturers in the USA. Yet its development testifies to the sheer unlimited possibilities for the American armaments industry to make profit.

General Dynamics came into being in 1952 following the merger of three companies. Soon afterwards the concern swallowed up other firms and has since grown to become the biggest producer of conventional and nuclear submarines in the capitalist world. As a manufacturer of combat aircraft in the USA, General Dynamics is second only to McDonnell Douglas; it is one of the top producers of missiles and also has assets in the non-military sector such as the exploration and extraction of raw materials. However, there is hardly a mineral that cannot be used for military purposes in one way or another.

The economic development of General Dynamics in the nineteen-seventies was rapid and actually reflected the acceleration of the arms race by the USA. The annual turnover grew by 63 per cent from 1974 to 1978, with the declared profits soaring by a huge 173 per cent. This trend has continued, for in 1977 General Dynamics had already secured long-term orders worth 14,000 million dollars.

Today the concern employs about 77,000 people, most of them in the following subsidiary companies:

● **Fort Worth Division, Fort Worth/Texas**

It manufactures the F-16 supersonic combat aircraft, mass production having started in 1980. While at present the company has orders for 1,850 planes (1,396 for the USA; 348 for Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark and Norway; 75 for Israel; 24 for South Korea) worth between 8,000 and 9,000 million dollars, it reckons with a total production of up to 5,000 aircraft. The head of the concern D.S. Lewis stated that the F-16 programme was the largest of its kind launched in recent years. This was indirectly confirmed by the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, a paper of the West German big bourgeoisie, which wrote: "With regard to orders for aircraft, the biggest American arms concern need not worry for years, if not for decades."

● **Electric Boat Division, Groton/Connecticut and Quonset Point/Rhode Island**

This company produces submarines, primarily the Trident

Dealing in Death

**General Dynamics –
the biggest armaments profiteer in the USA**

nuclear submarine—a new generation of strategic weapon carriers with 24 missiles as against the 16 missiles mounted on its predecessor. At the beginning of 1981 there were plans for the construction of 13 Trident submarines costing 1,200 million dollars apiece without missiles. However, the concern is certain of receiving additional orders from the present US government. The Electric Boat Division also produces nuclear hunter-killer submarines of the Los Angeles class priced at 600 million dollars each. The initial order was for 18 such submarines.

● Convair Division, San Diego/California

This company manufactures Cruise and other missiles. In the competition for the first big Pentagon order envisaging the production of several thousand Cruise missiles, to be mounted on a total of 120 B-52 strategic bombers, General Dynamics lost to its rival Boeing. Nevertheless, it sees a good chance for receiving subsequent orders.

The Convair Division also produces Atlas rockets for military and other satellites, as well as the KC-10 strategic transport plane in cooperation with McDonnell Douglas.

● Pomona Division, Pomona/California

This company manufactures guided missiles of various types such as the Sparrow air-to-air missile. In 1978 the Pentagon ordered 1,310 of these worth 81 million dollars for the US armed forces. This missile is also supplied to other NATO states and a few developing countries including some in the Middle East. Recently the company started producing an anti-tank and anti-aircraft missile weapon handled by only one man. The FRG is also involved in this project.

● Electronics Division, San Diego/California

It produces electronic military equipment including components for the American navigation satellite system, the so-called Global Positioning System or Navstar. This system has been developed since 1974 and is to become fully operational as from the mid-nineteen-eighties. It will consist of 24 satellites positioned in three orbits around the earth at a height of between 16,000 and 20,000 kilometres. With their help the accuracy of US intercontinental weapons is to be increased to plus-minus ten metres.

● Freeman United Coal Mining Company, Chicago/Illinois, and Asbestos Generation Limited, Montreal/Canada
These companies are concerned with the exploration and mining of mineral deposits. In this sphere, too, General Dy-

namics does not shrink from using criminal methods to forestall its rivals and stake out major claims. Thus at the beginning of 1980, a group of Americans in Venezuela disguised as missionaries were reported to have been spying out cobalt deposits for General Dynamics in the south of the country since the mid-nineteen-seventies.

A multimillion swindle

With reference to such business methods Professor Seymour Melman, expert in industrial technology at Columbia University, pointed out that while the non-military sector always sought to keep down production costs in order to make greater profits, the companies working for the Pentagon were doing their best to raise these costs and thus to extract more subsidies from the state.

The imperialist practice of subsidising leads to a constant price rise. In the USA the armaments industry is the main-spring of inflation. For example, General Dynamics originally offered the US government Trident submarines for 800 million dollars apiece. The current price has already topped 1,200 million dollars, with only two submarines being launched. Hence nobody is prepared today to predict the price of the last Trident submarines to be delivered in the mid-nineteen-eighties.

The dimensions of this price explosion already became obvious several years ago in the instance of another product of General Dynamics, the F-111 medium-range bomber carrying nuclear weapons. Although planned to cost only three million dollars, the last F-111 bombers delivered were priced at nine million dollars each. There is a similar tendency with regard to all the other "top-rate" products of General Dynamics. P. Andrews, an arms expert in Washington, aptly called this practice a multimillion swindle.

Ties with the military in the state apparatus

General Dynamics is an excellent example of how the military-industrial complex functions in the USA. In his farewell speech in 1961, the then US President Eisenhower defined this complex as a tie-up between the vast military establishment and the big armaments industry. This interconnection between arms companies and government officials concerned with military matters in the broadest sense of the word, has acquired an alarming scale in the USA. Between

"It is not by chance that the striving for military superiority is most intimately connected with the economic interests of the multinationals which, by dealing in weapons of destruction, make on average profits that are two or three times higher than the whole of industry. Since 1960 NATO's expenditure on armaments has risen to more than threefold. During the last ten years alone military expenditure has amounted to more than 1.5 billion dollars. In the USA arms expenditure is to account for the enormous sum of 1.3 to 1.5 billion dollars between 1980 and 1986. Imperialism's interest in the arms drive and the aggressiveness that accompanies this represent a tremendous threat to the future of humanity."

Erich Honecker in the report of the Central Committee to the Tenth Congress of the SED.

1940 and 1967, for example, eight defence secretaries out of ten, seven secretaries of the air force out of eight, eight secretaries of the navy out of nine, all deputy defence secretaries, three directors of the CIA out of five and three chairmen of the US Atomic Energy Commission out of five came from big industry or high finance.

As early as the beginning of the nineteen-seventies Senator Proxmire estimated that a whole generation of American entrepreneurs, top managers and procurement experts had moved from US armaments companies to strategic positions at the Defence Department and vice versa. This has led to a situation where, according to the bourgeois ideologue J. K. Galbraith, the top brass or the armaments concerns take decisions on defence matters, with Congress and the public then being informed only afterwards... The military establishment had reversed constitutional stipulations in turning over some of the power of Congress and the public to the Pentagon.

General Dynamics was integrated in this system from the outset, and it owes its economic development largely to this fact. The former president of the concern R. Lewis, for example, was undersecretary of procurement under President Eisenhower. Two of his successors—E. D. Johnson and F. Pace—were at one time secretaries of the army. A vice-president of General Dynamics was for a long time an advisor to the Naval Scientific Advisory Board. There are more such examples.

Through such interconnections the arms industry exerts systematic pressure for a permanent increase in military expenditure in that "it constantly comes up with ideas for new weapons," as an expert put it. According to J. W. Bes-sire, a long-standing leading representative of General Dynamics, the concern is seeking to anticipate the needs of the military three years in advance. It cooperates with the procurement officers of the armed services thus obtaining new orders.

In the USA the tentacles of the military-industrial complex extend to Congress itself, the legislative body which every year decides upon military budgets and concrete arms programmes. The armaments monopolies have a strong lobby in Washington which conservative estimates put at more than

1,000 people. These lobbyists systematically influence members of Congress thus championing the interests of the arms industry. In addition, the biggest armaments companies have direct, though undercover, representatives both in the House of Representatives and the Senate. Sometimes these covert connections become known, as in the case of the reactionary Senator Jackson who has for years been among the advocates of an accelerated arms race and a militant anti-Soviet foreign policy. His business links have become so manifest that bourgeois American papers often refer to him as the Senator of Boeing.

Corruption pervades the procurement system

With reference to the mechanism of collaboration between the arms industry and members of the two houses of Congress, the former Senator Penrose, a man who should know, is quoted as saying to businessmen: "I believe in the division of labour. You send us to Congress, and we pass laws and decisions enabling you to make money. From your profits you keep making donations to our election funds and send us again to do some legislating. This in turn brings you still more money."

The American economist R. P. Barnett rightly said, though with a strong note of understatement, that an odour of corruption pervaded the whole military procurement system. General Dynamics provided a characteristic example of this a few years ago, when the then leader of the Democratic Party in Congress, Wright, called on the government to subsidise the building of the F-111 bomber, even though the Pentagon had not yet placed a relevant order.

The motives behind Wright's demand were soon plausibly explained in the US press—the F-111 bomber had been developed by General Dynamics, and Wright had been put into the Capitol by General Dynamics. With regard to the F-111 project, the lobby of General Dynamics was very effective both in the state apparatus and Congress. At that time the concern was somewhat in the doldrums following losses of about 400 million dollars from its Convair airliner project. And although US military experts favoured the F-111

General Dynamics: This company, at present the Pentagon's biggest contractor, hopes to sell 1,388 new F-16 multi-role fighters to the Air Force during the next ten years... The Electric Boat Division in Groton, Connecticut, a subsidiary of General Dynamics, builds the SSN 688 nuclear-powered strategic submarines and *Trident* missile submarines. The Navy has ordered eight *Tridents* and cost increases have driven the price up to more than 1,200 million dollars per submarine. The company also has contracts for 48 sea-launched *Tomahawk* cruise missiles to the value of 96 million dollars...

"Time", New York, April 20, 1981 (taken from the German).

Commercial development of General Dynamics (millions of dollars)

	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
Sales	1,968	2,160	2,554	2,901	3,205
of which					
Military aviation	256	264	304	488	808
Rockets and missile systems	137	204	255	304	423
Space programme	115	123	132	106	96
Shipbuilding (primarily for the navy)	533	755	1,044	1,149	942
Profits*	51	81	100	103	139

* As with other companies this figure is, as a rule, far lower than is actually the case. At the most the figures here indicate the rising trend.

The ten biggest contractors of the Pentagon (1979).

Figures in millions of dollars

General Dynamics	4,150
McDonnell Douglas	2,860
United Technologies	2,400
Lockheed	2,230
General Electric	1,790
Litton Industries	1,560
Boeing	1,520
Hughes Aircraft	1,490
Raytheon	1,310
Grumman	1,180

design submitted by Boeing, the state subsidies for the construction of this nuclear medium-range bomber went to General Dynamics. Thus the concern recovered, not least by steeply raising the bomber's price, as already mentioned. General Dynamics has supplied a considerable number of this aircraft to the US and Australian armed forces. Today 156 US F-111 bombers are based in Britain as part of the American forward-based systems directed against the Warsaw Treaty member states.

The maintenance of a strong lobby and connections with the American state apparatus are just part of the activities of armaments concerns like General Dynamics aimed at safeguarding their interests. Besides this, the arms monopolies do all they can to create an international climate conducive to rearmament, a climate of tension, conflicts and regional wars. They give financial support to reactionary groupings of influential opponents of detente, armaments limitation and disarmament, with a view to whipping up the arms race, restoring American military superiority and torpedoing agreements with the USSR such as the SALT II treaty.

One of these groupings is the committee of the present danger embracing the most reactionary and aggressive circles in the USA, including prominent lobbyists of the armaments concerns such as former deputy defence secretaries Nitze and Packard, former head of the CIA Colby, former NATO supreme commanders for Western Europe Goodpaster and Lemnitzer, and former State Secretary Rusk. The committee is primarily concerned with organising and orchestrating anti-Soviet agitation in the USA. This is precisely what the arms manufacturers like.

The lie of a Soviet threat brings big orders

The multimillion funds the committee uses every year for its activities (the 1979/80 anti-SALT II campaign alone cost ten million dollars) come largely from arms concerns such as General Dynamics. Without the myth of a Soviet menace there would be no big orders from the Pentagon and, consequently, no fantastic profits for the arms manufacturers.

In our times concerns like General Dynamics are a direct threat to the existence of humanity not only because they put out weapons of mass destruction and other offensive armaments, thus creating the military-technological basis for aggressive US foreign policy, but also because they export military hardware, step up the arms race all over the world and promote an international climate favouring the further escalation of arming.

With regard to precisely this aspect the managers of General Dynamics seem to be particularly satisfied at the present time. One of their representatives stated that the business prospects of the concern were very good adding, with demagogical reference to the more than eight million jobless Americans, that the large number of orders received had a positive effect on employment. In actual fact, the arms industry increases unemployment, requiring as it does proportionally more capital than labour. If that capital were invested in the civilian sector, it would create two to three times more jobs than in the military sector. Moreover, the production of armaments threatens the very people involved in it, for it carries incalculable risks, increases international tension and hence the danger of war.

Hans-Peter Götz

NEVER FORGET!



"Auschwitz", drawn by Peter Edel in 1943 in the concentration camp.

BOOKS FROM THE GDR ON JUDAISM
AND THE FASCIST PERSECUTION OF THE JEWS

BY LEAH IRELAND-KUNZE

IT was only after many years' study of the German language and literature that I held a book from the GDR in my hands. I had spent some years in the FRG — but there, as well as in my former homeland, the USA, GDR literature was seldom mentioned among German philologists or analysed in detail. The little volume I discovered in 1975 in California contained poems by Johannes Bobrowski. I leafed through the book with a certain amount of scepticism—and was astonished, not only at the high quality of language and artistry in these poems, but also because of the themes treated in them. Here was a poem about Gertrud Kolmar, another about Isaak Babel, another about a Hassid named Barkan... poems about Jews! How was it possible that a German, who from the biographical notes on the book-jacket obviously was not a Jew himself, could write without embarrassment about Jews?

West German authors take up this theme hardly at all, or only with a certain amount of inhibition. From my experiences in the FRG I knew—and could later only confirm during my stay in West Berlin—that definitely anti-fascist literature and the honest, unfalsified presentation of the history of the persecution of the Jews during the fascist regime are relatively rare in the FRG. In the FRG and in West Berlin I experienced the terrorising of the Jewish communities and the desecration of their synagogues and cemeteries. In the USA I had always heard that the Jews in socialist countries were persecuted and oppressed. If this were true, how could a GDR author write so much about the Jews and their sufferings under Hitlerite fascism?

I soon became acquainted with the numerous anti-fascist works, the poems and prose of many authors which were concerned with Jewish themes, the biographies and memoirs of prominent people of Jewish origin, the many translations and adaptations of Yiddish literature from the presses of the GDR. A completely different climate than that of the FRG prevails in this country: here people write and speak openly about fascism and its racist persecutions. The great interest of the GDR public—which is well informed about the past and is open to other cultures—impressed me greatly from the start.

The philologist coming from a capitalist country is immediately confronted with an important linguistic and philosophical difference between the literatures of the FRG and the GDR: the fight against fascism has affected the vocabulary of the writer as well as the daily speech of the people of the GDR. Such a fight is only possible when the roots of fascism are researched and made known.

In the west one speaks rather of "overcoming the past" than of "fighting fascism". Fascism—the term "nazism" is more popular, and thus is fascism often reduced to this version—is understood as a sort of unearthly or metaphysical power which appeared quasi as an act of fate in history and before which society remains in a sense powerless.

Notions about the causes of fascism remain generally vague and are applied to the crimes of individuals. Now, "overcoming the past" is an extremely imprecise concept. A past is past, it represents no presently tangible reality per se. How is one to overcome something which is past and gone? In order to avoid falling into mystification, it is necessary to investigate the continuing causes, problems and challenges of this only seemingly past event. These must be fought, i.e. "overcome".

Literature can lead to new insights, bring people together and encourage human understanding. Literature which informs the reader about the various peoples contributes to understanding between peoples. For this reason, works about Jews and Judaism have particular importance for German literature since 1945—an importance which is obviously respected in the GDR. Among the best-known books from the GDR is Heinz Knobloch's *Herr Moses in Berlin*, a precisely researched and at the same time very amusing presentation of the life and surroundings of Moses Mendelssohn. Inge Unikower's biographical novel *Suche nach dem gelobten Land* (Search for the Promised Land) offers an informative look into the daily life of Jews in eastern Europe between the World Wars.

The memoirs of those people of Jewish origin who survived the fascist period are especially important for today's youth; yet in the FRG, such books must compete on the same sales counter with the autobiographies and memoirs of the worst nazi cri-

minals, and it is very questionable whether young people who are insufficiently informed about fascism can make the right choice. The books available there by surviving victims of fascism are comparatively few. Here the contrast with the GDR is particularly noticeable, for in the GDR numerous memoirs have appeared recently. Peter Edel's *Wenn es ans Leben geht* (A Matter of Life and Death) is a particularly great achievement, and its publication by the FRG press "Roederberg Verlag" is commendable. Many understanding portraits of Jewish people and their fates from various parts of Europe are encountered by the reader of Fred Wander's autobiographical novel *Der siebente Brunnen* (The Seventh Fountain). Further autobiographical works such as Jan Koplowitz' *Bohemia mein Schicksal* (Bohemia My Destiny) and *Geschichten aus dem Ölpapier* (Stories Out of the Packing Paper) allow the reader a look into the contradiction-ridden world of the Jews in central Europe before the Second World War.

The active interest of the GDR public in the preservation of Jewish culture and in translations of Yiddish authors was a great and happy surprise to me. A very respectable record has been accomplished in this field: thanks to Lin Jaldati, Jutta Janke, Eberhard Rebling, Jürgen Rennert, Alexander Eliasberg and Hubert Witt, one can read translations of contemporary Yiddish authors in the GDR who are relatively unknown in western countries, even in those with very large Jewish populations.

Such GDR authors as Bobrowski have praised the positive features and the humanistic, tolerant humour of the Ashkenazic (i.e. east European) Jews in their works and recognised the irreplaceable contribution of the Jews to humanising ideals and movements in the history of mankind.

The warning: "Never forget!" is written on many memorials in the GDR. In Peter Edel's autobiography is a great statement, with which the survivors and their heirs as well as the authors and philologists concerned with this thematic area can only agree:

**"When in our world all
can live as human beings—then,
and only then, forget us!"**

The parents. In large families with four and more children the books, although very low in price anyway, are paid for by the state.

– Does the school prepare children for the world of work or not?

Yes, it does by means of the polytechnical lessons which include periods of practical work.

– Is it true that in the socialist countries young married couples have to wait a long time for a home of their own?

As a rule, yes. Here in the GDR it can be two or three years; but thanks to the housing programme this waiting period is getting shorter and shorter.

– I would like to know whether a young man in the GDR can become a professional footballer.

As there are no professional sports here in our republic there are also no professional footballers either.

– Why do GDR athletes win at all sports competitions?

At all? That's not a bit true.

– Do people in the GDR have the right to interest themselves in flying saucers?

Yes, they have. But it is to be hoped that they do not come from the wife!

– You probably read a lot in your leisure. Have you read books about Finland?

Yes, we have and we found the photographic books especially interesting.

– Are you for or against the death penalty?

Jürgen Menzel: I am against it. Life is only given to a person once.

Klaus Engmann: For some crimes I might wish that there was one.

– What singers or groups with an international name are your favourites?

Klaus Engmann: Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young, Bob Dylan... everything that has to do with Soul and Blues. I like ABBA, too.

Jürgen Menzel: A prefer folk music, especially the Alexandrov Ensemble from the Soviet Union.

– What do you think about the environment? Are the rivers in the GDR polluted or can one swim in them?

In some you can—in some you can't. It all depends in what area you want to go swimming. It's not always so good in an industrial area.

– Does it cost anything to drive on the Autobahn?

No, there are no charges raised for this.

– Is there pornography in films or on TV in the GDR?

No, there's nothing like that here.

– What is your opinion of pornography?

Klaus Engmann: I'm still young enough to do without alien stimulants.

Petra Siemon and Brigitte Thal took down the answers.

Carla Arnold, Günter Ackermann and Erdmann Mach took the photographs.

These and other readers posed the questions:

Patrick Hermans, Jean Schellekens, Brussels; Willy Meert, Lebbeke (Belgium)—Jesper John, Brabrand (Denmark)—Sirpa Savolainen, Joensuu (Finland)—Eric Marceau, Sennecey le Grand; Bertrand Koeppe, Marange-Sivrange; Michel Nicolier, Belfort; Paul Riquier, Laval; Patrick Carrov, Gengay; Pierre Boisrenoult, Micheline and Alex Fischmann, Paris (France)—H. Evans, Milton Keynes (England)—Mauro Mezzetti, Bologna; Gerardo Iandolo, Trento; Franco Manzani, Vaciglio; Sergio Save, Ronco Biellese; Gaetano Esposito, Naples; Franco Tolu, Ala; Roberto Vaira, Paolo Baccadoro, Turin; Rio Tacconi, Poggibonsi; Silvano Ponti, Florence; Guido Perazzi, Cavi di Lavagna; Mario Parissi, Petroia; Achille Guerini, Casnigo (Italy)—Sepp Gundendorfer, Steyr (Austria)—Helmut Moser, Almhult; Sören Berglund, Gävle; Bertil Janasson, Eslöv (Sweden)—Walter Kuenzler, Thal (Switzerland).

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Peace – Our Main Concern

Ninth National Congress
of the France–GDR Society

IN EARLY November 1981 more than 400 members of the France–GDR Society met for its Ninth National Congress in Le Havre. In the course of their discussions the delegates, who came from all walks of life, pointed out that their work in the friendship society was closely and inseparably linked with the struggle for peace, detente and international friendship.

The Congress in Le Havre,

which had been preceded by departmental congresses, was also attended by a delegation from the GDR's International Friendship League. It was headed by the League's president and deputy chairman of the GDR's State Council, Gerald Götting. Further members were Dr Ernst Scholz, president of the GDR–France Friendship Society, Prof. Günther Drefahl, president of the

GDR's Peace Council, and other public figures.

In his opening address to the delegates of the Ninth National Congress André Duroméa, mayor of Le Havre, said: "Le Havre suffered badly during the last war. Half of its population was buried under the ruins and the docks were largely destroyed in the bombing raids. 6,000 inhabitants of our town lost their lives—they were killed while on duty in the army or the *Résistance*, murdered by fascist execution squads or in concen-



During a reception given by the mayor of Le Havre, André Duro-méa, Gerald Götting (centre) was presented with the town's badge of honour.

Photos: Claude Chambon



tration camps, or died in a hail of bombs. To put it briefly we people from Le Havre know the price of war and treasure peace, the greatest possession of mankind. For this reason we do everything in our power to help safeguard it."

In France, too, there is growing concern at NATO's policy of enforced arming and the aggravation of the international situation, and it was not fortuitous that Le Havre was chosen as the venue for the Congress. It was meant to be a warning. Though their feeling of friendship towards the GDR is motivated by different reasons, the members of the Society consider the establishment and deepening of relations with the first socialist German state as a contribution towards detente and peaceful coexistence. The Ninth National Congress of the France-GDR Society was dominated by this theme. Its slogan ran as follows: "Let us develop relations between France and the GDR in the interest of our own country and in the interest of detente and peace."

In his report to the Congress Gabriel Duc, general secretary of the Society, welcomed the positive development of relations between our two peoples which had become particularly evident in recent years. We need only think, he said, of the progress made in bilateral economic relations, the signing of cultural and consular agreements, etc. However, there remained much to be done to get to know each other better and to further mutual understanding which would improve bilateral cooperation, stressed the general secretary. In this spirit the Society has undertaken to assist its departmental and local committees in improving their activities and to provide them with adequate opportunities of acquiring information about life as it really is in the GDR and spreading this newly-gained knowledge in France. Gabriel Duc said: "We are of the opinion that we have to present a true picture of all aspects of life in the GDR to all our branch committees. In this, our main task, it is desirable and

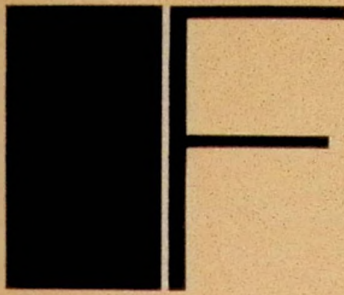
possible to become more active and improve the quality of our work in order to simultaneously increase our contribution to peace and international friendship."

In his address the head of the GDR delegation, Gerald Götting, assured the delegates of the great interest with which people in his home country were following their Congress in Le Havre. He said: "We think that for several reasons this Ninth Congress assumes particular importance for our further cooperation. Firstly, the international situation, unfortunately, has deteriorated and calls for additional efforts. Secondly, we agree with you that the new political majority in your country will also influence our cooperation."

In this connection I would like to point out that we share in your hope that the mutually beneficial relations established between France and the GDR on the basis of peaceful coexistence in the course of the past decade will be further expanded and intensified. Thirdly,

we consider the fact that we have successfully carried out our joint projects undertaken at your last national congress in Strasbourg to herald a new stage in our cooperation which requires a joint evaluation and joint conclusions." Gerald Götting continued: "Every success in our striving to get to know each other better and to improve our mutual understanding served the national interests of our two peoples. I agree with you therefore that our friendship would vastly profit if you succeeded in making the GDR's development better known in France and in countering those forces who do not spare any effort to distort the facts."

A great many of the France-GDR Society's members have already made use of the numerous opportunities for taking a close look at life in the GDR. They have visited towns and villages to inform themselves about the facts and problems in which they were particularly interested. Back home they developed a great variety of initiatives for building on their newly-acquired



knowledge to their countrymen. They published, for example, articles about their journeys in local and departmental newspapers and gave lectures.

Apart from this, many members of the France-GDR Society actively participated in the preparations for the Ninth National Congress. The Somme departmental committee, for instance, mounted an exhibition about the GDR's capital city, Berlin. In Department North the Society acquired regular broadcasting time with the state-owned *Fréquence Nord* broadcasting station which it uses for spreading news about the development of friendly relations with its GDR partner counties of Halle and Erfurt.

*

Apart from its general session the Congress worked in three commissions which held fruitful discussions. The first commission was chaired by the Society's vice-president, Jacques Denis. It took stock of the current stand of relations between France and the GDR and discussed ways for their development. Here, the delegates once more stressed the close connection between the activities of their Society and peace. They strongly denounced the distorted and often false presentation of the GDR by the French mass media. The commission suggested that the Congress issue a statement on this subject. It was signed by all participants and passed on to all papers, TV and radio stations, and also to MPs and other influential personalities. In the interest of even more

favourable relations between our two countries, the petition called for objective reporting on the GDR.

The discussions of the second commission focussed on the intensification of cooperation for the benefit of a better mutual understanding. It was concluded that in this respect the friendship caravans and the meetings between public figures from both countries had played a large part in mobilising work for friendship.

The third commission dealt with organisational questions in the activities of the France-GDR Society.

*

During the Congress three exhibitions were mounted in the foyer of Le Havre's town hall. They provided information on graphic art in the GDR, the Berlin ballet school and on the care for handicapped people in the first socialist German state. On the evening of the first day of the Congress the chanson singers Gisela May and Alfred Müller and the ballet dancers Monika Lubitz and Bernd Dreyer from the GDR gave a performance in the town hall theatre of Le Havre.

*

The participants in the Ninth National Congress of the France-GDR Society were pleased with its successful outcome. The final resolution once again paid tribute to the trusting cooperation between the Society and its counterpart in the GDR and reaffirmed its members' resolve to help strengthen cooperation and friendship between our two peoples—a friendship that can only prosper in peace.

Karin Herzog



Belgian Parliamentarians
visited
the GDR

Give War No Chance To Destroy All Our Achievements!

AT THE invitation of the International Friendship League's GDR-Belgium Friendship Society, a delegation of the Belgium-GDR Society composed of senators and parliamentary deputies from different parties paid a several-day visit to our republic in late 1981. Their stay here was an expression of the continuing dialogue between representatives of political life from both countries.

The guests informed themselves about the GDR's home policy and its attitude towards peace and disarmament. During their excursions to various places and establishments the visitors had many talks with GDR citizens and were given plenty of opportunities of having a close look at everyday life in our country. They went, for example, to the "Ernst Thälmann" Pioneers Palace and Berlin's newly-built suburb of Marzahn where they acquired detailed information on housing construction in the GDR. At the House of Young Talents in our capital city the Belgian visitors had an animated discussion with young GDR citizens that lasted till well into the night. The boys and girls for their part asked nu-

merous questions about life in Belgium.

The parliamentarians were particularly interested in the stable and dynamic development of our economy and the social security in the GDR. They paid tribute to the successful reconstruction of Berlin and the living standard of the population.

Fascism and war must not be allowed to raise their ugly heads again if these achievements are not to be destroyed. This was emphasised by the Belgian visitors during their excursion to the former Nazi concentration camp at Sachsenhausen. Proceeding from this fact the members of the delegation laid stress on the urgency of political and military detente in their talks with the presidents

of the GDR's International Friendship League and the GDR's Peace Council, Gerald Götting and Prof. Günther Drefahl respectively, as well as in their round-table discussion with People's Chamber deputies belonging to different political parties. Despite different viewpoints and varying appraisals of the reasons behind the arms race, both sides agreed that differences would have to be overcome to reach concrete agreements on an international scale for the limitation of armaments and disarmament. Such measures, they underlined, should first of all include the medium-range nuclear missiles deployed in Europe.

Summarising the impressions gained during their stay in the GDR the guests said they had acquired plenty of interesting knowledge about our country. Their hosts thanked them for the valuable information on the current political situation in Belgium. Both sides underlined the advantages of such meetings for a better mutual understanding and said that bilateral talks should be conducted in future, too.

Uwe Degenkolbe



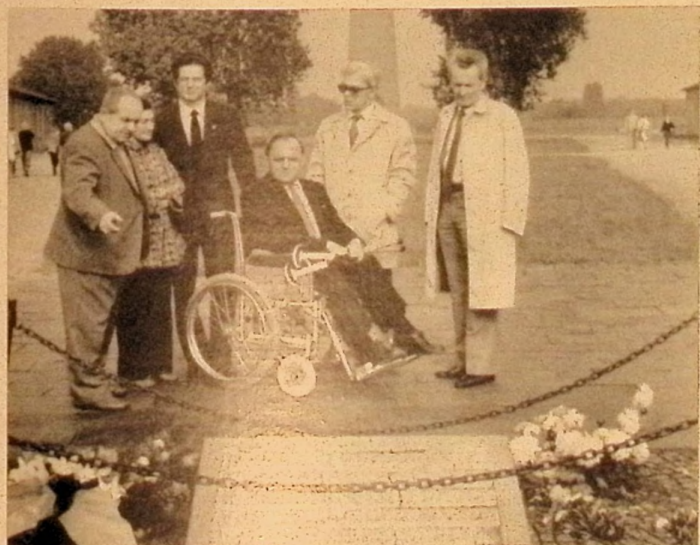
Photos: Günther Ackermann (2),
Gerhard Puhlmann

During visit to the Sachsenhausen National Memorial.



Animated discussion with young people in the House of Young Talents in Berlin.

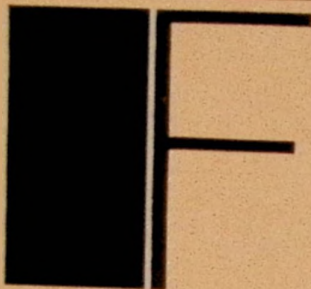
A round of discussions with People's Chamber deputies. Horst Brasch was also present (back row, centre), vice-president and general secretary of the GDR's International Friendship League.



Building up Confidence, Reducing Distrust

Successful
GDR Week
in Ghent

FORUM



FOR
FRIENDS



Brunhilde Hanke presented the city library
in Ghent with about 500 books.

Photo: PERSAGENTSCHAP

A GDR Week was held last October in Ghent, the capital of East Flanders province in Belgium. It was organised by the Belgium-GDR Society and its local branch, with the help of Ghent's municipal authorities. The hosts also invited a delegation of the GDR's International Friendship League to attend the event. The delegation was headed by Brunhilde Hanke, a member of the GDR's State Council and Lord Mayor of Potsdam. Uwe Degenkolbe reports:

THE BELGIUM-GDR SOCIETY had prepared a wide-ranging and interesting programme for us, the guests from the GDR. We saw a great deal of Ghent, a city of a quarter of a million people with a large inland port and well developed textile, metallurgical and other industries. The educational and cultural establishments of the city render it one of the centres of Flemish intellectual life.

Our hosts were pleased to meet our wish to talk with residents of Ghent, the partner city of Potsdam. During our meetings with leaders of various political parties, local councillors, trade unionists and economists, we noticed everyone's desire for a secure peace, the cardinal living condition for mankind. Our talks in East Flanders confirmed what more than 200,000 peace supporters demonstrating in Brussels on October 25, 1981 had shown, namely, that an increasing number of people, irrespective of their political and religious beliefs, stand for international dialogue, understanding and friendship. These people

resolutely call for the prevention of a nuclear war and, in this context, for genuine results being reached at the Geneva negotiations between the Soviet Union and the USA, primarily with regard to medium-range missiles.

Mindful of their aim to build up confidence and reduce distrust, the Belgium-GDR Society and its branch in Ghent used a variety of opportunities to inform the citizens of East Flanders' capital about the GDR and the partner town of Potsdam. Exhibitions of GDR works of art and culture, a GDR film festival featuring ten films, lectures by GDR scholars at Ghent's university and a Brecht evening gave Ghent residents an insight into different spheres of life in the GDR.

Reviewing the GDR Week, members of the Belgium-GDR Society were pleased to report that the events and meetings had further promoted better mutual acquaintanceship and understanding, thus constituting an extremely positive contribution to the development of trust and friendship between the peoples of Belgium and the GDR.

“Probably
a good man,
this Zweig”

This was how Maxim Gorky assessed the Austrian writer Stefan Zweig when writing to Romain Rolland. Stefan Zweig died forty years ago this February. This article was written by Gisela Lüttig, a reader working at the Aufbau-Verlag publishing house who is participating in the publication of his works in the GDR.

ALTHOUGH years have passed since they were written, interest in Stefan Zweig's stories and biographies has not waned. His masterly use of language and his art of description continue to fascinate readers, and his work for international understanding still finds appreciation.

His books have already been published by GDR publishing houses for many years now. Insel-Verlag published his monograph on Balzac in 1968 (the second edition appeared last year) as well as a number of novels and a selection from *Sternstunden der Menschheit* (The Tide of Fortune). In 1966 Aufbau-Verlag published two volumes of short stories which included *Die unsichtbare Sammlung*, *Unvermutete Bekanntschaft mit einem Handwerk*, *Schachnovelle*, *Brennendes Geheimnis*, *Untergang eines Herzens*, *Leporella*, *Brief eines Unbekannten* and *Verwirrung der Gefühle* (Conflicts). In 1971 the same house published his *Ungeduld des Herzens* and in 1974 *Sternstunden der Menschheit* — the famous historical portraits in miniature with which the writer depicts “those explosive moments which determine the life of an individual, a people and even the course of destiny



tuals of those years. He sought the errors and mistakes of that past epoch in which possibly the later fateful development could already be seen as a growing tendency.

Important names are mentioned in the autobiography, famous men with whom he was bound in friendship: Romain Rolland whom he met in Switzerland during the First World War and with whom he deliberated on the possibility of achieving international understanding and peace; Émile Verhaeren whose works he translated; Thomas Mann, Franz Werfel, Hugo von Hoffmannsthal, Paul Valéry; Richard Strauss for whom he wrote the Libretto to the opera *Die schweigsame Frau*; and Maxim

of the whole of mankind". Selected stories have been published in the "Taschenbibliothek der Weltliteratur", the "bb-Reihe" and the "Universal-Bibliothek des Reclam-Verlages" in which his drama *Volpone* also appeared. Recently I even discovered Zweig's name on one of those colourful paperbacks on sale in newspaper kiosks: Verlag Neues Leben had published one of the historical miniatures from *The Tide of Fortune* in their "Das neue Abenteuer" series.

On November 28, 1981 we celebrated the centenary of the birth of Stefan Zweig. To commemorate this day Aufbau-Verlag put out *Die Welt von gestern*, Zweig's autobiography. When, in 1941, Zweig decided to write his *Reminiscences of a European* — as the subtitle ran — he was living in exile in Brazil. He suffered terribly from the moral degeneracy of his generation in Europe, from "the most terrible defeat suffered by reason and the wildest triumphs of brutality", and from the contradiction of "the godlike achievements of a satanically possessed mankind". In that oppressive era of his he was looking for fixed points of history, for cultural values which showed the world of yesterday — he meant the period prior to the turn of the century and up to the time of the First World War — to be a place worthy of man. Individual liberty, conciliatoriness, security — these were the terms he used to name the merits of Viennese Society, the end of which he had personally experienced. He gave an exact picture of the concept of values possessed by the bourgeois intellec-



Gorky who wrote the foreword to the Russian edition of Zweig's works.

In 1928 Stefan Zweig was a member of an Austrian writers' delegation that travelled to the Soviet Union to attend the celebrations marking the 100th anniversary of the birth of Leo Tolstoy. Here he met Gorky for the first time and he called his friendship with him the most valuable of all that he brought back home with him.

A few years after experiencing the young Soviet state Zweig wrote: "We know that today it is alone the existence and the grandiose rise of Russia which restrains the force-bred belligerency of reaction in Europe, and also that anybody who threatens Russia is threatening the liberty of the working people in the whole of the world."

Until 1928 he had always put off a journey to "the most fascinating country of the post-war era" because it "forces one to public acquiescence or public rejection". To this he could not bring himself for a long time because of an antipathy towards political activity of all types. That, however, changed in the years that followed. He did not wish to remain passive towards the terror of the Nazi regime.

The epilogue to *Die Welt von gestern* cites Zweig's answer to an opinion poll carried out by the Latvian periodical *Nord-Ost* on what was to be done against the acute danger of war and fascism: "Our first task must be to expose each and every warmonger so that we can show with all means and in good time that they are playing a dangerous game; for this time we are determined to call to account, mercilessly, all who threaten the peace of the whole world for the advantage of themselves or their class. In such dangerous situations the love of peace cannot become synonymous with meekness and tender-heartedness... The time of verbal protest has come to an end. Only great forcefulness that fears nothing can stop those guilty of a coming war, can save us. I know of no other way."

Later Zweig had to emigrate from Europe. In Brazil he was secure from Nazi persecution but he saw no sense in living any longer. "... after the world of my own language has sunk for me and my spiritual home, Europe, is destroying itself it is better, in good time and with an upright attitude, to end a life to which creative work was always the purest joy and personal liberty the highest good."

These words he wrote in a farewell letter on February 22, 1942. A few months after his suicide the first edition of *Die Welt von gestern* was published by the Bermann-Fischer publishing house in Stockholm.

Photo: ADN-Zentralbild

CONTACTS SERVING EUROPE'S FUTURE

THE maintenance of peace and the continuation of a policy of detente in Europe determine the foreign policy of the German Democratic Republic.

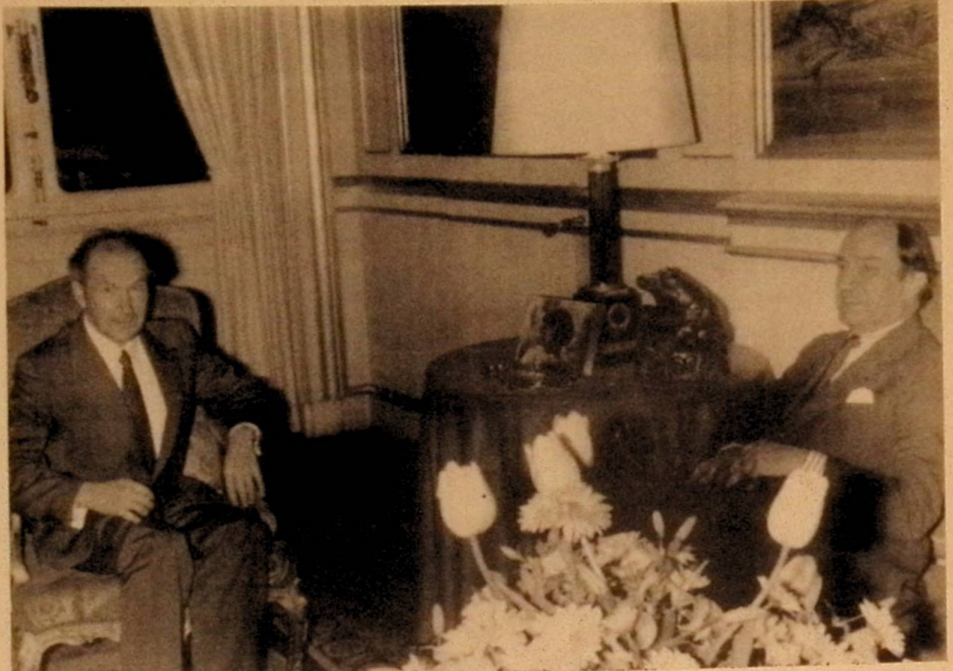
This was once more revealed by the talks the GDR's Foreign Minister, Oskar Fischer, had in France towards the end of 1981 with leading representatives of the government, parliamentary bodies and other public figures from political and economic life. In his discussions with his host and French counterpart Claude Cheysson (see photo) both ministers expressed their countries' resolve to contribute towards lessening the very alarming current international tension and towards safeguarding peace through a constructive dialogue and more intensive bilateral relations in all fields. It was agreed that both states hold corresponding views on the major issues facing the world, above all, on the cardinal question of today—the prevention of a nuclear war.

In the course of Oskar Fischer's meeting with Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy the latter stressed the positive development of relations between the two countries, which, he said, had gained in intensity not only in the economic but also in the cultural field.

After the conclusion of his talks in Paris Oskar Fischer pointed out that both sides will continue their political consultations at all levels, expand their economic and scientific-technological cooperation as well as cultural exchanges. In view of the aggravated international situation, he said, progress in bilateral relations between states with different social systems was both necessary and possible.

*
After the visit to the GDR of the Vice-President and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Colette Flesch, similar conclusions were drawn. Her talks with top GDR officials were characterised by the mutual understanding that in the current situation when peace and security are gravely threatened, the political dialogue between representatives of states with different social systems assumes great significance.

*



Broad interest was also aroused by the visit of the Austrian Minister of Health and Environmental Protection, Dr Kurt Steyrer, to the German Democratic Republic. The exchange of experience between the two countries will be continuously intensified in the respective spheres within the framework of the agreement signed during Erich Honecker's state visit to Austria in 1980. The talks in Berlin, too, underlined the urgency of the safeguarding of peace as a basic prerequisite for a social welfare policy directed towards people's prosperity.

Austria's Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Dr Günter Hajden, also paid an official visit to our republic. This was another example testifying to the existing good interstate relations between Austria and the GDR. During his stay in the GDR the guest was mainly interested in forestry in our country's low mountain areas. In the ranges of the State Forestry Enterprise in Eibenstock (Karl-Marx-Stadt County) he met forestry workers from his homeland. They had been testing there for several

weeks Austrian machinery and technology which had been especially developed for woodcutting in regions with similar characteristics to the Erzgebirge Mountains.

Photo: AP/Bild

The GDR economy
in the 1980s

Today's "Alchemists"

Scarcity of raw materials
demands higher refinement

HALF of all raw materials used in the GDR come from other countries. The international rise in prices and the increased scarcity of raw materials therefore forces our country especially to use raw materials and fuels with even better efficiency. This is one of the ten main points of the economic strategy for the nineteen-eighties.

The GDR has, for example, no crude oil of its own and no bituminous coal; it has neither sufficient copper nor iron ore; it has no cotton and not enough cellulose, no aluminium and no precious metals—this list could be extended considerably. It is a fact that the energy sources and raw materials which our land has at its disposal remain constant in their amounts or rise only slightly. We must take account of this both today and in the future. The socialist planned economy has already demonstrated that this problem is soluble—and not at the cost of the consumer by passing on the increase in raw materials' prices, but rather by means of purposeful measures taken at national level which are supported by millions of working people.

The consumption of energy, raw materials and other important resources per 100 marks of industrial production was reduced from 1971 to 1975 by an annual average of 2.8 per cent. From 1976 to 1980 it was reduced at an average annual rate of 3.9 per cent. In 1980 a reduction of 5 per cent was achieved for the first time. The goal for the Five Year Plan 1981–1985 is a reduction by at least 5 per cent annually—while at the same time, as in the nineteen-seventies, increasing industrial production by more than 5 per cent. (From 1976 to 1980 industrial production in the GDR rose by a total of about 30 per cent, with an increase in consumption of resources of about 7 per cent.) This is an extraordinarily ambitious task which is nevertheless dictated by objective necessity. A high level of commitment is required if this goal is to be achieved.

There exist essentially five possible solutions, all of which must be utilised at the same time. The first is unconditional thriftiness in the use of every kind of material, including fuels and energy. A great deal

can be achieved by this means. Yet the reserves in this field are not unlimited. The second possibility is to further increase our own sources of raw materials and fuels. Great efforts are therefore being made to increase the production of domestic lignite (brown coal) by several million tonnes annually. However, as we have already said, the GDR itself has only a limited range of raw materials available. So this possibility, too, is not sufficient to guarantee the economic growth which is necessary for social progress in socialism.

For this reason the third means is the principal one. Through first-class workmanship every kilogramme of raw material must be used to its absolute limit to manufacture as many high-quality products as is at all possible. In this way a higher stage of refinement can be achieved—and this is necessary for every raw material and for every type of industry. It is in this field that the "alchemists" of today are operating.

This process begins with the refinement of raw materials and semi-finished products. Examples are the chemical processing of lignite and salts into primary products for plastics, the vaporisation and liquefaction of lignite, the deeper cracking of crude oil, the granulation of potash fertilisers, the increase in the percentage of hard steel and steel alloys in metallurgy, etc.

The best results from refinement are gained by attaining the highest possible scien-

tific and technical quality of products with minimal expenditure of energy and material. This method is particularly suited to the GDR because it has at its disposal a strong and export-intensive metal processing industry. GDR products with a high degree of refinement include extremely efficient industrial plant, high-performance machine tools, printing presses, textile machinery, optical instruments and precision products.

This also applies to numerous products of the highly developed electrical and electronics industries, with microelectronics first and foremost. Approximately one quarter of all savings in resources that can be brought about by scientific and technical measures is to be achieved with the help of microelectronics. The control of machines and industrial plant by the use of microelectronics and its application in consumer goods (home electronics, household electrical appliances) not only bring savings in materials, but also an increase in quality. Only the two together produce the desired results.

The fourth possibility is the application of energy-saving and material-saving technology, and the consistent use of lightweight components especially in industrial machinery and plant. Fifthly and finally, considerable reserves can be opened up by the utilisation of secondary raw materials to an even greater extent than so far. By 1985 at least 12 per cent of industry's requirements for raw materials will be provided by secondary raw materials. This entails the reprocessing of about 30 million tonnes of secondary raw materials.

Waste products recycled in this way include ash, slag, plastic waste, and even silver recovered from photographic materials for instance. There are still many GDR citizens who think that this is a sign of poverty. But it is increasingly recognised that every raw material, whether in the town or the countryside, must be utilised to the very utmost. Only in this way can a growth-orientated economic development be guaranteed for the GDR despite increases in the price of raw materials. And only growth can secure and improve the standard of living step by step. Dr Karl-Heinz Arnold





TREASURE SEEKERS »

A profession with new prospects

At first sight one might take him for a man who is spending his well-earned summer holidays in silent communing with nature. A closer look brings one's attention to the utensils he has brought along with him: compass, hammer, magnifying glass, a folder containing maps and pages of notations, a measuring rod, a small bottle containing hydrochloric acid, marking pens, a bag for carrying samples, nails, a great deal of paper, and a variety of other things.

The man is a geologist, twenty-nine years old; his name is Reinhard Reissmann. He completed his studies at the world-famous Freiberg Mining Academy. For six years he has been active in the nationally-owned Geological Research and Exploration Enterprise at Freiberg. His profession is relatively rare in the GDR. The work of the geologist was not always a focal point of interest in the past. Today, however, the geological enterprises which are included in the nationally-owned Geological Research and Exploration Combine with its head office in Halle certainly cannot complain of a lack of work which is extremely important to the national economy. Decisive for the accentuation of the social rank of geology in our republic was the Eighth SED Congress in 1971. There the view that the GDR was poor in raw materials was modified. This took place not only because of a predictable worsening of the situation on the world's raw materials markets, but above all because it is against the principles of socialist economic planning in the GDR to allow native resources to lie unused.

Since then geological exploration of our territory has been considerably extended, step by step, and has reached new proportions. In 1976 at the Ninth SED Congress the economic and political dimensions of this exploration were discussed and at the Tenth Congress they were fixed with greater exactness. The geologists of the GDR have set themselves new goals with great willingness, with a wealth of ideas, with criticism of insufficiencies and also with a certain amount of personal sacrifice. They make extensive use of their right to a democratic voice in the formation of their working goals and tasks. Hundreds of proposals were made by the geologists in the discussions of the plan fundamentals for the period 1981-85 and—in more detail—for the year 1982. At the centre of these discussions are the efforts to lay a firm basis for the energy requirements of the GDR's economy by exploring lignite (brown coal) deposits, and to build up on this basis.

Valuable minerals

At the same time other factors contributing to a balanced and extensive raw materials economy must not be ignored. Reinhard



Reinhard Reissmann seen here mapping.

Reissmann and the members of his collective are searching for fluorite and barite. Both minerals have a number of uses. Fluorite (or fluorspar) serves as an important basic element in the chemical industry. It is indispensable as a flux in iron metallurgy, and in the aluminium industry fluorite helps to save energy by lowering the smelting point. In the manufacture of glass, ceramics and enamels as well as in the cement and building materials industries, fluorite is an important additive. One cannot do without this mineral even in the manufacture of welding electrodes and grinding wheels. Barite (or heavy spar) is primarily used in the paint industry as an additive for high-quality products, in the paper industry, in medicine and as an element in the application of barium chemistry. Both minerals have become increasingly important not only for the economy of the GDR, but also at the international level.

No shortage of problems

Three tasks important for the national economy face Reinhard Reissmann and his colleagues today. The first is that of guaranteeing sufficient advance research and exploration for the mining industry. The mining industry requires to know the exact reserves twenty-five to thirty years in advance of any possible extraction. This is the

only way to assure the necessary continuity. This requirement spurs on the geologists to even greater effort. Over recent years the geologists were able to record considerable successes—but the increased demand for these raw materials requires greater effort to meet all needs. Between the first blow of the geologist's hammer to the actual mining of the raw material can lie a period of ten, fifteen, and sometimes even more years. It is above all through concentrated work patterns and the application of modern methods of analysis and evaluation that the geologists want to create the necessary advance notice of reserves within a short period of time.

A second challenge is that of meeting the demand for higher refinement of raw materials. For the geologists this means among other things that they must determine the reserves to be explored more exactly with regard to their mineral content, extent and their suitability for industry. These specifications are of great importance to the processing industry, since they must accord with the investments which are to be planned on a long-term basis and must determine the scientific-technical adaptation to changing quality characteristics of the raw materials. Fluorite, for example, can no longer be processed with presently existing technologies if certain thresholds in the amount of interfering by-products are exceeded. Therefore the industry must know precisely how high the rate of contaminants in a particular deposit is. On the other

hand, the results of the geologists' research demand from industry the development of such technologies and processing methods as will guarantee the highest possible refinement of the treasures still resting in the earth.

The geologists working under socialist conditions are thus no mere "bloodhounds" for the mining industry, but rather the first link in a long chain with many different branchings within our national economy. That is why they are taking an ever more active part in the discussion on the optimal extraction, refinement and evaluation of our resources. In this respect the members of the Freiberg Geology Enterprise have already provided plenty of ideas to the processing industry, for example, that an excellent protective material against corrosion can be won from organic fluorite compounds.

A third task is finally that of establishing a favourable relationship between expense and application in geological work itself. This forces the geologists to make the most exact projections of research, search and exploration, and demands precise conceptions and methods, the most modern technical processes, and accurate judgement. For example, on the one hand geological exploration ought to proceed with the greatest possible speed; on the other hand, the geologist must take account of the needs of forestry and agriculture.

The legal provisions of the socialist state demand that unavoidable landscape damage incurred in geological research remains as small as possible. The law also includes social protection for all those affected by geological or mining operations: the state guarantees everyone the timely clarification of all material, social and personal problems in this regard. For the sake of completeness it should also be pointed out that no one can speculate with land or possible raw materials deposits therein. The raw materials, the mines, and all natural resources are the property of the people. In Article 12 of the Constitution of the GDR, this right of all members of society to these common possessions is laid down.

Complete use of resources

Another important problem is the complex geological exploration. It is not enough to pay attention only to one raw material in the course of exploration. All components of an existing deposit need to be investigated, and the by-products won during extraction and processing must be exploited to the full for the national economy. Besides the respective main mineral, the question must be posed with regard to the



The rock samples are immediately tested at the site of boring operations.

by-products: Who can use what and when and where might it be useful? The needs of all interested parties from the glass and ceramics industries to the construction industry must also be taken into account. Conscientiousness and exactitude are basic requirements. In the GDR a state control commission, in close cooperation with the geological enterprises, watches over the complete use of natural resources on the part of mining enterprises and the processing industry. In this way not only a unified status of knowledge about deposits and exploration projects is achieved, but also their practical application is assured. A methodical exchange of experience and an investigation of the various possibilities with economic evaluations takes place in public meetings, discussions and consultations. In this process international experiences are evaluated and taken over with due regard to the specific conditions obtaining in the GDR.

A tradition of cooperation binds GDR geologists with their partners in the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, especially with geologists from the USSR, Czechoslovakia and Poland. Although their primary concern in these contacts is the exchange of experiences in application of methods of exploration and analysis, at the same time contacts are being developed

with those countries which are just beginning to explore extensively their own natural resources. The GDR geologists are very much involved, for example, in the exploration of natural resources in the Mongolian People's Republic, Mozambique and Angola.

With hammer and computer

The main part of the work must be done in our own country, of course. Yet even under the conditions of our temperate climate, geological work makes great demands on the individual. The geologist cannot afford to capitulate to the whims of the weather. He must often live away from his family for a long time. Even the activity which leads people to mistake Reinhard Reissmann for a hobby hiker has its challenging problems. The experts call it mapping. Areas of varying size up to several square kilometres must be explored at certain intervals and investigated according to various geological criteria. Only experienced geologists can unlock the secrets of a landscape in the course of this work. The use of geophysical and geochemical methods also lead to discoveries of new promising mineral areas. Yet even the latest scientific methods cannot exclude errors from this phase.

If as a result of mapping a deposit is discovered, geological samples are gathered through prospecting trenches and by drilling. In his project Reinhard Reissmann must look after geological boring operations, the techniques of which allow explorations to depths of over 1,000 metres thereby bringing up rock samples to the surface. These rock samples are immediately examined at the site of drilling operations and then sent to the laboratory for analysis. An evaluation is made with the help of electronic data processing.

Today this profession no longer has much to do with the romance of treasure seeking. The geologist finds not only that his hammer but also his familiarity with computers is indispensable. And a broad, highly applicable basic knowledge of geology is, of course, a necessary prerequisite. Mining and industry in the GDR cannot afford to let the geologists rest. What raw materials and amounts will be available to be able to manage our economy as efficiently as possible, which in turn will determine our standard of living in the future, depends on our geologists.

*Text: Dr A. Schönherr
Photos: K.-H. Böhle*

A Tree for You and Me

A NEW LAW came into force in the GDR on January 1 this year. It is the "Statutory Regulation on the Preservation, Care and Protection of Trees—Tree Protection Regulation" issued by the Republic's Council of Ministers. From that date on a uniform regulation protects the trees that line the roads and streets as well as those growing in the parks, gardens and on developed property.

Until that date every municipal and village authority decided for itself on the basis of the Environmental Protection Law on what it was going to do about the natural surrounds within its jurisdiction. And there were, unfortunately, great differences in the way they went about it. Although even in the past those who thoughtlessly cut down trees had to pay a fine, in many places the town or village council quietly closed both eyes to the fact. In most places permission to fell trees was not necessary. In Berlin the following happened, for instance: GDR Railways had a ditch dug alongside the permanent way for new cables. Everything in the way was just chopped down. When the head of the Department of Gardens and Parks—alarmed by the telephone calls of angry citizens—put a stop to the felling it was almost too late: forty-one large trees and several yards of thick hedge had disappeared—too quickly and without sufficient thought.

It is already quite well known that trees provide shade, filter out dust, make towns more livable as well as giving new developments a touch of human warmth and protection. Every tree whether it is situated on the roadside, in a park or a garden improves the quality of the air we breathe. A hundred-year-old beech tree with a leaf surface of about 4,000 square metres, for example, produces hourly sufficient oxygen for three adults for one day. If such an old, healthy tree is cut down 2,500 young ones are needed to replace its output.

It is thus clear that the big trees are a vital asset given us by nature. They must be protected so that they can stretch their crowns skywards. The rights and the duties of the state and social bodies, the enterprises and the cooperatives, and also of each individual citizen, are exactly defined in the new regulation.

Among other things it includes the stipulation that the owners or users of property

are legally bound to tend the trees and to protect them from dangerous influences. Permission to fell trees is now granted through a uniform authorisation procedure that is valid throughout the whole of the GDR. Should permission be granted it may well be coupled with an order to plant a certain number of new trees as a replacement. Fines for the unauthorised felling of trees have been raised considerably.

But a fine—and it can be up to 1,000 marks—will not rescue a tree that has already been cut down. That is why it is far more a question of preventing infringements of the law. Every citizen must be made aware of the fact it is worthwhile protecting the green and wooded spaces in our cities.

It is necessary to tactfully awaken the understanding of people for these measures, and that is something that will take a bit of time. It is something that affects everybody and many things have to be taken into consideration. Salting and spraying the roads in winter, for example, has a very detrimental affect on trees as the chemicals used attack their roots, thus causing them to die. And in actual fact it costs not so much effort but rather thoroughness to prevent such damage. It is necessary to ensure that gutters, gullyholes and roadside ditches are kept free so that the chemical substances can run off without sinking into the soil.

Here in the GDR many good proposals have been made and ideas put forward for the tending and protection of our greenery in the towns. A nursery-school teacher in the Berlin borough of Treptow turned quite an ordinary Wednesday into the Day of the Tree. The children in her care made up tree stories, painted a fairy-tale forest, collected colourful leaves and, as a crowning climax, jointly planted a linden tree. Last autumn there was also another fine action taken in Berlin involving the school beginners: each child was allowed to plant "his or her own tree" in front of the school, in the school garden or the playground. Already this spring these trees will be bearing buds and leaves adding a touch of green to the area around the school...

B. Hebecker

Photo: Siegfried Thienel





Kaleidoscope

Animal husbandry research centre

Dummerstorf, a village near Rostock which has 1,900 inhabitants, accommodates the Research Centre for Animal Husbandry of the GDR's Academy of Agricultural Sciences. The Centre enjoys a good reputation among experts from home and abroad. One of the daily tasks for the staff members is to exactly determine the protein and fat content of meat (photo). The Research Centre maintains links with more than 60 institutes in socialist countries. Since 1973 it has been the coordination centre for basic biological research in animal husbandry of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance.



In Brief ...

Arable Land and Per Capita Consumption in the GDR

The GDR has at its disposal an area of 6.3 million hectares for agricultural use. Given the fact that we have a population of 17 million people there are only 0.37 hectares of land fit for agricultural use for every GDR citizen—that is less than the size of a football field. Let us mention a few other countries for comparison: Denmark 0.55 hectares, France 0.59 hectares, Hungary 0.62 hectares, the USA 1.96 hectares and Canada 2.90 hectares.

Since it is not possible to enlarge the area for agricultural use any increase in harvests will have to be achieved by way of increasing yields per hectare.

*

On average a GDR citizen consumes at present, among other things, the following products annually:

Farm buildings in a museum

The exhibits of the newly-established open-air museum in Hohenfelden near Weimar in Thuringia include this beehive house which dates back to the 19th century. So far the museum has acquired 22 buildings and other items, such as wells, from neighbouring villages bearing witness to four centuries of history. At present the staff members of the museum, which will open in the near future, are dismantling these buildings with the object of re-building them in their original appearance at Hohenfelden where they are to be carefully integrated into the overall image.



Additional vocational training places

These two budding assistant chemists are apprentices at the Leuna chemical works' training school. It trains about 3,000 young people in 36 vocations. Most of the apprentices come from the chemical county of Halle, but there are also some from the counties of Leipzig, Karl-Marx-Stadt and Dresden as well as from Berlin. In accordance with the great demand for skilled workers, the number of vocational training places at this school will be increased to 4,000 in the years to come.



84.4 kilogrammes of meat and meat products
94.2 kilogrammes of flour and cereals
142.0 kilogrammes of potatoes
96.8 kilogrammes of vegetables
40.7 kilogrammes of sugar
1.4 kilogrammes of pulse
1.9 kilogrammes of edible oil
135.0 litres of beer
99.3 litres of milk
15.2 kilogrammes of butter
6.2 kilogrammes of cheese
290 eggs

This per capita consumption is constantly rising. The consumption of meat in particular is expected to go up in the near future following the trend set in the decade between 1970 and 1980 when it rose by 23.3 kilogrammes per head of the population.

As in the case of meat, the GDR is among the world's leading countries in the per capita consumption of other basic foodstuffs, such as milk, cheese and eggs. These requirements are met by our own agriculture.



Introducing

The Motorcycle Museum in Augustusburg Castle

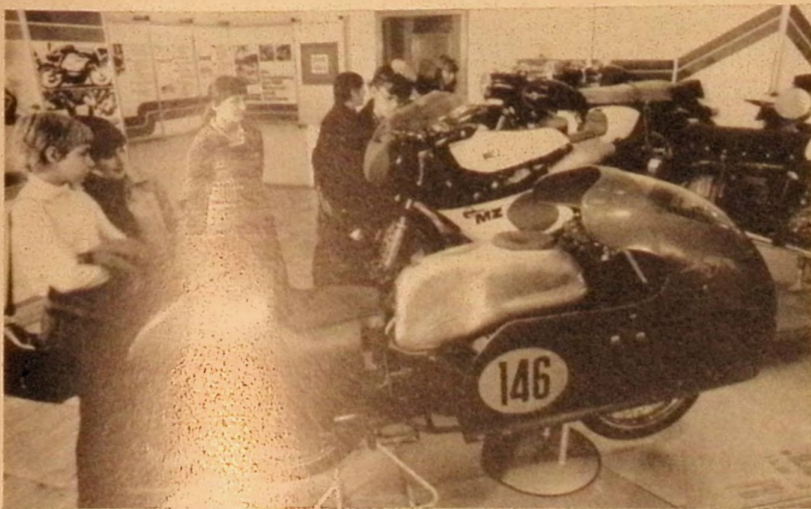
Augustusburg castle near Karl-Marx-Stadt is seldom without visitors. There are several reasons for this. The Renaissance building erected between 1568 and 1572 by Hieronimus Lotter as a pretentious hunting lodge for the Electors of Saxony has attained its former beauty as a result of vast restoration work during the last ten to twenty years. This may possibly be one reason for many people to visit it. Other reasons are doubtless the museums, a youth hostel and a historical restaurant that are situated within the castle walls. Along with a game and an ornithological museum there is also a motorcycle museum. The items in this museum give a survey of the MZ motorcycles and Simson mopeds produced during the last thirty years, and range from the stylish racing machines of the nineteen-fifties to the latest mass-produced series. One of the museum's greatest attractions is the world's first "motorcycle"; made by Daimler in 1885, it has a 0.5 horsepower motor developing a maximum speed of 12 kilometres per hour.



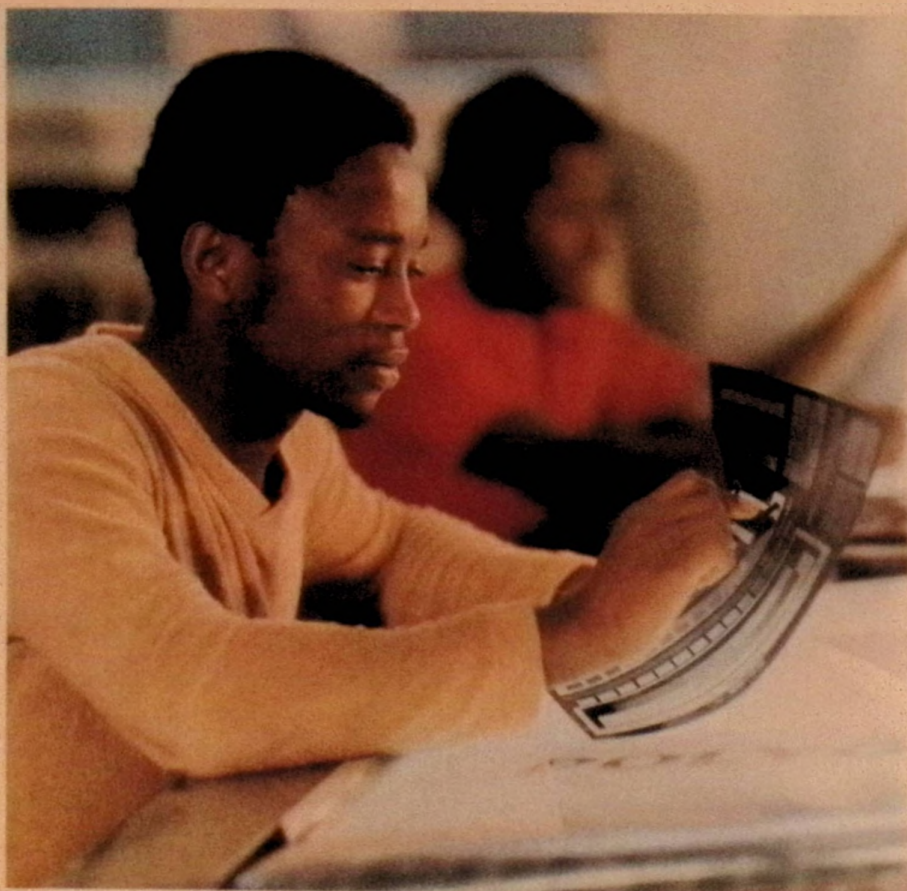
The world's first motorcycle.



The Motorcycle Museum was opened twenty years ago.



Richly ornamented doorway of the four-hundred-year-old Renaissance building.



Solidarity In Action

Printers for Angola

This young man from Angola—seen here correcting an offset print—is one of the 15 young people from abroad who are currently undergoing specialised training at the Karl-Marx-Stadt Technical College's Training Centre for the Printing Industry. During these courses they learn how to operate printing machinery the GDR delivers to their home countries, Angola and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.



"School of Friendship"

Together with her Mozambican counterpart Graca Machel (2nd from left), the GDR's Minister for Education, Margot Honecker (centre), paid a visit to the building site of the future "School of Friendship" in Stassfurt's newly-built residential district. The new school, the construction of which was begun last August, is to be completed by the beginning of the next academic year. Its future pupils will be boys and girls from Mozambique who will finish their eighth form there and afterwards take up vocational training in the GDR for a few years before they return home as young skilled workers.



Customers in twelve countries

Our photo shows a view of the Warnow Shipyard, the largest in the GDR, near the Baltic port of Rostock. During its 35 years of existence 267 deep-sea freighters have been built there for customers in 12 countries. The main types of ship built are general cargo boats, full container ships and bulk carriers of between 12,000 and 20,000 tonnes deadweight. At the time of writing three types of ships are under construction: the "Meridian 2" multi-purpose freighter, an arctic freighter and the "Mercur 2", the first of a further developed full container ship.



A test for children's books

Gertrud Zucker, an illustrator of children's books, is a regular visitor to kindergartens. One of her methods of working is to find out the reaction of children to her illustrations before the books are published. She finds this of great benefit to her creative work as well as helping promote art appreciation among pre-school children.

Photos on the Kaleidoscope pages:
ADN-Zentralbild (15) including one aerial
photograph No. 105/77 447, Carla Arnold,
Karl-Heinz Scholz
Editorial work: Brigitte Thal

Kaleidoscope



GDR Gains World Shooting Title

Thomas Pfeffer, silver medallist at the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow and world champion in 1977 and 1978, won the 1981 world championship in the moving target event in Buenos Aires last October with a new GDR record of 590 points.

Four Years In Space

The MKF-6 multispectral camera has just celebrated a rather special anniversary. Developed jointly by specialists from the Soviet Union and the GDR and manufactured in the Carl Zeiss Jena combine in the GDR it has now been circling the earth aboard the Soviet Solyut-6 space station for four years. During this time cosmonauts from nine socialist countries, have taken thousands of photographs with it. They complement and expand the range of scientific means of examining the earth's surface from space. The photographs taken with this "space camera" have supplied scientific workers in many fields with valuable information. From the photo alongside it is possible, for instance, to draw significant conclusions regarding coastal protection measures along the GDR's 1,500 kilometres of coastline. Such photographs are also of great value to agriculture and forestry, for environmental protection schemes as well as for geographic and cartographic undertakings.



100 years of Leipzig's municipal archives

Last October Leipzig's municipal archives celebrated its centenary. Its collection of historically valuable materials includes almost 610,000 files, documents, street and other maps testifying to the city's 800 years of history. These materials are available in the archives' reading room (photo) to all interested people. Apart from this, the archives possesses a comprehensive collection of all important newspapers which have been published in Leipzig since 1730.

WHAT WOULD BE

If There Were No Nuclear First Strike?

By Dr Gerhard Zázworka

IF FURTHER proof of the Reagan administration's unscrupulous plans for the use of nuclear weapons in carrying out its global strategy was necessary, this was provided by the US President's atrocious statements last autumn. Talking to newsmen last October and November Ronald Reagan lightly said that a nuclear war could be fought which was limited to Europe as if talking of a battle waged with lances and swords. We must therefore assume that, without a moment's hesitation, he would give the green light for the employment of mass destruction weapons if he thought it possible to win the conflict.

In contrast to this stands Leonid Brezhnev's interview he gave for *Pravda* at almost the same time. Once again warning of the treacherous assumption that nuclear war can be won by those who first resort to the use of nuclear weapons, the Soviet President spoke against the unleashing of a nuclear conflict. He called upon the US government to support the proposal for the outlawing of a nuclear first strike put forward by the USSR to the 36th UN General Assembly.

The danger of the USA unleashing a nuclear war has certainly grown and this not just because of the bellcose remarks by its leading politicians. The US generals are fostering plans according to which the armed forces of the United States shall be put in the position of staging a surprise attack against all strategically important launching bases in the Soviet Union leaving the USSR without the necessary means of inflicting a crushing defeat on the aggressor. This was also the pith of a debate of the United States' nuclear war strategy between President Reagan and his highest-ranking staff members in Los Angeles last August.

Knowing full well what is thought and done by the military and political leaders of the United States the former head of the USA's Joint Chiefs of Staff, General

Maxwell Taylor, wrote in the *Washington Post* that the possibility of a limited strategic attack, concentrated on selected targets such as silos of intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), is being accepted on a rather broad line.

On looking in greater detail at the planned effectiveness of various new weapon systems being currently manufactured or developed in the USA, it is not difficult to realise that they serve the strategic aim of a "victorious nuclear first strike" contained in Presidential Directive 59.

● The joint striving of the Pentagon, the general staff and the arms industry to prepare the armed forces of the USA for a surprise nuclear attack is becoming more and more apparent. It is supported by the following facts:

— It is planned to install nuclear weapons of strategic range (572 Pershing-II and Cruise missiles) in Western Europe in order to reduce the flying time of first-strike weapons to a minimum and keep the chance of an advanced warning for the USSR as low as possible thus considerably enhancing the danger to the Soviet Union. In practice this means that a Pershing-II missile launched from European territory would only need between 3 and 5 minutes to reach its target in the Soviet Union, launched in the USA it would take the intercontinental ballistic missile about 30 minutes to cover the distance to the same target.

— The number of mobile submarine launching bases for nuclear warheads, too, is to be increased. The Trident system encompasses a new fleet of submarines equipped with 24 (as to 16 previously) nuclear missiles with a range of 7,500 kilometres (as to 4,500 kilometres previously) which are ready to be launched at all times. These submarines can remain underwater for several months, a fact that leaves little chance for the other side to recognise the

imminent danger of an attack from the ocean.

— A new bomber, called *Stealth*, is being developed which is said to have the aim of disturbing the monitoring system of the enemy country through camouflage and diversionary equipment.

— Apart from this the USA is making great efforts in the utilisation of outer space for military purposes in order to hit the USSR in a surprise attack from a space vehicle such as the Space Shuttle which flies over the Soviet Union at regular intervals.

● Further plans to secure a "victorious first strike" include attempts at rendering strategic offensive weapons invulnerable to defensive operations by the opponent.

— In contrast to the ballistic trajectory of conventional missiles the computer-controlled trajectory of Cruise missiles, for example, is variable. These missiles have been designed to fly underneath radar systems and give the attacked country no chance of calculating the direction of its flight.

— With the MX-system the USA wants to introduce new strategic offensive weapons whose launching bases are to be either in well-camouflaged, reinforced underground bunkers, or on ships and aircraft (i.e. mobile carrier vehicles). To begin with, the siting of 100 new strategic nuclear missiles of this system with a range of 10,000 kilometres and ten nuclear warheads each, which could be employed against a total of 1,000 targets, has been envisaged.

In an article in the *International Herald Tribune* from August 18, 1981, the US Admiral Gene LaRocque (ret.), director of the Center for Defense Information in Washington, argued that since the United States is trying hard to attain offensive instead of defensive weapons the Soviet Union might take this for a signal that the USA is preparing for a war against and a victory over it. The latter fact is

most drastically and unambiguously confirmed by statements of leading US politicians and high-ranking officers.

Notwithstanding the fact that the USA will never succeed in gaining military superiority because the USSR is strong enough to catch up with the United States and thwart its plans of changing the existing military parity and because US speculation on a "wonder weapon" is unrealistic, the USA's mere striving for a nuclear first strike and attempts to blackmail others through threats to use nuclear weapons constitute grave dangers to world peace.

Seen in this light the importance of the declaration on the prevention of a nuclear war, which—put forward by the Soviet Union—was passed by an absolute majority at the 36th UN General Assembly, cannot be overlooked. This declaration brands those states and statesmen first resorting to nuclear arms guilty of committing a grave crime against humanity. Such is the substance of the first item of the declaration. The noble and thoroughly humane purport of this document is to prevent a nuclear catastrophe, an aim that has also been backed by non-aligned states since the nineteen-sixties.

The benefits to be gained from the five items formulated in the declaration are so obvious that it has already attracted worldwide interest; the arms maniacs in NATO, however, have resorted to frantic counterattacks.

1. When, on behalf of all member states, the UN General Assembly proclaims the mere striving for a nuclear first strike a crime this in fact constitutes an **effective step towards the prevention of a nuclear catastrophe**. The second item of the declaration says that there can neither be any excuse whatsoever nor forgiveness for those who first resort to nuclear arms. This passage takes away from any potential aggressor the possibility of justifying his action before the United Nations with the lie of a threat from abroad.

Item 3 envisages a ban on any military doctrines oriented towards preparations for the first use of nuclear weapons. Not only are those who violate these principles guilty of an infringement of a UN declaration, this declaration presents those forces in the countries of first-strike strategists, for example in the USA, who are firmly opposing all efforts to gain military superiority, with an internationally legal document to wage an effective struggle against the military preparations for a nuclear surprise attack. The same holds true for those countries in which weapons intended for a nuclear first strike already are or will be deployed, and also holds true for the destabilisation of the international situation through the siting of new US nuclear missiles in Europe. Referring to this destabilisation Oskar Lafon-

taine, a member of the West German Social Democratic Party's national executive, said: "Due to its technological features (accuracy of aim, short flying time, no time for an advanced warning) the Pershing-II is a medium-range nuclear missile destabilising the international situation to an unprecedented extent."

2. In addition, the outlawing of a nuclear first strike is a **step towards the international renunciation of the use of force**. Contained in the declaration is the renunciation of the planning and use of force in the form of nuclear weapons. If the NATO states had agreed to this, there would no longer be any danger of a nuclear war in Europe since there is no threat of an attack from the East.

Once more, in accord with the logic of their aggressive policies which show nothing but contempt for mankind, the USA and the other NATO states voted at the 36th UN General Assembly against the declaration proposed by the Soviet Union on the prevention of a nuclear war and the outlawing of a nuclear first strike contained therein. They did this despite the fact that with their signature under the Helsinki Final Act in 1975 they acknowledged the renunciation of the use of force as one of the guiding principles in relations between the participating states. In gross contrast to the spirit of the Final Act the NATO countries turned down a few years later a proposal advanced by the Warsaw Treaty states which called for the conclusion of a treaty declaring that none of the 35 signatory states to the Final Act would first resort to the use of weapons against each other. He who prevents the implementation of such proposals must have dangerous plans in mind and, furthermore, he admits that, in actual fact, he does not believe in an attack from the socialist states.

As early as five years ago the USSR presented to the 31st UN General Assembly the draft of a world treaty on the non-use of force in international relations. In resolution No. 31/9 dated November 8, 1976 a vast majority urged all UN member states to carefully consider the proposal. Following this the 32nd General Assembly set up a special committee to formulate an international treaty on the renunciation of the use of threat. The outlawing of a nuclear first strike would promote the materialisation of such a treaty. Despite fierce opposition on the part of the USA the mandate for the special committee was prolonged by a majority of the 36th General Assembly.

3. In order to increase the chances of the adoption of the declaration detailed measures aimed at curbing the nuclear arms race that should be negotiated at special talks have not been included in the draft. In the long run, however, the

renunciation of a nuclear first strike certainly would have positive effects on a **limitation and reduction of nuclear arms**. Item 4 of the declaration suggests honest and equal talks in order to stop the arms race and reduce nuclear weapons through common effort. This has become more urgent than ever before because the world is threatened by a new phase in the arms race. The USA's striving for military superiority forces the USSR to strengthen its defence capacity.

The adoption of the declaration would positively influence Soviet-American negotiations as well as the continuation of the process of limiting strategic offensive weapons and the Vienna talks on the mutual reduction of arms and armed forces in Central Europe.

4. Apart from this, the declaration—which in item 5 contains the principle that nuclear energy must only be exploited for peaceful purposes, for the benefit of humanity—could pose a **certain international legal barrier against the proliferation of nuclear weapons**. This would advance the implementation of the 1968 Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (that came into force in 1970) which has become pressing because there are definite pointers that the South African apartheid regime and Israel, for example, already are in possession of nuclear arms, a fact which adds to the already existing dangers in such highly explosive regions as southern Africa and the Middle East that either of them might be turned into a nuclear war theatre.

The debate which has arisen on the Soviet draft declaration clearly reveals who is really interested in the prevention of a nuclear conflict, makes use of every opportunity to erect barriers to nuclear annihilation thus making it more and more difficult to cross the nuclear threshold instead of unscrupulously lowering it. It is, above all, the nuclear powers which are confronted with this vital question, but also those states like the FRG on whose territory 5,000 nuclear warheads have already been installed and which figure among the USA's preferred launching bases for a nuclear first strike.

Our Front Cover

This magnificent cockerel in Meissen porcelain is the work of the sculptor and porcelain modeller Johann Joachim Kaendler (1706–1775). You can read more about the past and present of Meissen porcelain in the article on pages 10 to 15 of this issue.

Photo: VEB Staatliche Porzellanmanufaktur Meissen

Our Back Cover

For the Connoisseur - Meissen Wines

Situated on the Elbe some twenty kilometres downstream from Dresden, Meissen is probably one of the best-known towns in the GDR. For one thing it is more than 1,000 years old and the Cathedral and Albrechtsburg castle—in the background on our photo—are perhaps the most often cited witnesses to its turbulent history. Another thing is that its name is more than closely connected with the first European porcelain that was manufactured here a good 270 years ago.

A further point, perhaps not quite so well known, is that Meissen has a name for its wines; the local vineyards date back to the very beginnings of the town itself. A document in the town's archives states that King Henry I of Saxony and Franconia ordered, in 919, that the vineyards in front of the town gates were to be expanded and expertly tended. During the centuries that followed viticulture became widespread and between 1500 and 1700 covered an area of about 1,000 hectares stretching along the Elbe valley from Meissen to Pillnitz. From that time on viticulture gradually declined because the traders brought cheaper wines into Germany from the countries of the South. What remained was destroyed by vine pest in the eighties of the previous century.

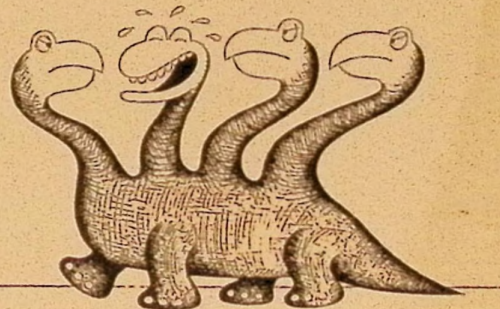
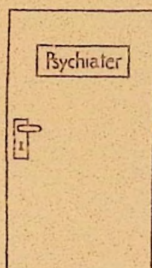
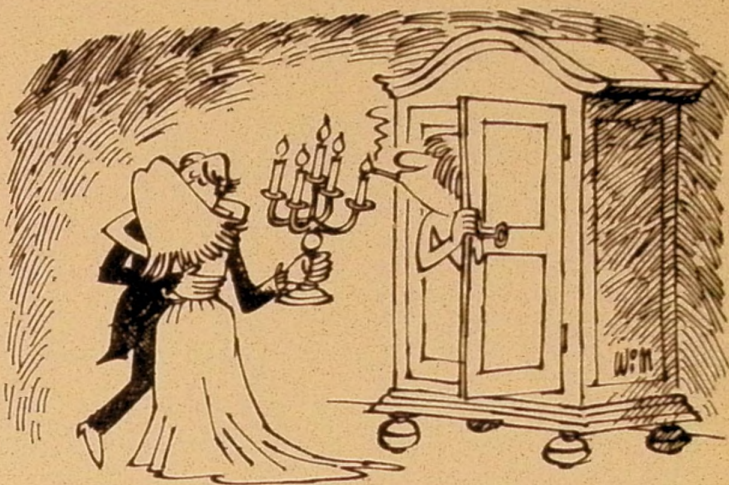
The vineyards were replanted at the beginning of the present century and after the recessions caused by the two world wars Meissen wines have again come into their own as many gold medals awarded at international trade fairs and exhibitions testify. This, however, is no guarantee that one will be able to obtain Meissen wines in one of the wine taverns along the Elbe valley or even in Meissen itself. For this area is not only one of the smallest wine-growing areas it is also one of the most northerly in Europe, and the viticulturists here have to face many risks. Should you have the luck to obtain a wine from Meissen, enjoy it to the full for the connoisseur savours it as a pure, dry and mature wine without any sugar residue.

P. L.

Photo: Brigitte Nevoigt

Could you laugh at that?

ask Willy Moese and Wolfgang Theiler



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