



GDR REVIEW

1/82

MAGAZINE FROM THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

The Peoples' Happiness Lies in Peace, Not War

ANOTHER YEAR has gone by. Once again people in all countries are looking back at the past and also trying to look into the future. For the citizens of the GDR it was a year marked by the Tenth Congress of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany. Held last April, the congress adopted a policy of stabilising peace, which is in grave danger, and further boosting the economy, despite the complicated international economic situation. Social security was thus again given top priority.

On October 7, the 32nd foundation anniversary of the German Democratic Republic, Erich Honecker reviewed the results of our citizens' work during the first nine months of 1981, noting that progress had been made in all fields ranging from industrial and agricultural production to the sphere of social policy. In his words, this happened "at a time when people in western countries are talking of reduced and even zero growth". The citizens of our country are justified in regarding their achievements "as a contribution to stabilising the situation in Europe, and as an indication of the superiority of planned socialist economy".

In fact, anyone who has visited our republic of late will confirm that economic life is in full swing here. The remarkable strides made in construction, particularly in the building of housing, are evident for

all to see. The considerable investments made in various industries indicate a constant and far-sighted extension of the material basis for further stable growth.

All this has brought reward for the GDR's citizens. Not in the form of promises of a rosy future but in the shape of the most comprehensive social welfare programme in the history of our people which has been benefiting everyone in our republic for many years now. This programme embraces the babies, and indeed the unborn children, as well as the old. Our social legislation does not discriminate between the sexes, nationalities, religious and philosophical beliefs. The doors to education are open for all; every school-leaver not going on to higher education immediately has an apprenticeship, and there is a job waiting for everyone.

This domestic policy of ensuring a productive, secure life for our citizens complements the GDR's foreign policy aimed at maintaining peace and security. The past year has seen quite a few GDR activities advancing peaceful coexistence such as Erich Honecker's visits to Japan and Mexico, and the visits of well-known foreign politicians to our republic. The endeavours of our state to promote peace, disarmament and detente have also been repeatedly manifested in the friendly meetings with representatives of the fraternal socialist states.

Socialism, no matter which country is building it, can thrive only in peace. Every nation in the world has no greater desire than to live in peace, for it was always the ordinary people who bore the burdens of war and suffered terribly in the process, while the only persons expecting to profit from war were the rulers. In a socialist state, however, is there anyone who stands to gain from war and the production of armaments? Certainly not.

This truth has dawned even upon prominent politicians in leading capitalist states. The community of socialist states is not interested in creating tensions which could lead to war, nor is it interested in the crazy arms race costing thousands of millions of dollars which could be used for enhancing the welfare of the people.

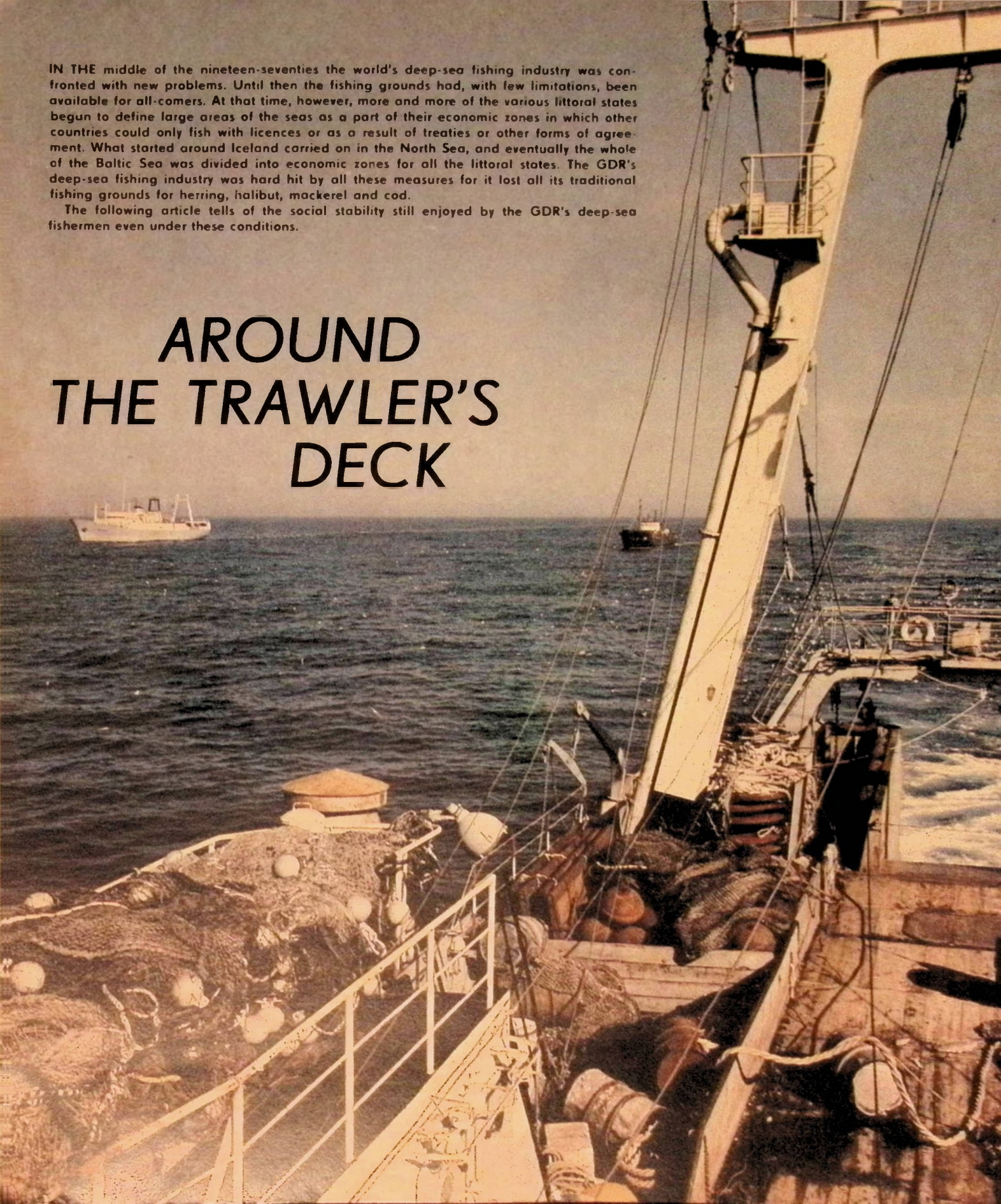
"The peoples' happiness lies in peace, not in war." This statement by Erich Honecker, while simple and self-evident, poses an enormous and profoundly humane task. It has already been tackled not only by those who experienced all the horrors and destruction of the Second World War 40 years ago, but also by the younger generations. This is shown by the campaigns in Europe, the USA and elsewhere against the NATO arms build-up and for an end to the arms race. The citizens of the GDR and their government, too, work for a life in peace, in that they strengthen their socialist state as a factor for peace.

Eberhard Günther

IN THE middle of the nineteen-seventies the world's deep-sea fishing industry was confronted with new problems. Until then the fishing grounds had, with few limitations, been available for all-comers. At that time, however, more and more of the various littoral states began to define large areas of the seas as a part of their economic zones in which other countries could only fish with licences or as a result of treaties or other forms of agreement. What started around Iceland carried on in the North Sea, and eventually the whole of the Baltic Sea was divided into economic zones for all the littoral states. The GDR's deep-sea fishing industry was hard hit by all these measures for it lost all its traditional fishing grounds for herring, halibut, mackerel and cod.

The following article tells of the social stability still enjoyed by the GDR's deep-sea fishermen even under these conditions.

AROUND THE TRAWLER'S DECK



On board the "Jan Mayen"

The *Jan Mayen* is one of the fifteen deep-freeze trawlers run by the nationally-owned Sassnitz Fishery of the Rostock Fishery Combine which also runs forty-eight cutters and two refrigeration and transport vessels. The ship is 48.95 metres in length, has a capacity of 250 tonnes and can produce twenty tonnes of frozen fish a day. Captain Wolfgang Henkel told us that the *Jan Mayen* would be setting course for the Barents Sea in a few days time having just come from a refit in the shipyard.

"Even so," said the captain, "we've got to do a bit ourselves so that she remains comfortable even when the weather is bad or when catches aren't up to the mark. These are the things that put people's nerves on edge and on the long trips everybody gets 'cheesed-off' sometime. The one after fifty days the other after seventy. The captain is no exception although he in the first instance, of course, is the one who has to help combat such moments. To this end we also have books on board, a cinema projector with fifteen films, and then a lot of the lads go in for carving. There's many a good carving or the like been done while out at sea. And if you know your crew well and can put yourself in their position, a comradely slap on the back is often a great help."

We took a look around the *Jan Mayen*. The living quarters were small but practical. The same applied to the galley: everything the cook needed to feed the crew after the day's work was at hand. The messroom could almost be termed cosy. The bosun, who has already served on the *Jan Mayen* for more than four years now, has done his bit to keep spirits up: for special occasions he laid on a store of good cutlery, glasses and candles. He's even got several white damask table-cloths. He knows what bucks the crew up. "That's necessary these days," he said, "we're out at sea a lot longer than we used to be and a few more home comforts are needed."

"The long trips," added Captain Henkel, "have their advantages but also their disadvantages. One advantage is that we get to know a lot that is new. The research trips to Mozambique that we have made under the terms of a friendship agreement are one example of this. And these days we are just as often traders as we are deep-sea fishermen for because of the international situation. In deep-sea fishing we are forced to buy the fish we can no longer catch to ensure our fish-processing industry continues to work at full capacity and to cover the needs of our population for fish products. But we've got used to this. When we buy fish in the name of the GDR—and that is usually the case on the English coast—we also go on land. We often compare the struggle for existence

From the history of nationally-owned Sassnitz Fishery

February 7, 1949

The founding of the enterprise: the Soviet Union supplied the first 12 cutters. 2,000 tonnes of fish were landed in 1949.

April 1950

Completion of the jetties in the harbour. The fishery has 800 employees. 9,000 tonnes of fish caught with the 17-metre cutters.

February 1951

Fish-shed for unloading the catch opened.

June 1951

Commissioning of the first 24-metre cutter built at the Elbe Shipyard in Boizenburg.

End of 1952

The Fishery has 186 vessels: 51 of them are 24-metre cutters.

1955

The "John Schehr" Seaman's Home opened.

1958

Fifty 26.5-metre cutters commissioned.

1962/63

The first deep-freeze trawler launched at the Elbe Shipyard in Boizenburg. It was followed by 14 others.

1964

Handing over of the first refrigeration and transport ship, the *Stubnitz*. Daily freezing capacity 60 tonnes.

1966

The second refrigeration and transport ship, the *Granitz*, handed over.

1970

The deep-freeze trawler *Svinöy* reaches the 4-million mark in fish production. Completion of the partial automation of the fish processing works.

1971

Commissioning of a new assembly workshop for equipment used on board.

1974

The Fishery is awarded the Order of Karl Marx.

1979

The nationally-owned Rostock Fishery Combine formed. Sassnitz enterprise renamed: Nationally-owned Sassnitz Fishery of the Rostock Fishery Combine.

1981

2,500 people are employed at the Sassnitz Fishery, 1,200 of them are seamen. Rostock Fishery Combine forms its own foreign trade agency.

that the fishermen of these countries have with our own, quite different, situation."

"In our country there is no question of little fisheries being swallowed up by big ones," said the bosun. "We know, too, that we shall never be unemployed and that we shall always be able to sell our fish. Our income is good and steady. In our country fish is sold at the same low prices that it was twenty years ago because the government pays heavy subsidies."

During the course of our talk we touched on this and that topic and learned that the captain bears sole responsibility and makes the last decision on board. We also

The Captain

Forty-year-old Wolfgang Henkel has been captain of the *Jan Mayen*, the deep-freeze trawler SAS 416, since 1973.

What sort of a person is he, this captain? He is one who has very close ties with his ship and his crew. He is one who commands respect. His words are always well chosen and his arguments well thought out. He has a winning smile and his eyes, although filled with a humorous twinkle now and again, show something of the energy and seriousness that are a part of him.

Before Wolfgang Henkel started his training as a seaman in 1956 he had never even seen the sea. He is a child of that generation which had to start setting up a new home after the end of the Second World War in 1945. For him and his six brothers and sisters this new home was the little village of Kasekow near Schwedt, today a large industrial centre in the east of our republic. It was here that he went to school for eight years with the intention of becoming an automobile mechanic afterwards. His teacher, however, advised him to go to sea.

"Conditions were more than difficult when we started here in the nineteen-fifties," began Wolfgang Henkel. "But I slowly found contact with my work and with every day that passed it became more and more clear to me that it was the vocation in which I would like to work."

After finishing his training Wolfgang Henkel joined a youth work brigade and went on board a 26-metre cutter, the captain of which he still speaks of with great respect today. It was this man who urged him to study at the School of Navi-

learned, however, that a ship's council stands at his side. This council is made up of experienced fishermen and is appointed by the captain.

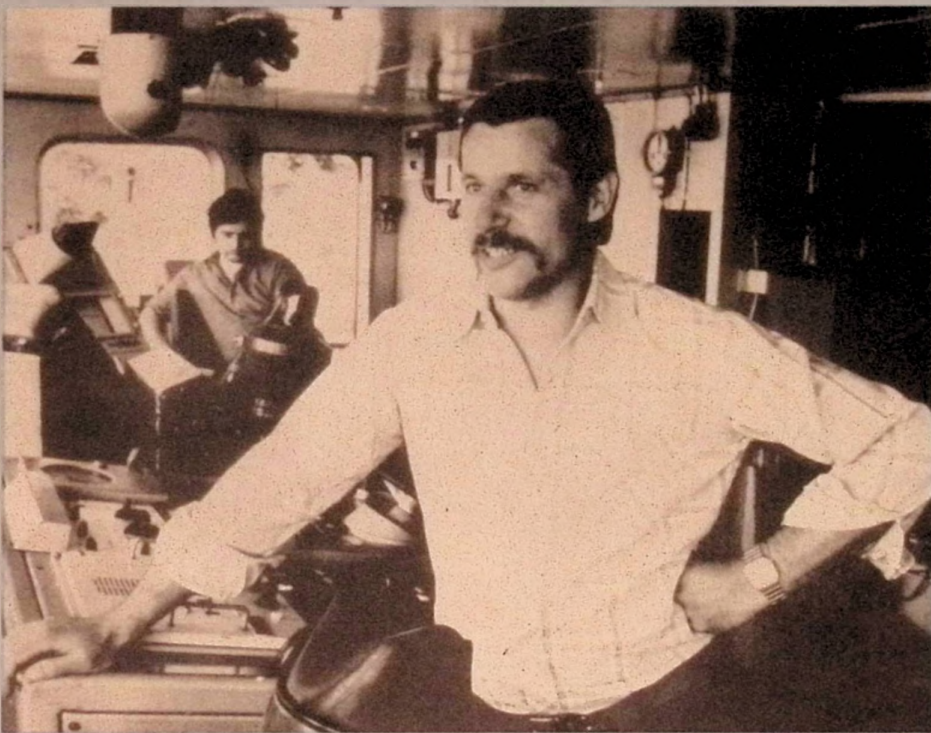
"What does the ship's council do?"

"It discusses the results of the fishing trips: quality and types of fish, for example. It also discusses all other economic and political questions. In addition to this the council always meets when something out of the ordinary happens on board. Then there are the various celebrations: Christmas at sea, for example, or the celebrations to mark the Day of the Republic and several other occasions. For whether at sea or at home we are a good community."

How secure are the deep-sea fishermen?

Fishery manager Erwin Popall and fishing master Helmut Gaedke are old hands. They both started at the bottom of the ladder and went to sea for twenty years. They not only have a big say in the development of the GDR's fishing industry they also know the various stages of development in deep-sea fishing, both in the GDR and internationally. "The growing international reputation of the GDR and the worldwide diplomatic recognition of our country," said Erwin Popall, "have increased the opportunities of receiving catch quotas, licences and agreements from a number

of countries. Today we sail in the Arctic Ocean and the Atlantic Ocean, the Baltic Sea, the North Sea and the English Channel. The long trips often take a hundred days and more and take us to Greenland and Iceland, to the eastern coast of North America and the coast of North-West Africa." During our talk the two men also mentioned the good cooperation with the Soviet Union, particularly with the fishery kolchos in Riga which has a friendship agreement with Sassnitz Fishery. We learned that the Soviet Union is the only country from which the GDR receives an annual catch quota for cod without having to pay for it.



gation in Wustrow. The young seaman finished his course with flying colours and with his captain's ticket for coastal navigation in his pocket. And as youth in our country has, for more than thirty years now, always been delegated responsibility the young captain was given a cutter right away, its name—*The Giant Shark*.

"When it was clear that our fishery would soon be fitted out with bigger ships I started a new two-year full-time course of study for my deep-sea captain's ticket."

Wolfgang Henkel was twenty-six years old when he was appointed Second Mate

on a deep-freeze trawler. He held the job for twelve months and was then appointed First Mate, a rank which he held for four-and-a-half years. In 1971 he was given command of such a trawler.

As a member of the working-class party he has always been among those who have fought against mismanagement, who have spared no effort to open up new roads to help improve our lives.

Taking over responsibility for the *Jan Mayen* was a heavy task for him. The crew looked at their new captain with very mixed feelings to start with. "They did not

exactly disregard my orders and instructions," he said, "but neither did they do much to carry them out quickly. But one of the pointers showing that I did, nevertheless, succeed in getting everything in trim is the fact that many of the men of that time are still in the crew today."

Wolfgang Henkel is married with two sons. Unlike him, his wife comes from a deep-sea fisherman's family. She knows first-hand the problems that crop up in a fisherman's marriage. "You have to make decisions on your own, without the family's father, whether it has to do with school, with the house community, or wherever problems crop up in day to day life. And then there is the waiting for a letter, the long winter evenings and also the beautiful sunny days in summer when you take a sad look at other families out for a walk," she said. But the Henkel family has always managed very well. When her husband is away at sea Annemarie Henkel runs the family affairs so well that their two sons now also want to go to sea.

"A seaman's marriage, more than most others, has to be based on trust and a frank word at the right moment," said Captain Henkel. The other members of the family are of the opinion: "We don't save up the everyday troubles and points of irritation until our father comes back home. What's the point of that? The day he comes home is a festival for all of us."

Wolfgang Henkel is not only the favourite at home. He is also one of the Fishery's leading lights. Those who had a hand in his education are proud of him, just as much as those whom he himself is helping to educate today. Captain Henkel is one of those people in whom you can place your trust.



For 21 years Gerd Wickmann has helped unload fish that has been frozen at sea.

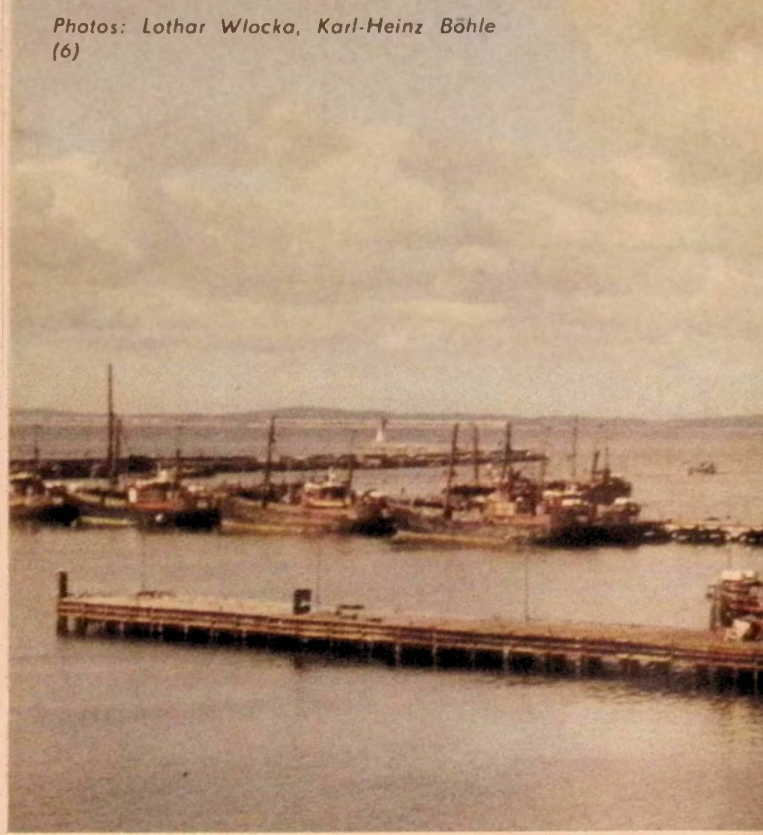
A fisherman must know how to make and repair nets. He learns this part of his trade at the enterprise trade school whose net store offers every opportunity.

A wedding at the Seaman's Home. The Home's staff make sure it is a day that the bridal pair and their guests will never forget.

Before leaving port—a production meeting in the mess.

The "Jan Mayen" at home in Sassnitz Harbour.

Photos: Lothar Wlocka, Karl-Heinz Böhle (6)



"Taking the present conditions of deep-sea fishing into account," said Erwin Popall, "our state put forward in 1978 a social-welfare programme for the fishermen of our republic that is unique in the history of shipping. Years ago when we used to fish using our own judgement and discretion it was only a good catch that brought a good income. Today deep-sea fishermen in general receive good wages that guarantee them a good living." Helmut Gaedtke added: "On top of this there are shift bonuses, long-service increments and a catch bonus when it's a really good one."

We wanted to know more details about the deep-sea fishermen's social-welfare programme. The first thing the two men

mentioned were the holiday arrangements. The captain has thirty-three days a year, the other members of the ship's crew thirty-one days. Then there is a free day for every weekend spent at sea, and for the twentieth and thirtieth day at sea there is an extra day's holiday for the shift work that has been performed.

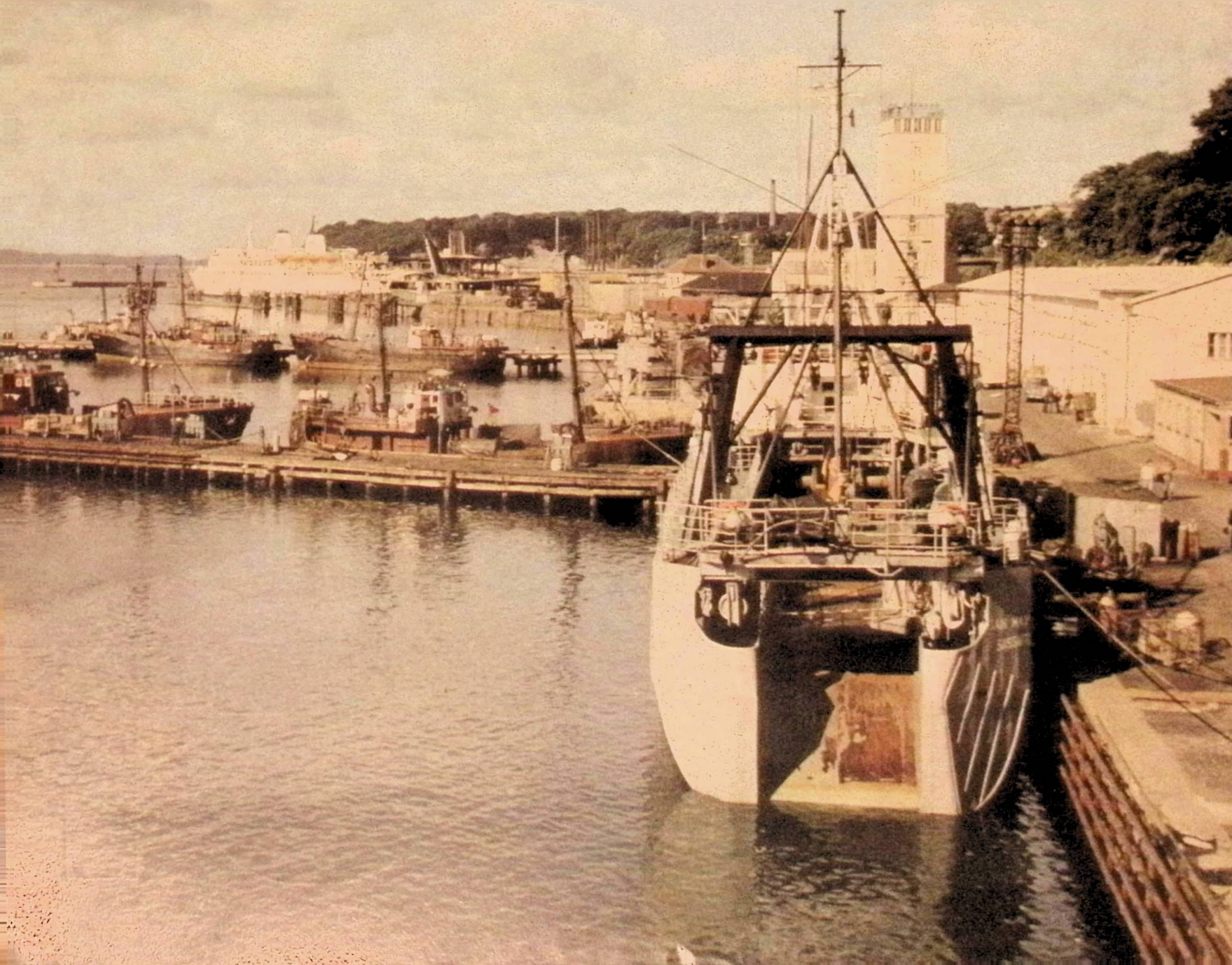
"And what about labour safety?" we asked.

Fishing master Helmut Gaedtke answered: "All our trawlers are fitted with a double set of technical and nautical instruments. Everything possible is done for the safety of the fishermen. Even out at sea a doctor can always be reached. Firstly we sail as a flotilla to which a doctor is

attached. And, secondly, international aid at sea is proverbial.

We at base are in contact with all our ships two or three times every day. There is not one of our fishermen who cannot be reached by either us or his relatives. That's reassuring for both. When possible we sail with a permanent crew. And another thing we should not forget: when the ships reach their home port the crew disembarks. The ship is unloaded by the watch squads on shore. The fisherman can go off straight away to his family at home."

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European Youth for a Future without War

THE SECOND European Youth and Student Days of Action for Disarmament took place at the end of last October. It had been arranged within the framework of UN Disarmament Week. Taking part were many youth organisations representing a wide variety of political and ideological opinion as well as the member organisations of the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY).

The Days of Action were started off by a meeting in the town of Sarpsborg near Oslo where representatives of millions of young people from 14 European countries had gathered. In the appeal issued by the meeting they emphasised the special responsibility borne by youth in the struggle for disarmament and against the stationing of new nuclear missiles in Europe, for their own future was at stake.

It was in the spirit of this appeal that the Peace Bus Tour set off with young people from many European states taking part. One tour started from Copenhagen and travelled via West Germany to the final destination of Dresden in the GDR. Another tour started in Budapest and travelled to Dresden via Austria and Czechoslovakia. During their journeys the 'tourists' took up the cudgels for peace at many youth mass rallies, seminars, political discussion forums and friendship meetings. These events were characterised above all by the determined protest against the planned deployment of new US nuclear missiles in Western Europe.

The second European Youth and Student Days of Action ended in Dresden. Here in the Palace of Culture the representatives of more than 40 international, national and regional youth and student organisations in Europe joined together with more than 2,500 members of the Free German Youth (FDJ)—the GDR's youth organisation—for an impressive rally. The participants raised their voices for a world of peace and a future without war, for disarmament and immediate negotiations on ending the arms race.

"We assure the youth of the world of our solidarity in the struggle for peace and disarmament and against the danger emanating from NATO's intensified arming and its policy of confrontation," declared Egon Krenz, first secretary of the FDJ's Central Council, at the meeting. United



action by progressive world youth was needed, the speaker continued, to thwart the policy of intensified arming being carried out by imperialist military strategists and to make the Soviet Union's realistic peace proposals into a programme of action.

Miklos Barabas, general secretary of the World Federation of Democratic Youth, demanded that never again should youth perish in war robbing mankind of its future. He stated that the struggle of European youth was an indivisible part of the worldwide peace movement.

Among those who spoke at the rally were Matti Viilainen, Finland; Hendrik Brandt, Denmark; and Robert Rydberg, Sweden. Every speaker—irrespective of their various political and religious beliefs—stated without exception that the youth of Europe intends to intensify the struggle for disarmament and detente together with all peace-loving forces.

The representatives of European youth organisations were received by GDR foreign minister, Oskar Fischer, at Dresden's city hall. He told them of the immediate willingness of the socialist states to come to effective agreements on the limitation and reduction of all kinds of weapons while observing equal security for all concerned.

IN THE NAME OF LIFE

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Young people from many European countries laid flowers and wreaths at the Frauenkirche (Church of Our Lady) in Dresden destroyed in the Second World War.

Members of the Czechoslovak youth organisation took their leave of the Peace Bus at the Czechoslovak-GDR frontier (top).

Hendrik Brandt, participant in the Peace Bus Tour of the World Federation of Democratic Youth, Denmark

Forty young people from 13 European countries—from Greece and Portugal to Norway and Finland—have crossed our continent in the past week.

We travelled from town to town with our message of peace. We carried our appeal into the streets, schools, factories and universities—everywhere where young people work, learn and live.

For us the Peace Bus Tour was an unforgettable event, based as it was on our common obligation to safeguard peace and achieve disarmament.

Two international press conferences were organised, in Budapest and in Prague. Leading figures from public life received us. We were, for instance, guests of Győr town councillors in Hungary who handed over to us a declaration for disarmament and peace which had been signed by the town's citizens. In Copenhagen we were received by a mayor of the city. In Vienna we visited the International Centre of the United Nations where we were told about the preparations for the coming UN special session on disarmament and about the preparations for International Youth Year.

During our tour we were of course interested in collecting facts and figures on weapon systems. That is why we visited the International Peace Institute in Vienna.

Part of our struggle also includes the study of the history of our continent, upon which, I need hardly say, the sun has not always shone. Two world wars started in Europe and it was here that German fascism was defeated...

On numerous occasions during our tour we had the opportunity of expressing our deepest respect for the victims of Hitler fascism. For example, in Kiel in the Federal Republic of Germany we laid a wreath at the Memorial to the Victims of Fascism. The visit to the village of Lidice in Czechoslovakia was also a very moving experience. A documentary film informed us of the terrible tragedy that took place there. And

it was a moment of deep emotion for us when the youngest participant in our Peace Bus Tour, five-year-old Ragnhild, laid down flowers in Lidice in memory of the children who died in the gas chambers of the concentration camps...

The most important concern of our Peace Bus Tour was to undertake joint action with the youth of our continent. And I am happy to be able to say that we achieved our aim. Between Budapest and Copenhagen we experienced demonstrations, rallies and meetings at which more than 10,000 young people took part. In Znojmo in Czechoslovakia, for example, a meeting was planned in the town hall with 600 young people. But 6,000 turned up and we had to hold the meeting outside the town hall even though it was pouring with rain.

We visited schools in Denmark, youth clubs in the FRG and took part in mass meetings in Hungary. More than 1,000 resolutions, telegrams and poems were handed over to us. We even received a message of greeting from Montreal from the participants in the continental meeting in North America.

The European Peace Bus Tour affirms together with all other campaigns that the youth of Europe will drive, walk, fly, march and do everything to stop the arms race here and now. We have built up new ties of friendship. We have learnt from one another. We intend to put this new strength to good use in the coming period. We intend to close our ranks still tighter and raise our voices so high that they will even hear us in far-away Washington:

There must be no limited nuclear war in Europe!

Prevent the stationing of Pershing II and Cruise missiles!

No to the neutron bomb!

OP THE ARMS RACE!

During the meeting in Dresden's Palace of Culture.

Photos: Carla Arnold, Wolfgang Kirkamm

**Robert Rydberg,
president of the Council of European
National Youth Committees, Sweden**

Without compromises we must wage war for our right to live, a right which is threatened and which can only be defended by a continual struggle by all of us. We must remain vigilant, observe and understand what is going on in Europe. We just cannot afford to close our eyes now, to be isolated and deceived. To fight for peace means to fight for disarmament.

Never before in history and nowhere in the world have there been such massive military arsenals, such supplies of destructive weapons, as there are today on our continent. A confrontation in Europe between the military blocs which developed into a nuclear war would bring about destruction on our continent to an unimaginable degree.

To fight against arms is an absolute commandment especially for youth. It is they who must build their future here in Europe.

We must demand immediate negotiations which lead to the reduction and removal of all existing weapon systems on our continent. Without nuclear disarmament it is difficult to achieve real progress in other areas. Nuclear arming has overstepped every reasonable measure of what could be termed military logic. With the nuclear weapons which are stockpiled in the world today every human being on this planet could be killed forty times over. Nuclear weapons are unique in the sense that they represent a deadly threat to all human life.

For as long as the US Senate refuses to ratify SALT II, it is nevertheless of great importance that the partners to the treaty accept the limitations contained therein. The uncontrolled manufacture of strategic weapons would result in horrific consequences for all disarmament efforts.

SALT III must be brought about which would lead to important reductions in a number of strategic offensive weapons.

We reject the concept of a limited nuclear war.

It is especially important to prevent a qualitative arms race at the nuclear level and to reduce the danger of the use of

nuclear weapons. More attention must be devoted at international disarmament conferences to strategic nuclear weapons and to the so-called Euro-strategic weapons...

International disarmament negotiations must be based on a complete reconciliation of standpoints. That is why the calling of a European disarmament conference could be of great significance...

We, the young generation, must build on the hope that the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) brought with it. And we must do our very best on behalf of peaceful development in Europe, whereby the CSCE represents an important factor pointing the way forward. The youth of Europe should not content itself with the achievements gained; by developing broad cooperation encompassing the whole of Europe, we are contributing to detente and mutual understanding.

We are discussing at this meeting in Dresden problems which are important for the future of all nations on our continent. We are duty-bound to remain vigilant, to cooperate and to fight for peace and disarmament...

Have we any alternative than to continue this fight? Our future is threatened. We must defend it—together.

**Matti Viilainen,
representative of the national
committee of Finnish youth
organisations (SNT)**

The young generation does not accept that a nuclear catastrophe is inevitable. Together we will build a world of lasting peace and a better future for mankind.

The past week has clearly shown that young people and students in all of Europe will take part in mass actions for peace and against the arms race, and against nuclear arms in particular. That is a great step forward for the peace movement on our continent. And it is necessary in view of the fact that European civilisation is gravely threatened by the decision to deploy new medium-range missiles in some West European countries, by the strategy of



a so-called limited war and also by the neutron bomb.

The young generation has decided: We don't want to die. Europe must not become a theatre of war.

The rebuilding of the completely destroyed city of Dresden shows what people can achieve if they act decisively and determinedly. We from the SNT and the whole of Finnish youth are convinced that a new world war can be prevented. But this will only be possible if we unite. That is why it is so important to continue our close cooperation within an all-European framework.

The SNT is quite aware of the role played by the FDJ in organising the youth of the GDR for peace, disarmament and anti-imperialist solidarity.

We stand side by side in the joint struggle for peace and international friendship.

ACT NOW FOR PEACE

FIGHT FOR PEACE AND DISARMAMENT!



2nd European Youth and Student Days
of Action for Disarmament



ORGANIZED BY THE WORLD FEDERATION
OF DEMOCRATIC YOUTH

/24 October - 1 November, 1981/

THE BASIC RIGHT OF MAN



Socialist States Propose

Renunciation of a Nuclear First Strike

LAST September the Soviet Union added a new link to its long chain of constructive and realistic peace initiatives. The USSR's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Andrei Gromyko, put forward the proposal to the United Nations that the UN General Assembly pass a declaration branding those states and statesmen first resorting to nuclear arms guilty of committing a grave crime against humanity. Those who decide to use nuclear weapons first should never be exonerated or forgiven. The declaration should firmly underline that any doctrines allowing for a nuclear first strike are incompatible with the standards of human morality and the noble aims of the United Nations.

What caused the Soviet Union to come forth with this new significant peace initiative?

The USSR, the other socialist countries and all peace-loving forces are looking for ways to prevent, with all means at their disposal, an international catastrophe, above all, a nuclear conflict. Leonid Brezhnev said with regard to this question: "If there is no nuclear first strike, there won't be a second and third strike either. This would also render all talk about the possibility or impossibility of winning a nuclear war superfluous and would ban the threat of nuclear annihilation."

In view of the fact that the USA's so-called new nuclear strategy, which is based on the Presidential Directive No. 59, has considerably increased the danger of a nuclear war the

Soviet proposal is of utmost topical importance. The Presidential Directive No. 59 envisages political and military blackmailing of the Soviet Union and the other countries of the socialist community by way of constant threats of a nuclear surprise attack. It entertains hopes of the possibility of a "victorious nuclear first strike" against all strategically important launching bases of the Soviet Union with the aim of destroying them and leaving the USSR without the necessary means to inflict a crushing defeat on those who unleashed the conflict.

Within the framework of its new strategic arms programme the Reagan administration plans to accumulate nuclear warheads for a first-strike capacity. Such weapons include, for example, the Euro-strategic Pershing-II and Cruise missiles, Trident submarines, the MX missile system as well as the B-1 bomber which is still being developed. The development, manufacture and deployment of these weapons intended for a nuclear first strike considerably spurs on the arms race and enhances the danger to world peace.

For this reason peace campaigners throughout the world are urging the USA to support the Soviet proposal on the renunciation of a nuclear first strike put forward to the 36th UN General Assembly. The proposal was, of course, backed by the GDR.

J. F.

WARNINGS—

PROTESTS—

ACTIONS

Milan. In early November 1981 about 100,000 people, both young and old, demonstrated in Milan's city centre for peace and disarmament. It was the first peace march in Italy organised by the CGIL-CISL-UIL trade union confederation. Milan's socialist mayor, Carlo Tognoli, and his communist deputy, Elio Guerzioli, marched in the front ranks of the demonstration together with trade unionists and representatives from Lombardy Region.

London. Nuclear arms opponents throughout Great Britain, including Glasgow, Aberdeen, Sheffield, Bristol, and Nottingham, added new weight to their demands for a cessation of the nuclear arms race and for the rejection of Cruise missiles in their country. Their crusade was illuminated by fireworks, rockets, beacons and massed torches blazing in the sky. In a telegram to the British minister of defence the peace campaigners reaffirmed their determination not to rest until such time as their country is no longer endangered by the threat of a nuclear war.

Paris. An exhibition entitled "Picasso and Peace" was mounted at the headquarters of the French peace movement in Paris. It had been arranged to mark the 100th birthday of the artist on October 25, 1981. On that day a national gathering for peace and disarmament was held in the French capital city. The exhibition was composed

of about 50 items dedicated to peace and included posters, lithographs, ceramics works and scarfs with imprinted Picasso motifs.

Lisbon. At the end of last October Portuguese peace forces in Evora, Guarda and other towns held meetings, information and signature campaigns. Artists from throughout the country had arranged a "Week for Culture and Peace" to underline their commitment to the struggle for detente. By the end of October more than 200,000 people had signed an appeal issued by the "No to Nuclear Weapons in Portugal" Campaign.

Berlin. At a meeting of members of the GDR Academy of Sciences' Einstein Committee well-known GDR physicists denounced the US policy of intensified arm-ing. In view of the escalation of the nuclear arms race by the USA they called upon all members of the International Einstein

IN THE NAME OF LIFE

Committee, on all scientific workers and peace-loving people to step up their struggle for the safeguarding of peace and for the banishment of the danger of a nuclear catastrophe.

Washington. A party of children and young people handed over at the White House about 3,000 letters addressed to President Reagan and calling for a cessation of the nuclear arms race. This undertaking had been arranged by the "Children's campaign for nuclear disarmament" in 38 US states.

Montreal. The Roman Catholic bishops of Canada are opposing the US decision to go ahead with the production of the neutron bomb. A meeting of church leaders in Montreal issued a statement which was signed by over 100 dignitaries and called on all Canadian citizens to join forces in the struggle against the neutron bomb and the arms race.

Helsinki. At the end of last October the mightiest peace campaign for years took place in Finland. At mass rallies in more than 50 towns tens of thousands of Finnish people from all walks of life demonstrated their firm "No" to the neutron bomb and the siting of new US medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe. They spoke in favour of Dr Urho Kekkonen's plan of creating a nuclear-free zone in northern Europe.

Copenhagen. With a 24-hour peace march around Christiansborg Palace, the seat of the Danish parliament, about 10,000 Danes set an impressive final mark on the campaigns arranged within the framework of the UN week for disarmament. The participants in the demonstration strongly condemned NATO's Brussels missiles decision and demanded that northern Europe be turned into a nuclear-free zone.

Tokyo. The "Ten-feet Movement" is but one of a variety of campaigns in Japan against nuclear weapons. It is a nationwide money-collecting campaign for the purchase of 85,000 feet of documentary film material on the effects of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 which is stored in the US state archives. Every Japanese citizen has been asked to donate money for ten feet of the material showing the burned soil of the two cities and the horrors brought upon the inhabitants of whom tens of thousands died instantly. By the end of last October 40,000 people had responded to the appeal and contributed 82 million yen. This is sufficient money to buy the material and produce three films.

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 AWACS air monitoring system alone costs 1,200 million dollars—

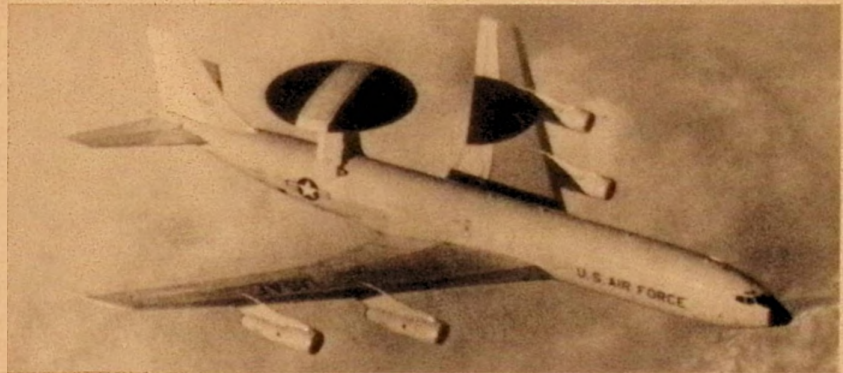
that is as much money as is needed for

- the construction of three petrochemical works!

And who is pocketing top profits for the AWACS?

- The shareholders of the US Boeing company.

Photos: repro-archives, ADN-ZB



STOP THE ARMS RACE !



Gladiator's helmet from Roman times. Slaves from Germania were also trained as gladiators to fight to the death against one another.



GERMAN
HISTORY
IN TOUCH
WITH THE TIMES

Through
The Mi



Copy of the Magdeburg Horseman, presumably Emperor Otto I (936–973), a work of art from feudal times.

Left above: Pre and early history—a neolithic grave from Barby on the Elbe. The body lay in a crouched position; animals; vessels and ornaments were laid in the stone coffin.

Right above: Weapons used by the peasants during the German Peasant War of 1525.

Right: Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, renowned sons of the German people, the founders of scientific socialism.



enniums

THE Museum of German History on Berlin's Unter den Linden opened its doors thirty years ago. Since July 1981 it has presented itself in a completely new garb and attracted streams of visitors. This great interest has been awakened by a thorough change in the museum's mode of presenting the permanent exhibitions. Today the visitor is able to view treasures from the various epochs enabling him to gain an almost unbroken picture of German history from its very beginnings right up to the present day. The items range from a neolithic grove to lances and other weapons dating from the times of the German Peasant War (1525) and the banners of the revolutionary working-class movement of our century. Tools and clothes, uniforms and weapons, original items showing the development of technology, furniture, paintings, models, photos and posters build up the impressive mosaic of a historical survey that meets the interest and special wishes of every visitor.

Museum pieces have their own unmistakable language. They tell of the antagonisms between rulers and ruled, of power and riches, of the misery and poverty of the people of past eras. They awaken emotions and lead to exciting discoveries. Today, in a time when there is a veritable flood of information, it is no easy matter for a historical museum to present its items in a descriptive display. Without any exaggeration whatever, it can be said here that the new exhibition in Berlin is highly successful. In many ways the visitor is stimulated to take a critical view of history and some, no doubt, to take a deeper interest in the essence of historical processes.

The most remarkable thing about the exhibition is the vividly descriptive way in which the 6,300 square metres of available space is used: political affairs and technology, the arts and the way of life of the people, all are woven into an exciting tapestry of individual items and their interrelation. The visitor is placed four-square in the middle of his own history. All the most important historical turning-points from the German Peasant War in 1525 to the liberation from fascism in 1945 are clearly designated as climaxes both from the thematic as well as the layout viewpoint. As the exhibition has been arranged at two levels there are a number of unusual overall views. By climbing stairs one reaches so-called "inactive zones" where the visitor can make a closer study of the art, furniture, interior decoration, etc., of the various periods. A three-hour walk through the millenniums seems to pass in a flash: the footpath through all the epochs is 3.8 kilometres long. Many of the visitors will undoubtedly make a repeat tour.

*

Why was such a lavish rearrangement necessary? Professor Wolfgang Herbst, who has been director of the Museum of German History for the last fifteen years, said during an interview: "Until recently our museum only showed history from 1789 until today. This depiction was no longer sufficient for there are more than a thousand years of German history that were not covered. Apart from this, parts of the old exhibition did not meet up to present-day museological and historical findings. After the opening of the exhibition on the history of the GDR in 1974 the idea was mooted of presenting the whole of German history including pre and early history in a complete exhibition arranged according to an integrated concept."

The result of this reflection is now presented in four departments: Pre and early history, feudalism, the period from 1789 until 1917 and the period from 1917 till 1945. A vast piece of work that was started by the museum staff in 1975 has thus reached an initial conclusion. It is intended that the four departments remain in their present form for about the next fifteen years which does not, of course, mean that new items will not replace those now on show.

There are already about 350,000 items in the museum's storerooms, on show are rather more than 8,000. Professor Herbst said: "We have, of course, selected the objects in the museum from the special view of the claim of the GDR to all progressive traditions in German history. That begins with the first works of literature and extends to the works of Anna Seghers; that begins with the Magdeburg Horseman from the middle of the thirteenth century and extends to contemporary sculptures by Fritz Cremer; it starts with the peasant revolts long before 1525 and goes on to the revolutionary transformations of our day. The new exhibition shows a self-contained picture of the development of Germany and the German territorial states. We show the history of Prussia just as we do the history of Mecklenburg, Bavaria, Thuringia or Hesse. As our state embodies the traditions of all that is good and progressive, we do not, of course, limit our depiction of German history to the area of what is today the GDR. There is also another aspect that must be mentioned: as our history is embedded in global historic processes we must also incorporate the turning-points belonging to this, for example, the French Revolution of 1789 or the Great October Socialist Revolution of 1917 in Russia which have had a decisive influence on the course of German history."



Left: Major world events like the French Revolution in 1789 and the Great October Socialist Revolution in 1917 left their mark on German history too.

Right: A magnet for the children—models of old railway systems.

Below: "Modern technology" of the nineteen-twenties in Germany, the time when the monopolists began to back Hitlerite fascism. In another section a large amount of space is devoted to the anti-fascist resistance struggle.

Right below: The Museum of German History on Berlin's Unter den Linden. This former armoury that was built in the eighteenth century has a history of its own. In 1848, for example, it was stormed by the revolutionaries as a Prussian citadel.

Photos: ADN-Zentralbild/Kaufhold (4), Link (1); Günter Ackermann (4)



The Museum of Germany History is housed in the former Armoury on Unter den Linden in Berlin. The idea of building an armoury dates back to the Elector Frederick William of Brandenburg (1620–1688). However, it remained for this successors to put the plan into practice and use the building with its clear-cut Classicist lines as an armoury and show-house for their weapons and war trophies. Andreas Schlüter, responsible for the rich sculptural ornamentation, Karl Friedrich Schinkel and Gottfried Schadow were among the architects and builders who designed and erected the Armoury.

The building was badly damaged during the Second World War. After it had been reconstructed, the glorification of Prusso-German militarism within its walls gave way to the presentation of the revolutionary, humanist and democratic traditions of the German people in the GDR national Museum of History.

The GDR Economy
in the 1980s

TIME IS MORE THAN MONEY

Higher productivity—
but without a hectic work tempo

IS IT POSSIBLE to raise labour productivity year by year? Without a doubt—this is the case in all industrialised countries. Can it be achieved without negative social consequences—without the merciless pressure to perform which is typical of capitalist conditions, without the constant threat of unemployment? Yes, this is possible. The GDR is proof of it.

In socialist industry labour productivity rose by more than five per cent annually during the nineteen-seventies. Similar results have been achieved in construction, transportation and other fields. These results were accompanied by an improvement in working conditions (although physically hard labour which is injurious to health has by no means been entirely eliminated). They were also accompanied by extensive social improvements, by a constant rise in the standard of living. There was no inflation. There was no unemployment.

The increased productivity was not transformed into profits, but rather its returns were applied to the ensuring and improving of the standard of living. It is precisely this orientation which will guide the economic policy of the GDR in the nineteen-eighties. The Tenth SED Congress laid down ten focal points of economic strategy. One of these points emphasises that we intend to significantly raise our labour productivity. Our goal is the achievement of a considerably higher broad-based productivity level.

It is generally known that labour productivity is determined by the extent of production and the number of workers engaged therein. The main indicator is amount of production per work-hour. For GDR industry on average, 1,000 marks worth of production required 23 hours in 1970; in 1980 the same amount required 14 hours, and in 1985 the work-hours are to be reduced to only 12. This goal set for the national economy demonstrates the general order of magnitude. The specific requirements from the individual enterprise and combine lead to rates of increase which in 1981 lay far above ten per cent in numerous combines. (A combine unites the enterprises of one industrial branch under a unified management; in many industries there are several combines—e.g. in the machine tool industry there are four.)

By which means can the GDR achieve a significant increase in labour productivity, and what are the main effects to be accomplished thereby? Large increases in productivity can doubtlessly only be achieved

today through the application of scientific findings and new techniques as well as continually improved technologies. This is the case in all industrial countries, and the GDR is no exception. Nevertheless, the socialist economy is subject to a different set of intrinsic laws than those of capitalism. It is therefore possible for the GDR to make use of a number of advantages of productivity which can be achieved only in socialism. The following are examples.

The concentration of forces and resources at the level of the national economy makes it possible to accelerate scientific and technical progress without thereby causing unemployment, increasing the work tempo or otherwise bringing about a deterioration in working conditions. Accelerating the application of microelectronics, computer technology and robots results—in addition to the elimination of physically hard labour—in a saving in the number of work places and the freeing of workers for other jobs—and in the GDR this has socially favourable effects.

First of all, the workers thus freed can be employed in the necessary extension of production. Socialism is based namely upon a necessary growth of productivity and of production, because only by this means can the growing needs of the people be satisfied. Secondly, workers are freed for social and other services which are needed.

A relatively small state like the GDR (17 million inhabitants) employs for the care of children in creches and kindergartens alone about 30,000 people at all times (an average which has applied for many years) without appreciable costs to the parents. This is only one of many social services—and is a result of the constant increase in labour productivity.

Seen in this light, time is more than money. Labour time saved makes it possible to create greater social riches. It was with this thought in mind that the trade unionists in the Schwedt Petrochemical Combine developed a special idea at the end of the nineteen-seventies: "Fewer produce more" was the goal they set themselves in the socialist emulation competition. This means in concrete terms that in the course of only a few years, through the rationalisation of work and extensive automation measures, about 20 per cent of the previous workforce could be spared. These workers were needed for a new chemical plant, which went into operation at the end of 1981.

New plants "sprouting up" in the GDR are the exception, however, now and in future—as is also the freeing of 20 per cent of the workforce within a period of a few years.

In the majority of enterprises production will be increased annually and the quality of the goods will be improved—without a concurrent increase in the number of employees.

That is to date the typical pattern of productivity increase. It is achieved primarily by means of improvements in existing techniques and investment in rationalisation measures. In this connection the internal development and application of new techniques within the combines themselves plays a very special role. Rationalisation measures brought about in this way are to be doubled in the five-year plan 1981–85.

For this the ideas of all workers and engineers are in high demand. They have not the least fear of unemployment. They have other worries: How can the differences in productivity between enterprises, which are sometimes considerable, be eliminated? How can the achievements of the best enterprises be applied on the broadest base possible? Everyone in the GDR stands to gain from the solution of this problem for it will make possible further advances in the social sphere.

Dr Karl-Heinz Arnold

ONCE AGAIN Leonid Brezhnev's visit to the FRG has shown how important contacts are between leading statesmen from the East and West, particularly in view of today's world situation.

The course and results of this visit can make an influential contribution to the improvement of the international situation and of cooperation between states with different social systems. During the Third Plenary Session of the SED Central Committee Erich Honecker stressed that "in the present complicated situation broad international exchange and lively political contacts between statesmen from countries with different social systems are particularly valuable and necessary".

For strict observance of the Helsinki Final Act

In the joint communiqué on Leonid Brezhnev's visit to the FRG the conviction is expressed that there "is no sensible alternative to peaceful cooperation between all states". This cooperation, the communiqué went on, must be on the basis of equality, of respect for the independence and sovereignty of states and on the basis of non-intervention in the affairs of others. The main element in the policy of detente is, in the opinion of both sides, the consistent continuation of the process initiated by the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the observance and realisation of all principles and accords contained in the Helsinki Final Act. In the interests of security, arms limitation and disarmament it is regarded as necessary to come to concrete agreements on a stable parity of forces at the lowest possible level.

Many times the President of the USSR convincingly expressed in Bonn the firm will for peace of the Soviet people and the socialist community of states in general. At the same time he expressed anxiety over the escalation of the arms race by the West's greatest power, the decisions taken to carry out the massive programmes for installing strategic and other nuclear weapons and the start of production of the neutron weapon. He emphasised that the use of these weapons would mean the depopulation of Europe and its transformation into its own graveyard. Youth above all, he said, had to be told the whole truth about war—and not just about the last war, but what a future nuclear war would mean.

Leonid Brezhnev strongly rejected the views of those who hold that a "limited nuclear war" is possible and even practical and who refuse to commit themselves to a renunciation of the first use of nuclear weapons. In this connection the Soviet President exposed the swindle of the so-called "zero option" for what it is. According to this, the Soviet Union is to disarm

ON LEONID BREZHNEV'S VISIT TO THE FRG

unilaterally while the whole massive arsenal of the USA and other NATO states in Western Europe directed at the Soviet Union and the other socialist states—hundreds of land-based and sea-based missiles, and aircraft carrying nuclear bombs—is to remain intact. Such an "option", which would change the present ratio of almost exactly 1:1 into an advantage against the socialist community of 2:1, is naturally unacceptable. Those who approach negotiations in such a manner can only have one thing in mind—to condemn the negotiations to failure.

Soviet Union proposed genuine "zero option"

In Bonn Leonid Brezhnev put forward a genuine "zero option" for discussion, namely the complete renunciation by both sides—the West and the East—of all kinds of nuclear medium-range missiles aimed at targets in Europe. The Soviet Union and the whole of the socialist community are in favour of eventually seeing Europe free of every kind of nuclear weapon. To this end Leonid Brezhnev also added an important, new element to the Soviet peace proposals. If the West agreed to a moratorium on the stationing of medium-range missiles by both sides for the duration of the negotiations in Geneva, the Soviet Union would be prepared not only to discontinue further deployment of its SS-20 missiles but would also reduce the number of its medium-range nuclear weapons in the European part of the USSR—in other words, to engage in some anticipatory reduction, moving to that lower level which could be agreed upon by the USSR and the USA as a result of the talks. This is a truly significant act of goodwill on the part of the Soviet Union which has been received with general approval by all peace-loving forces in the world. The

Soviet offer is a genuine act for peace—made in the interest of achieving such results at the talks as the peoples demand.

GDR contributes to the realisation of peaceful coexistence

As is clear from the public statements and the Joint Communiqué, the differences of opinion on both sides at the talks with regard to important points were, of course, openly stated. Nobody overlooks the fact that it was a meeting between representatives of the leading power of the Warsaw Treaty and of the main European ally of the USA in NATO. That representatives of states with different political and social systems can talk to each other about acute international problems demonstrates the realism and constructive spirit of the policy of peaceful coexistence. This also includes the mutually advantageous development of economic relations which puts life into the policy of peaceful coexistence. The GDR has played no small part in this. In agreement with the GDR, as the Joint Communiqué says, natural gas from the Soviet Union will be delivered to West Berlin.

The GDR welcomes the meeting in Bonn. Its positive aspects cannot be overlooked and they will not fail to make their impact, as we have already said, on the improvement of the international climate in the interests of making peace more secure. Our efforts to do everything for the strengthening of peace and international security are in complete unison with this. We are also in full agreement with the many millions who have formed themselves into a powerful peace movement precisely in Western Europe and who demand a policy of common sense and realism as opposed to a course which can only lead to a nuclear inferno.

WITH growing indignation and anger the peace-loving people of the world are watching the presumptuous arrogance with which Washington is arbitrarily naming countries and regions thousands of kilometres distant from the USA to come within its sphere of interest, using this as an excuse for carrying through its policy of economic domination.

This aggressive policy, which at present is being operated with heavy pressure against the countries of Central and Latin America, has led to a dangerous aggravation of the situation in that region. It is well known that under the above-mentioned pretext the USA is supporting with weapons and millions of dollars the murderous campaign of the compliant dictatorship in El Salvador against the Salvadorian people. With sabotage, subversion and hired mercenaries from Honduras the USA is also trying to throttle the progressive development in Nicaragua. The USA's greatest hatred, though, is reserved for Cuba, that socialist country which, through its successes in building up a system of society that meets the vital interests of its people, embodies the desire of all the peoples of Latin America for national and social liberation, and which, as a result of this, has attained a high degree of recognition and respect in the non-aligned world. But it is just this which is such a great thorn in the eye of US imperialism. For the realisation of its big-power policy the USA needs the full and utter dependence of Latin America and insolently demands the unconditional submission of the whole continent to its claims. At present, plans are being hatched which directly threaten socialist Cuba. Quite openly, complex embargo measures are announced which are intended to disrupt the island's economy, and—in the words of politicians of the Reagan administration—the USA would not even stop short of open aggression. It is, therefore, only too understandable that such mad ideas have put the whole of peace-loving humanity in a state of agitation. Millionfold echo their calls round the earth: "Hands off Cuba!" and "Stop US imperialism's policy of threats and boycotts!"

The people of the GDR have a firm place in this protest and solidarity movement with Cuba which includes so many countries and peoples. In hundreds of factories the workers of our republic have expressed their determination not to allow the USA to achieve its criminal aims and assure the people of Cuba of their resolute solidarity.



HANDS OFF CUBA!

**GDR people
protest
at US
policy
of threats**

For many years now one obvious expression of our solidarity with socialist Cuba has been the fact that young people from that distant country have been training in factories in the GDR. On their return home as highly qualified skilled workers they have helped in the peaceful construction of Cuba. Full of anger they take part in the many protest meetings against the attack planned on their homeland by the USA. Our photo was taken at the Poller Bearings Works in Leipzig.



Solidarity Meeting In Berlin

THE start was given by a meeting of Berlin workers in the Ober-spree Cable Works, a traditional centre of the Berlin working-class movement.

The 4,000 people who took part in the meeting voiced their solidarity with the struggle of the peoples of Central America, and sharply condemned the harsh policy of confrontation followed by the USA which is dangerously aggravating the international situation.

The meeting gave a great welcome to Konrad Naumann, member of the Political Bureau of the SED's Central Committee and first secretary of the party's Berlin County Committee, and Júlio García Oliveras, Cuban ambassador to the GDR.

We shall never leave Cuba on its own

In his address, which was continually interrupted by stormy applause and shouts of "Long live international solidarity," Konrad Naumann recalled that from the very first day of the Cuban revolution the USA had tried to erase this socialist state on the American continent by means of subversion, aggression and economic blockades. In order to suppress this example of a revolutionary movement, the speaker continued, the USA leaves nothing untried in its intention of resuscitating the cold war by means of forced arming and confrontation. "Once again the peoples of Central America and the Caribbean region see themselves faced, more seriously than ever before in their history, with a massive threat from US imperialism..."

"US imperialism will stop at nothing to inflict damage on Cuba and extinguish this beacon on the American continent."

"But," said Konrad Naumann, "Cuba will never be left on its own." He reassured the Cuban people of the full solidarity of the people of the GDR and added that good results in industrial production thus strengthening socialism in the GDR and the socialist community as a whole were a guarantee for active solidarity.

A serious threat to world peace

A wave of enthusiasm and friendship went out to Júlio García Oliveras, the Cuban ambassador to the GDR, when he addressed the meeting. He said that the USA, which ever more openly declared itself to be the world's policeman, would like to forbid any social change whatever in any country whatever. In view of the revolutionary movement in Central America and the principled stance adopted by Cuba in rejecting imperialism's threats, the US administration was increasing its pressure on Cuba and did not even stop short of making threats of intervention.

"The present moment is extremely dangerous for peace in Central America. It is just as much a threat to world peace," said the ambassador and continued, "Cuba is of the opinion that it is a historic necessity that normal relations exist between all countries of the world, relations that are based on the principle of mutual respect, of the recognition of the sovereign rights of each and all, and on non-interference."

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Werner Bartelt, Hero of Labour and foreman in the copper division, then spoke on behalf of the cable workers. He protested at the USA's planned "punishment expedition" against Cuba and said that for the workers, solidarity was something quite natural and that this included special solidarity shifts just as much as donations to the solidarity fund. During 1980 and 1981 alone the cable workers had donated more than 365,000 marks to the solidarity fund.

The meeting unanimously adopted a resolution in which they demanded of the USA "Hands off Cuba!"



Photos: Gertrud Krabbes, Karl-Helz Böhle

Working for Friendship— Part of the Worldwide Struggle for the Safeguarding of Peace

Tenth Anniversary of the Austria—GDR Society

ON THE occasion of the tenth anniversary last October of the Austria—GDR Society high tribute was paid to its members' activities for friendly, good-neighbourly and mutually beneficial relations between our two countries which help the implementation of peaceful coexistence throughout Europe. This acknowledgement was also expressed in the messages of greeting from Austria's and the GDR's heads of state, Dr Rudolf Kirchschläger and Erich Honecker respectively. In recognition of its services the Society was awarded the Star of International Friendship in Gold. It was presented by Gerald Götting, president of the GDR's International Friendship League.

In his festive address at the renowned Vienna Konzerthaus (concert hall) the long-standing president of the Austria—GDR Society, Prof. Friedrich Epstein, said:

"On different occasions I have time and again pointed out that although the aim of our work as such has not changed the emphasis of our activities has shifted to new spheres. This is due simply to the fact that we live in a world which is rapidly changing particularly with regard to political and social conditions and that we do not live isolated in this world. Therefore we have to pay due regard to prevailing conditions and topical questions. However, the end towards which we shall continue to work is to help deepen friendship between Austria and the GDR and intensify existing contacts and relations in all spheres and at all levels. In this way we want to serve the interests of both countries and contribute our share towards the safeguarding of peace and the continuation of the process of detente.

In the recent past it has become quite clear that such activities and their chances of success have a much greater bearing on the overall international situation than many of us could have imagined at the beginning. In the wake of this realisation our Society has adopted the principle of making statements on major international questions



Photo: Karl-Heinz Böhle

and events even though these do not appear to be directly linked with the sphere of activities outlined in our statutes. I would like to mention in this connection our appeal to the Madrid follow-up meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the resolution against the nuclear arms race passed by our national executive. Apart from this, we support many peace initiatives in our periodical and otherwise. We reprinted, for example, the letter from Austrian university professors to our chancellor and the appeal for peace and disarmament issued by European writers...

Reviewing today's international situation it becomes obvious that all efforts which are relatively limited in their scope, as for example the expansion of relations between two countries, will, after all, only be worthwhile and effective if they are seen and understood as a component part of the worldwide struggle for the safeguarding of peace, to put it in more concrete terms, as part of the struggle against the escalation of armaments and the madness of the nuclear arms race.

Ladies and gentlemen, if—and I hope mankind will succeed in preventing it—a nuclear war breaks out, of which only irresponsible or alarmingly ignorant minds can maintain that it will be possible to 'limit' it, there will no longer be countries and peoples between which to establish, maintain or improve relations. Nobody would have to discuss the advantages of this or that social system any longer because if there are no human beings there will be no social systems either.

Of course, it is a great pity that nowadays mankind is divided into two large camps with different outlooks and social systems which seems to pose insurmountable barriers. However, today's alternative no longer is the plain question of whether to live under this or that social system but either to live on, though in separated camps, or to die together in a nuclear holocaust.

There is another fact which it might seem inappropriate to mention in a festive address but which must not be forgotten: in the current situation when the existence of mankind is at stake it has become imperative for all who campaign for international friendship and for the consolidation of peace to set aside in this struggle everything which separates them. In the Austria—GDR Society, whose members come from all walks of life, we have always adhered to this principle and we shall continue to do so during the second decade of our existence."

See pages 32-40 for our article "Meetings in Austria..."

ERICH HONECKER'S MEETING WITH HELMUT SCHMIDT



FROM December 11 to 13, 1981 the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, Helmut Schmidt, visited the German Democratic Republic at the invitation of Erich Honecker, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity

Party of Germany and Chairman of the State Council of the German Democratic Republic. Both statesmen had a full exchange of views on relations between the two German states and on current international questions.

Statement

by the Party and State Leadership on the visit
to the GDR by the Chancellor of the Federal Republic
of Germany, Helmut Schmidt

The Political Bureau of the SED Central Committee, the Council of State and the Council of Ministers of the German Democratic Republic have discussed the outcome of the meeting between the General Secretary of the SED Central Committee and Chairman of the Council of State of the GDR, Erich Honecker, and the Federal Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, Helmut Schmidt, from 11 to 13 December 1981 on the Werbellinsee. They valued highly the course and outcome of the meeting and the talks conducted by

Erich Honecker. They expressed their thanks to the General Secretary of the SED Central Committee and Chairman of the Council of State of the GDR for the work that he had done.

In view of the tense international situation, the meeting between the leading statesmen of the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany was of great importance and significance for maintaining peace, halting the arms race, for disarmament, and continuing the process of détente.

Under difficult international conditions, this meeting represented a continuation and a deepening of the East-West dialogue, aimed at preserving, consolidating and developing what has already been achieved for détente in Europe. The encounter demonstrates the necessity, particularly in the current world situation, for high-level contacts between East and West in the cause of peace.

The course of the talks between Erich Honecker and Helmut Schmidt, and their outcome, are convincing evidence of the vital relevance which the policy of peaceful coexistence between states with differing social systems has.

Given the demands of the present situation, and the great responsibility borne by the two German states for peace, which arises both from their geographical position at the frontier between the two most powerful military coalitions of our day, and from their historical responsibility, the talks focussed on safeguarding peace, limiting arms, and bringing about disarmament.

The speeches and statements made by Erich Honecker during the meeting have

Erich Honecker on the Results of the Meeting

The General Secretary of the SED Central Committee gave the following interview to the leading GDR newspaper "NEUES DEUTSCHLAND" which was published on December 16, 1981

Question: Comrade General Secretary, what is your overall assessment of the course and the importance of your meeting in the Schorfheide with the Federal Chancellor of the FRG, Helmut Schmidt?

Answer: My talks with the Federal Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, Helmut Schmidt, took place in a candid and constructive atmosphere of trust. We used this opportunity to exchange our views on all major issues of our day. Our talks were influenced by a pre-eminent common interest in the safeguarding of peace.

It became clear that we have arrived at a crossroads in history. The question is: Will it be possible to banish war from the lives of all nations and to secure peace for present and future generations, or will tensions be allowed to increase further, raising the spectre of mankind being drawn into the abyss of a nuclear catastrophe?

At a time when the most aggressive forces of imperialism are unscrupulously exacerbating the international situation, replacing cooperation by confrontation and rejecting the policy of détente in toto, dialogue between East and West is even more

met with a broad international echo and a positive response. Erich Honecker took this opportunity to warn in particular of the dangers resulting from the Brussels missile decision which threaten peace in Europe and the security of the peoples.

With all due seriousness he emphasized how difficult it is for good-neighbourly relations to prosper under the shadow of new American missiles. He confirmed the GDR's support for the new peace proposals made by L. I. Brezhnev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, during his recent visit to the Federal Republic of Germany.

In the GDR's view, the obligation of the two German states never to allow another war to originate on German soil, reiterated by Erich Honecker and Helmut Schmidt, requires an active commitment to

— serious and meaningful negotiations between the USSR and the USA on medium-range nuclear missiles, with tangible results as soon as possible, and a moratorium on the deployment of new medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe

in accordance with L. I. Brezhnev's proposals;

- a continuation of the SALT process, preserving what has been achieved so far;
- a declaration on the renunciation of first use of nuclear weapons;
- a quick and positive conclusion to the Madrid meeting with a decision to convene a conference on military détente and disarmament;
- the drafting of an initial agreement at the Vienna negotiations leaving out unresolved questions.

During the meeting Erich Honecker vigorously emphasized that relations between the GDR and the FRG could only be conducted in the normal international manner, between two sovereign, independent and equal states.

The statement made by both sides in the Joint Communiqué, "that there exists no reasonable alternative to the peaceful cooperation of states on terms of equality and that this cooperation must be guided by the aims and principles laid down in the Charter of the United Nations and in the Final Act of Helsinki," is similarly valid for

relations between the two German states. That being the case, our task is to preserve what has been achieved so far in mutual relations and to develop it beyond this in the spirit of the Basic Treaty and in accordance with the principles of peaceful coexistence.

Conducting relations between the two states on this basis is an essential factor in European stability. This meeting has set a signal for the future, showing us a way forward in the spirit of peace and détente, in the interests of the citizens of the German Democratic Republic and the citizens of the Federal Republic of Germany. The encounter on the Werbellinsee, as Erich Honecker declared together with Federal Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, is of great political significance for the further development of relations between the two German states, the consolidation of peace and détente in Europe.

necessary and valuable than ever. At this juncture any meeting between leading statesmen motivated by a desire for peace, and any step towards cooperation and détente are of great value.

The meeting between myself and Federal Chancellor Schmidt has fully confirmed this. Without question, it marked a positive and useful contribution to this international dialogue, to the process of détente in Europe. Overall one can say that it will be conducive to people's basic interest in a life of peace and security, the establishment of normal, good-neighbourly relations between the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany and cooperation on this continent of ours. I firmly believe that the results of the meeting will make themselves felt in this sense for a long time to come.

Question: What essential points of agreement and what differences of opinion emerged from your talks with the Federal Chancellor?

Answer: As you will remember, several rounds of talks were held. We discussed a very wide spectrum of current issues relating to world politics, to the world economy

and, of course, to bilateral relations as well.

We were able to note points of agreement in various areas, including areas of major importance. One of these was the view shared by both sides that there exists no acceptable alternative to the policy of safeguarding peace and of détente. Another important result of the meeting was the reaffirmation of the need to spare no effort to ensure that never again will a war originate on German soil. The principles of peaceful coexistence between states with differing social systems are of great benefit, too, to the relations between the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany. We were agreed that these relations should be developed more fully in accordance with the treaties that have been concluded and with the principles of the Helsinki Final Act.

It goes without saying that differences of opinion also emerged very clearly. This is quite normal. Results can be achieved only in a climate of candour. Between states with differing social systems such as the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany, which at the same time are also members of different military alliances—the Warsaw Pact and NATO—there are different and, indeed, conflicting positions and interests on funda-

mental issues. No one has tried to hide this fact.

Such is the case, for example, on the question as to the causes of the enormous aggravation of the international situation, the assessment of the dangerous and harmful implications of NATO's Brussels missile deployment decision for the situation on the European continent, concepts of how peace is to be safeguarded, and questions relating to the bilateral relations between the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany.

Question: In Europe and throughout the world the GDR-FRG summit has been followed with exceptional attention. Why do you think this is so?

Answer: In today's world there is hardly any major political issue which does not affect the interests of several, or even all, nations. This is all the more true in the case of the relations and contacts between the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany, which are known to be situated in a highly sensitive area of our continent, at the dividing line between the Warsaw Pact and NATO, between socialism and capitalism.



"It is my firm impression that the results will be of lasting significance," stated Erich Honecker in reply to a question put by a television reporter on the meeting in the Schortheide. After the Chancellor and the General Secretary of the Central Committee had both confirmed that the atmosphere was excellent, the reporter asked whether this impression applied to the talks as a whole. Erich Honecker replied: "I can say that the talks have been held in a very open atmosphere and only in this way can we achieve results."





During my visits to countries on various continents I have been able to see for myself that there is a general awareness that the existence of two mutually independent German states maintaining peaceful and good-neighbourly relations based on international standards are of great significance for the solution of the cardinal question facing mankind, that of peace. Accordingly, the Federal Chancellor agreed with me that the relationship between the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany is of no mean importance for the overall situation in Europe, with the interests of peace taking pride of place.

Irrespective of their different interests on fundamental questions, the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany have had a joint responsibility bequeathed to them by history. After all, two world wars originated on German soil. We must safeguard peace for present and coming generations. Peace must not be a pause between wars, but become a normal way of life for all nations. Europe must remain a centre of peace for it would not survive a third world war. As I told the Federal Chancellor, it is not only a question of our generation here. We have looked death in the face all too often. But we have an obligation to think of the future of present and subsequent generations, of our wives, of our children and grandchildren.

Consequently what is expected of us is a concrete contribution to peace, détente, arms limitation and disarmament. I can say, therefore, without underestimating other questions, that our exchange of views centred on the question as to what the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany can do in the way of promoting the safeguarding of peace and disarmament. The statement that war must never again emanate from German soil must be followed up by deeds. For this reason I stressed the need to back up and stabilize political détente through military détente.

The first essential is to preserve the existing approximate state of military-strategic balance in conformity with the principle of parity and equal security at a progressively lower level and to renounce all attempts to alter it unilaterally. What was involved in our talks, in a very concrete manner and from various angles, was mankind's most

highly prized possession: peace. These are, in my view, the reasons for the keen interest which the talks between me and Federal Chancellor Schmidt aroused internationally.

Question: What role was played in your talks by the proposals submitted by the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU and Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, Leonid Brezhnev, during his recent visit to Bonn?

Answer: They were at the centre of the discussion. NATO's drive for ever more arms and for the manufacture and deployment of new American nuclear missiles in Western Europe does not afford greater security, rather it raises the spectre of the self-annihilation of the human race. In contrast, Leonid Brezhnev, in line with the agreed foreign policy of the socialist countries, once again put forward a comprehensive programme which, if implemented, would mean genuine progress towards peace. It is full of anticipation that the peoples of the world are looking to Geneva where Soviet-American negotiations on the issue of nuclear weapons in Europe began a few days ago. I should like to add here that we find it hard to understand the rejection so far of the Soviet proposal that both sides should desist from the deployment and modernization of the existing nuclear medium-range missiles in Europe as long as the negotiations last.

The idea of a moratorium, it will be remembered, has been described as useful by various quarters. In the event of agreement on a moratorium being reached, Leonid Brezhnev said the Soviet Union would be prepared to reduce unilaterally part of her nuclear medium-range missiles in the European part of the country. He added that it was the intention of the USSR at the Geneva talks to press not only for a limitation, but for a drastic reduction of nuclear medium-range missiles. According to the Soviet side, this could involve dozens or even hundreds of such systems. Reduction could take place by stages. For individual stages could be so balanced that no disadvantages ensue for either side. The Soviet Union has no plans to acquire missiles

over and above the level of the American forward-based systems and the corresponding British and French potential. As far as Britain and France are concerned, the Soviet view is that a reduction of their medium-range missiles would not necessarily have to be sought, but these systems would, of course, have to be taken into account in the overall balance of forces.

The Soviet Union would, indeed, even be prepared to agree on the full renunciation by both sides, West and East alike, of all types of nuclear weapons directed at targets in Europe.

Question: This, then, would be a genuine zero option.

Answer: That is correct. We are in favour of such a genuine zero option. By contrast, the "zero option" offered by the USA transpires, on closer inspection, to be a minus option at the expense of the Soviet Union and our defence alliance because it leaves out of consideration the air- and sea-launched nuclear systems of NATO. Anyone favouring a genuine zero option must want to see our continent rid of all kinds of nuclear weapons—medium-range or tactical—which are designed for use in Europe. This is our position.

It must be added that as long as this ideal zero option is no reality, it is necessary to arrive at mutually acceptable compromise formulas which can prevent the worst from happening. Europe need not become a Euroshima.

As we see it, the Soviet proposal to outlaw the first use of nuclear weapons internationally ought to be acceptable to anyone who does not want nuclear war. We, for our part, consider the Soviet proposals to be good, correct and timely. They contain what we want and stand for.

Question: NATO's Brussels decision on the deployment of new American nuclear weapons in Western Europe currently poses the most acute threat to peace on our continent. In this context you have taken issue with the NATO argument about an alleged need to "catch up".

Answer: The implementation of NATO's Brussels missile decision, i.e. the deployment of new American nuclear missiles, would indeed make the situation in Europe even more dangerous than it is now. The projected further extension of the nuclear overkill arsenal brought to Europe from overseas reduces to absurdity a security policy which allows for the possibility of the annihilation of all mankind. It ceases to be a security policy. As I have said earlier, it is an imperative of humanity to find a solution on the basis of the principle of parity and equal security.

Let me say a few words on the argument about the need to "catch up". First of all, NATO is not concerned to catch up, but to move ahead. The Soviet Union has repeatedly expressed its readiness to discuss all arms issues on the basis of the principle of parity and equal security. So there is no need for anyone to catch up. Rather, all the conditions are present for achieving a reduction of armaments to an ever lower level.

What is more, experts on both sides have demonstrated on more than one occasion that there exists an approximate state of military-strategic balance between West and East. If the Brussels decision is implemented, NATO would, in fact, acquire almost a two-to-one superiority on nuclear delivery systems in Europe. It must be borne in mind that the new nuclear missiles of the USA are strategic weapons. A warning time of only five or six minutes upsets the strategic equation in Europe. The new US missiles are capable of reaching targets on the territory of the USSR. On the other hand, the Soviet missile systems which are invoked to justify NATO's missile decision cannot reach the territory of the United States. All this clearly amounts to the creation of what is known as a first-strike capability. This would inevitably increase the risk of nuclear war—with all the consequences this would have for the densely populated areas of Europe, the USA and other parts of the world.

We will not, however, allow anyone to talk to us from a position of strength. In the event of the missiles being deployed, the Soviet Union and the other Warsaw Pact countries would take appropriate counter-measures.

The plain fact is that what is involved here is not an arms catch-up, but an arms

drive designed to give NATO a position of superiority which would upset the existing approximate state of military-strategic balance and add further fuel to the arms race. There are no plausible reasons why the Federal Republic of Germany should really need the American nuclear weapons with which a new world war could be provoked from German soil. It is patently obvious that deployment would not leave the relations between the two German states unaffected. Good-neighbourly relations can scarcely flourish with the threat of new American nuclear missiles looming over them. We are in no way interested in such a disastrous turn of events. What should be borne in mind in the Federal Republic of Germany is that if the USA continues to react in a destructive manner to concrete proposals of the Soviet Union and her allies, this will show even more the emptiness of the justifications behind NATO's Brussels two-track decision.

Question: Is it not true that the mythical threat from the East is invoked time and again to justify the need to "catch up"?

Answer: Yes, indeed, we can hear the argument about an alleged threat emanating from the USSR, from the SS-20 missiles, hence the need to catch up. This is a totally spurious attempt to divert attention from the central issue. For one thing, there have always been Soviet missiles—just as nuclear missiles belonging to NATO have been and remain stationed in Western Europe—which are capable of reaching the territory of the other military alliance in Europe. As far as this is concerned, we have no fundamentally new situation, no alteration of the balance of forces in Europe. For another thing, throughout the postwar period it was invariably the Soviet Union which on account of a Western lead in armaments found herself compelled each time to build similar weapons systems for the sake of her own security.

When allegations about a threat from the East are circulated, it is necessary to recall who in the past endangered and destroyed peace and international security. It was not the Soviet Union which unleashed the Second World War and threat-

ened to deprive other peoples of their national and even physical existence. It was German tanks, German troops which invaded Poland, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Denmark, Norway, Yugoslavia, Greece and the Soviet Union. And it was precisely by cultivating the lie about a Soviet peril that the criminal Nazi régime paved the way for plunging the German people and the other nations into the most murderous war the world had ever seen.

Question: How do you assess the commencement of negotiations between the Soviet Union and the USA in Geneva?

Answer: That the Soviet Union and the USA are now conferring on nuclear medium-range missiles in Geneva must, of course, be seen as a positive development. The proposals of the USSR have objectively created a propitious climate for these talks.

The fact remains that the opening of negotiations in itself provides no guarantee of a satisfactory outcome. World opinion has so far received no concrete evidence of a clear desire on the part of the USA to achieve positive results. On the contrary. We are filled with apprehension at the sight of the grossly inflated American arms budget, for which more than 230 billion dollars have been appropriated. Therefore, I would consider it wise and in the interests of all Germans in East and West, in South and North, in the interests of all Europeans, and in the interests of all mankind, to exert an appropriate influence on the Reagan Administration with a view to curbing the drive of the USA to acquire military and strategic superiority over the Soviet Union and her allies, and arriving at arms limitation and disarmament in accordance with the principle of parity and equal security.

Question: What is your appraisal of the peace movement which especially in the NATO countries has attained an unprecedented scope and strength?

Answer: This is a sign of the fact that ever more people are beginning to realize what



A joint visit to the town of Güstrow concluded the meeting between Erich Honecker and Helmut Schmidt. It was arranged at the personal request of the Chancellor who said he felt particularly committed to the life and work of the sculptor Ernst Barlach who lived here in Güstrow. Included in the programme was a visit to the Ernst Barlach Memorial (above) and to historically valuable buildings such as the cathedral (below), the castle and the town hall.

Photos: ADN-Zentralbild

quarters and what policies pose a danger to their life and limb. The millions who have swelled the ranks of the peace movement at powerful demonstrations and rallies in recent weeks and months have no intention of becoming inured to the idea that a nuclear inferno is inevitable. Nor will they allow themselves to be hoodwinked by the lies about an "arms catch-up" and a "threat from the East" into becoming advocates of the NATO policy of pursuing military and strategic superiority over socialism.

The people are less and less prepared to be taken in by numbers games, by NATO strategists juggling with figures to explain away the risk of nuclear war. They do not want long-term programmes, decisions to go ahead with the manufacture of the neutron weapon, or scenarios for limited nuclear war. What they demand instead is a sense of responsibility, determination and a constructive spirit in the striving for paths and solutions doing justice to their desire for lasting peace and a life in happiness.

No one, therefore, should rush to label the peace movement as "scare-mongering". It is only too understandable that these people, these women and young people are filled with anxiety over the future because of the reckless policies pursued by the arms-first strategists.

We, for our part, consider it a significant social phenomenon of our day and a welcome development that more and more people are beginning to act, whatever their political and ideological differences, out of a concern for peace, out of sense of responsibility for the fate of all nations. In the GDR, it will be recalled, 13 million people signed a peace appeal protesting against new American nuclear missiles in Western Europe and calling for disarmament and the continuation of détente. At mass rallies they gave expression to their support for the peace movement. The fact that not only the countries of the socialist community, but also large sections of the people in the Federal Republic of Germany, in other West European countries and even in the USA are coming out against a security policy which would ultimately result in the total annihilation of civilization is a very hopeful sign for mankind, holding out the prospect of a decent life for coming generations.

Question: In your view, how could the two German states live up to their responsibility for peace and disarmament?

Answer: I am thinking of parallel activities of the two governments. These could be designed to support the following steps and measures:

- Serious and substantial negotiations between the USSR and the USA on medium-range nuclear weapons so that tangible results may be achieved within as short a time as possible.
- Agreement on a moratorium, for the duration of the Geneva talks, on the deployment of new medium-range missile systems in Europe as proposed by Leonid Brezhnev.
- Banning of the neutron weapon. The German Democratic Republic has submitted a draft convention to this effect at the Geneva Committee on Disarmament.
- Bringing about a declaration outlawing the first use of nuclear weapons as proposed by the Soviet Union at the 36th session of the UN General Assembly.
- Continuation of the SALT process.
- Using the Madrid meeting to convene a conference on military détente and disarmament in Europe as an essential step designed to consolidate mutual trust and scale down military confrontation.
- Formulation of an initial agreement at the Vienna talks, leaving aside the matters still in dispute. Negotiations on the second phase of reduction could then get under way in the climate of trust created by such an agreement.
- Preparations by the Geneva committee for the second UN Special Session on Disarmament, notably with a view to the halting of all nuclear weapons tests, the banning of the neutron weapon and of chemical and radiological weapons, and increased security guarantees for nuclear-weapon-free states.

So the field is wide open for making a constructive contribution to averting the nuclear threat hanging over the world's nations.

Question: What aspects of bilateral relations between the GDR and the FRG figured prominently in your talks with the Federal Chancellor?

Answer: Let me say in advance that the relations between the two German states are better than they are occasionally made out to be in some quarters. The meeting in the Schorfheide itself may be cited as evidence. The policy of détente during the last ten years or so has had a positive effect on the relationship between the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany.

In agreement with our allies, who have a positive opinion of my meeting with Federal Chancellor Schmidt, we have indicated our readiness to take—together with the Federal Republic of Germany—further steps towards the normalization of relations between the two German states.

The dominant feature of our talks was the repeatedly mentioned interrelationship between the bilateral and the international aspects of our relations. As has already been underlined, they have a great importance for peace and détente, going well beyond our mutual relationship. On the other hand, neither of the two states can detach itself from world politics. They cannot remain unaffected by a general exacerbation of the world situation. It is with this in mind, with the aim of achieving a breakthrough towards a healthy international situation that we are seeking good-neighbourly relations with the Federal Republic of Germany. These can, of course, be determined solely by the generally accepted standards of international life, and by respect for sovereignty and independence. It is pointless to conjure up any special relationship. This is merely a political encumbrance which ought to be discarded immediately. My impression is that as a result of the talks on the shores of the Werbellinsee matters will develop more in the right direction.

Question: Were other aspects of relations between the GDR and the FRG touched upon during the meeting, e.g. respect for the citizenship of the GDR?

Answer: Both German states have long mutually recognized their status as subjects of international law. It is about time the Federal Republic of Germany drew the inescapable conclusions from this state of affairs. As far as we are concerned, we are not engaged in any policy of linkage and of raising preconditions, no policy of "leaving aside" open fundamental issues. Nor can one accept the argument that "different legal concepts" are involved with regard to these fundamental issues. The plain fact is that the same international law applies to relations between sovereign states.

One point that is essential for the climate between the two German states is that both sides recognize without reservation the principle of non-interference both in their bilateral relationship and in their relations with third-party states. This is an obligation resulting from the Basic Treaty and from the Helsinki Final Act as well. The non-observance of this principle is neither in the interest of the German Democratic Republic nor in that of the Federal Republic of Germany, and will inevitably lead to setbacks.

As regards the question of citizenship, let me stress here clearly: The citizenship of the German Democratic Republic is not a subject for negotiations. It is a fact, there is not a single state in the world which has no citizens. The Federal Republic of Germany should at long last get accustomed to this simple truth. What we expect is that the citizenship of the German Democratic Republic is respected without reservation by the Federal Republic of Germany. This is a quite normal procedure in international affairs.

A considerable number of practical questions are involved here. As an example, I should like to mention the acceptance of the term "citizen of the German Democratic Republic". I have noted with interest that on this question, too, we are moving closer together. Federal Chancellor Helmut Schmidt stated on several occasions, including in his telegram on leaving the German Democratic Republic, that overall our meeting had not only provided an additional element of certainty, but also an element of trust and, consequently, tangible prospects for the citizens of the German Democratic Republic and the citizens of the Federal Republic of Germany.

It will be necessary to disband the "Central Records Office" at Salzgitter, to cease the issuing of provisional travel documents of the Federal Republic of Germany

to citizens of the German Democratic Republic staying temporarily in the Federal Republic, to stop the practice of passports of the Federal Republic of Germany being issued in third-party countries to citizens of the German Democratic Republic by embassies of the Federal Republic of Germany, and much else besides.

It would be highly significant if the question of the delimitation of the Elbe frontier would be settled in a way advantageous to both sides, all the more so as the Joint Border Commission has performed useful work to date.

Question: How is the political dialogue between the two German states to be continued?

Answer: Concrete ideas exist as to how the practice of contacts can be continued. As pointed out in the Joint Communiqué, both sides, in conformity with the Basic Treaty, advocated an intensification of contacts at a high political and other levels. We would like to see the political dialogue deepened through working meetings of the Foreign Ministers in the German Democratic Republic or in the Federal Republic of Germany, regular consultations on political questions at Foreign Ministry level, the establishment of official parliamentary contacts between the People's Chamber and the Bundestag, and further mutual official visits at ministerial or state secretary level.

Question: What is your view, Comrade Honecker, of the further expansion of commercial and economic relations between the GDR and the FRG?

Answer: We set great store by the further expansion of trade relations for mutual benefit. Given mutual understanding and the promotion of trade, it will be possible not only to maintain the current volume, but to increase it. However, obsolete arrangements should be discarded and replaced by others that are more in tune with the times. The first essential is to lay better foundations for a continuous, stable and long-term development of trade. The German Democratic Republic is ready to play its part in achieving this end. We consider a rise in the exchange of goods to be possible in the years ahead. We continue

to be interested in importing industrial installations and equipment from the Federal Republic of Germany, but I have to add that the continued import of such installations and equipment is conditional on a rapid increase in the exports of the German Democratic Republic.

We consider that one prerequisite for the development of trade is the elimination of domestic administrative regulations in the Federal Republic of Germany which tend to impede or restrict trade.

As far as the negotiations on an agreement in the field of science and technology are concerned, let me say that we are in favour of such an accord.

Question: How are things going to develop after the meeting in the Schorfheide?

Answer: The German Democratic Republic is determined to press on with its policy towards the Federal Republic of Germany, a policy based on the principles of peaceful coexistence. We are seeking good-neighbourly relations. This helped to ensure that the meeting took place in a constructive atmosphere advantageous to both sides. What is and remains important is an awareness that illusions are no substitute for realities. We want to continue our contractually-based policy towards the Federal Republic of Germany. After the meeting on the shores of the Werbellinsee there are grounds for us to assume that the Federal Republic of Germany is willing to develop the relations between the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic more fully. This said, it is definitely within the bound of possibilities to resolve practical questions in which the other side is interested.

Precisely at a time when the international situation is deteriorating the relations between the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany are assuming importance as a factor for peace and stability in Europe. If we are aware of this, and act accordingly, progress can be made step by step. We are prepared to do this.

JOINT COMMUNIQUE

At the invitation of the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and Chairman of the Council of State of the German Democratic Republic, Erich Honecker, the Federal Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, Helmut Schmidt, visited the German Democratic Republic from 11 to 13 December 1981. Erich Honecker and Helmut Schmidt conducted an extensive exchange of views on the state of relations between the two German states and on opportunities for their development, as well as on topical international questions of European and world-wide bearing.

The talks took place in a frank and businesslike atmosphere. The talks were attended, on the part of the German Democratic Republic, by the member of the Political Bureau and Secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, and member of the Council of State of the German Democratic Republic, Dr Günter Mittag, the member of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Oskar Fischer, and further personages. On the part of the Federal Republic of Germany Federal Minister Egon Franke, Federal Minister Dr Otto Graf Lambsdorff and further personages.

Erich Honecker and Helmut Schmidt affirmed their conviction that war must never again emanate from German soil.

Both sides are conscious of their great responsibility for safeguarding peace in Europe. They are agreed that the relationship between the two German states must not cause any additional strain on the relationship between East and West.

Conscious that differing social systems exist in the two states and that they belong to different alliances, both sides affirmed their will to actively promote the process

of détente and to contribute to safeguarding durable peace and to a stable development of the international situation.

Erich Honecker and Helmut Schmidt referred to the great importance of the political dialogue between states, in particular in the present international situation, and to the great responsibility of all states in consolidating peace and moderating existing tension.

They are convinced that there exists no reasonable alternative to the peaceful cooperation of states on terms of equality and that this cooperation must be guided by the aims and principles laid down in the Charter of the United Nations and in the Final Act of Helsinki.

Both sides paid tribute to developments since the conclusion of the Treaty on the Basic Relations between the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany of 21 December 1972. They stated that this treaty, and the agreements and settlements reached since then, have created opportunities for resolving existing problems and new conditions for even broader cooperation in the interests of both parties.

Irrespective of differences of opinion which continue to exist on fundamental questions they affirm their will to persevere in their efforts to achieve good-neighbourly relations in the interests of peace and security in Europe and for the benefit of people in both German states.

They intend to continue their negotiations and talks in specific areas, to overcome existing difficulties, and to examine opportunities for developing relations on a formal basis.

Both sides paid tribute to the significance of the Quadripartite Agreement of 3 September 1971. They noted with satisfaction that this agreement has contributed essen-

tially to the improvement of the situation in the centre of Europe for more than ten years and that its strict observance and full implementation remains an important element for lasting détente in Europe.

They discussed questions relating to reuniting families, relaxing regulations in cases of hardship, and other humanitarian questions, and agreed that efforts in this sphere will continue in a constructive spirit.

The two sides conducted a frank exchange of views on problems and questions relating to cross-frontier travel and visits, including questions of tourism.

In this connection they explained their differing views on the increase in minimum exchange that came into effect on 9 October 1980.

Both sides paid tribute to the work of the Border Commission. They are in agreement that efforts to resolve remaining questions regarding the delineation of the border and to improve the situation in the border area should be continued.

They conducted an exchange of views on pressing questions of environmental protection. They expect that the current talks between experts on protecting waterways will soon lead to concrete proposals.

They stated their intention to promote cooperation in the spheres of science and technology and of education. Efforts to formalize arrangements will continue in this sphere, too. Proposals for subjects of discussions in this sphere will be exchanged.

The two sides discussed possibilities for developing cultural cooperation and exchanges in other areas. They were in agreement in stating their intention on both sides to intensify these within the existing framework with a view to deepening mutual knowledge of cultural and social life.

They conducted an exchange of views on the working conditions of journalists. They

emphasized the great importance of comprehensive information to the relationship between the two German states.

Both sides have an interest in developing, facilitating and deepening their economic and industrial cooperation on a long-term basis. They agreed that the exchange of goods should be extended on the basis of existing agreements and in accordance with the needs of each side, and that the composition should be improved.

They underscored the importance of cooperation on projects and of cooperation between firms, including for third markets.

Both sides emphasized the necessity for cooperative efforts to solve the energy problem on a European and a world-wide scale. They declared their readiness to probe the possibilities of concrete bilateral cooperation in the energy sector.

In connection with the agreement on the delivery of Soviet natural gas to the Federal Republic of Germany and other West European countries the German Democratic Republic affirmed its approval of natural gas from the Soviet Union also being supplied to Berlin (West) through the German Democratic Republic. The necessary arrangements will be made without delay by the parties concerned.

Erich Honecker and Helmut Schmidt advocated ongoing continuation and a fresh impulse for the development initiated by the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. Towards this end, they call for full realization of all the principles and stipulations in the Final Act of Helsinki—for the benefit of humanity and in the interests of cooperation between states.

In this connection, the current position and the prospects of the Madrid follow-up meeting were discussed. They spoke in favour of further persistent efforts in the interests of progress in all sections of the Final Act and for the earliest possible conclusion to the follow-up meeting with constructive results.

The two sides devoted especial attention to the further development of confidence-building measures.

They expressed their determination to work for the convening, at the follow-up meeting in Madrid, of a conference on confidence-building and security-building measures and on disarmament in Europe with a clearly defined mandate.

Erich Honecker and Helmut Schmidt emphasized the importance to be attached to effective agreed measures of arms limitation and disarmament. They are of the opinion that it is necessary, in the inter-

ests of security, to contribute by concrete agreements to a stable equilibrium of forces at the lowest possible level. Progress in this sphere contributes in a large measure to improving the political climate and to restoring trust in international relations.

Both sides are determined to continue and intensify their efforts to achieve concrete, positive results through the committees where these problems are being discussed.

They underlined the importance of the forthcoming Second Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on Disarmament, and the necessity of preparing it thoroughly.

Erich Honecker and Helmut Schmidt explained their positions on the question of limiting nuclear weapons. They advocated continuing the process towards limiting and reducing strategic nuclear arms.

They voiced their satisfaction that the negotiations between the Soviet Union and the United States of America, agreed on 23 September 1981, had begun on 30 November 1981 in Geneva.

They explained their respective views of the problems connected with this, based on the positions of their alliances. They expressed the hope that these negotiations would lead to concrete results as soon as possible.

Erich Honecker and Helmut Schmidt discussed the state of the Vienna negotiations on the mutual reduction of forces and armaments and related measures in Central Europe. They emphasized the importance of these negotiations to security and stability in Europe and affirmed their will to contribute actively to their success.

Erich Honecker and Helmut Schmidt conducted an exchange of views on situations of conflict in various regions of the world and explained their respective positions. They stressed the need for reliable political settlements, which demand restraint and moderation and a balanced and constructive attitude from all parties involved.

The situation in Asia, Africa and Latin America was discussed, where developments are of essential importance from the point of view of international security. While advocating, as before, the necessity of a political settlement of the situation that has come into being in connection with Afghanistan, both sides explained their differing positions.

Both sides were agreed that the role and activity of the United Nations in regulating international relations and in settling the most important problems with which the world is faced should be strengthened.

They conducted an exchange of views on the serious economic problems with which the developing countries are confronted. They regard it as important that all necessary efforts are undertaken to overcome them.

It was emphasized in this connection that international cooperation, including relations between industrially advanced and developing countries, must rest on the foundation of equality of rights, mutual benefit, partnership and fair consideration of the interests of all countries.

Both sides were agreed that their exchange of opinions was necessary and useful. In keeping with the Treaty on the Bases of Relations of 21 December 1972, they advocated continued and intensified contacts at high political and other levels. These include in particular political consultations on the basis of the agreement concluded in connection with the signing of the Basic Treaty.

Both sides expressed their conviction that the further development of relations between the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany is an essential element of détente and the safeguarding of peace in Europe.

The Federal Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany invited the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and Chairman of the Council of State of the German Democratic Republic to visit the Federal Republic of Germany. This invitation was accepted with thanks. The date will be agreed on later.

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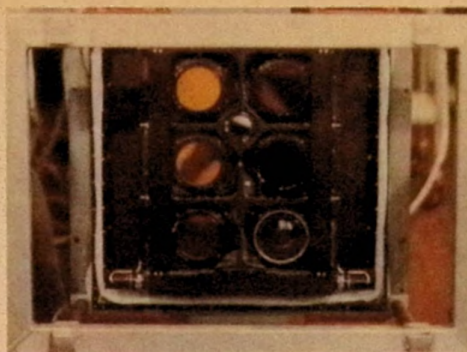
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A Dresden China/Meissen Porcelain



E Precision Optical Instruments



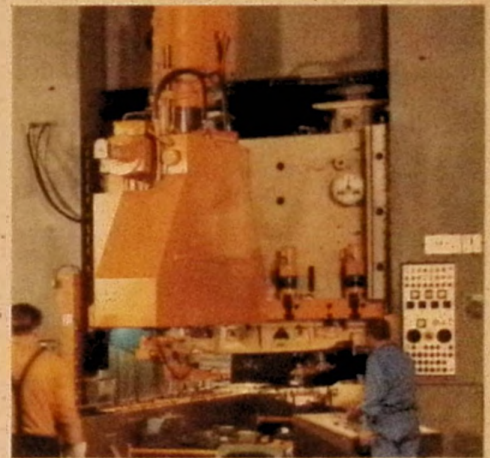
G Musical Instruments



B Wood Carvings



F Watches/Clocks



H Heavy-duty Presses



C Reflex Cameras

Dear GDR Review Reader,

Once again we would like to invite you to test your knowledge about the GDR. This time the competition is about well-known products from our country. In this issue we are showing you 10 GDR products, each marked by a letter of the alphabet, which you have perhaps seen or know of from our magazine. In our next issue the trademarks of the firms which manufacture these products will be marked by a number. Your task is to match the trademarks with the products—i.e. to match the numbers with the letters. If your answers are all correct you have the opportunity of winning one of the many prizes—among them, for example, reflex cameras, watches and opera glasses.

You will find more information in our next issue, GDR Review 2/1982.



I Glassware/Pottery



D Export Beer



J Toys

Thousands oppose new nuclear weapons in Europe

Amsterdam- November 21, 1981





THIS DAY will receive a special mention in the history of the Dutch peace movement which has already established many traditions and seen many highlights. More than 400,000 people from Amsterdam and all parts of the Netherlands joined in the country's biggest ever peace rally since the Second World War to demand that no new nuclear weapons be stationed in Europe, neither in the Netherlands nor any other country.





Amsterdam prepared itself for the event well in advance. There was hardly a row of houses and hardly a shop window on which the poster issued by the organising committee was not to be found: an angry Dutch woman kicking a missile out of her way. Among the initiators of the rally on November 21 were five political parties and many mass organisations which included the Labour Party, the Political/Radical Party, the Communist Party and the Democrats '66 as well as the Pax Christi inter-church peace council, the Stop the Neutron Bomb, Stop the Nuclear Arms Race Association, trade unions and women's organisations. The rally was supported by many other organisations as well.

What was it that led all these organisations to this great peace demonstration despite different political and philosophical viewpoints, and despite the differences in social strata that are to be found everywhere in Holland? The answers we received to this question were manifold but they all contained one thing in common: NATO's arms drive threatens the life and existence of everybody and so everybody must turn out to jointly oppose it; everybody whether worker or engineer, whether civil servant or businessman, soldier or housewife, scientific worker, scholar or artist, bishop or politician, youth or pensioner. We met Wybo and Gerben, two students of theology, together with Isabella, a student of law, sticking up anti-nuclear war posters that they had made themselves. Their opinion: "Every service for peace must, logically, be directed against all plans that aim for the destruction of life. Politicians in the USA have openly stated that they are reckoning with an atomic war in Europe. Demonstrations for peace like this one are important so that the USA realises that the peoples of Europe will not let themselves be drawn into its policy of madness."

At seventy-one, Riek Schroomberg is half a century older than the three students. What was it that moved her to face the





rigours of a kilometres-long march. "In our country," she said, "we have suffered enough from war and occupation. Who does not recall the Nazi occupation and all its terrors. Now the USA wants to drive our peoples into the abyss, and here nobody should stand aside. For, when all is said and done, my grandchildren should not have to live in permanent fear of the bomb... As you can see many elderly people like me are taking part in the demonstration. For the handicapped we have buses travelling with us which we can board when our feet begin to bother us."

*
The community spirit present during the rally was impressive. Many of the demonstrators had hot tea or soup with them which was distributed at the various halts. Many of the local farmers sent along free cans of milk for the children in order to express their solidarity because, as they wrote in a letter, "we cannot, unfortunately, take part in the demonstration as we have to look after the animals." On this day the municipal transport service charged no fares. The railways—as their spokesman announced—made their last reserves available. But nevertheless thousands of people could not get on the trains in Utrecht, The Hague and Rotterdam. Many Amsterdam police openly expressed their sympathy with the demonstrators and were presented with small bouquets of flowers. Food retailers set up tables with refreshment bags in front of their shops so that the marchers could make a purchase without having to stop. These are but a few of the examples which help back up the statement that more than eighty per cent of the Dutch people fully reject the idea of having United States missiles deployed on the territory of their country.

*
There was no lack of last minute attempts to stop the Amsterdam peace rally from being held, to confuse people and prevent them participating. The massive rallies in Bonn, Paris, London, Bonn, Brussels and

other European cities had inflicted a shock on the nuclear strategists in the Pentagon and they wanted to prevent new mass actions from taking place. A few days before the rally the USA, therefore, bought an hour's programme time in the late afternoon programme of the Netherlands TV service in order to broadcast throughout the country an address given by President Reagan in which he, using the "Catch the thief" call, tried to put the blame for NATO's arms drive on to the Soviet Union. But the Dutch people reacted with indignation: "Reagan's appearance on TV was nothing but a propaganda trick," said Peter van Heusgen who had travelled by car with his wife and friends from Groningen to Amsterdam. He continued: "It was too transparent. His proposals are clearly directed towards carrying through the stationing of US missiles because the so-called "zero option" is unacceptable to the Soviet Union. That is not only my opinion, it's what the majority of people think and Reagan's speech has probably caused many who were still undecided to take part in this rally; there is no other explanation for the overwhelming participation."

*
The participation of more than 400,000 people—it had been expected that about 100,000 would turn up—caused the organising committee to form two other processions in addition to the one planned to take place along a seven-kilometre route through the centre of the city. This led to the rally participants dominating the city scene for four hours. Before marching off the thousands of demonstrators expressed their lively agreement with the main demands of the Amsterdam Peace Rally as put forward by all the speakers from the various parties and mass organisations: "No new nuclear weapons in Europe, neither in the Netherlands nor in any other country. We want the Dutch government to withdraw its agreement to the NATO decision of December 12, 1979 on the modernisation of nuclear

weapons in Western Europe and we want the Dutch government to call on all other NATO partners to also retract their agreement with this NATO decision."

This basic demand of the Dutch peace movement was reflected on all the streamers, banners and handbills at the rally: "The neutron bomb is the logic of madness"; "Fear is no foundation for peace"; "No NATO decision—The people decide"; "Reagan use your head and not the bomb" and in many variations, the slogans "The Dutch disease is a healthy disease" and "Spread Hollanditis to all NATO countries" in an allusion to Brzezinski's mention of this "disease" when decrying the initiatives of the peace fighters from the Netherlands.

The Amsterdam peace rally was a clear rejection of Reagan. His attempt to split the peace movement, through nice-sounding but completely unreal proposals in order to be able to achieve his own inhuman plans more easily, failed. But the parties and organisations united in the ranks of the Dutch peace movement are clear about the fact that the struggle must be made broader, and also that new, joint actions are necessary to put a stop to NATO's arms drive. In this spirit the speakers of the parties and organisations at the closing press conference characterised the Amsterdam Peace Rally on November 21, 1981 as a milestone which must, and will be followed by even broader activities.

H. Vierich

Photos: Günter Ackermann

Europe must not become Euroshima

2.1 million FRG citizens have already signed the Krefeld Appeal



AT THE same time that in Amsterdam almost half a million Dutch citizens met for the biggest ever peace demonstration in their country's history strongly protesting at the planned siting of new nuclear missiles in Europe, the Second Forum of the Krefeld Initiative was held in Dortmund's Westphalian Hall (FRG). It was attended by 20,000 people from the Federal Republic and guests from abroad who demonstrated their firm determination not to allow the deployment of new US-American nuclear missiles in Western Europe. They also denounced Washington's propaganda exercise to mislead the peoples with its so-called "zero option".

The announcement by Josef Weber, who was one of the initiators of the First Krefeld Forum, that so far more than 2.1 million FRG citizens, people from all walks of life, had signed the Krefeld Appeal calling for the renunciation of NATO's plan to install new US nuclear missiles, was greeted with thunderous applause. Nineteen public figures—trade unionists, social democrats, liberals, communists, environmentalists and Christians—addressed the gathering giving the reasons for their opposition to the policy of intensified arming pursued by the USA and NATO:



Photos: ADN-Zentralbild, PI-TASS

General Gert Bastian (ret.)

"We do not believe that President Reagan's 'zero option' will bring about any desirable result because it calls for the removal of existing Soviet medium-range missiles only while the western side is merely prepared to renounce the deployment of additional weapons but not to reduce already available nuclear arms of equivalent dangerousness. How silly does President Reagan think the Europeans are if he supposes that they will be convinced by his one-sided 'zero option' of his preparedness to negotiate and disarm?"

Parliamentary deputy Manfred Coppik, Social Democratic Party

"We do not intend to remain silent about the fact that in the present international situation the main danger of war emanates from the policy pursued by the Reagan administration. It is the US government which not only is constantly fuelling the arms race in the world but which, obviously, is even looking for regional conflicts where it thinks it possible to emerge victorious from military operations."

Christoph Strässer, member of the Free Democratic Party's national executive

"As a liberal I fight against the so-called 'completive' arming, as a liberal I support the Krefeld Appeal because I believe it to be a great chance of ending the sinister arms race... We are said to be naive. In firm rebuttal of this we say: we will no longer accept that—as has been the case since the Federal Republic's foundation 32 years ago—cheap, profitable and extremely polemical anti-communism should determine our country's policy."

Martha Buschmann, member of the presidium of the German Communist Party

"It is the realisation that nuclear death threatens all of us which is uniting so many people of different outlooks and social positions. The atom bomb does not ask what your confession or political conviction is, it kills people no matter whether they are Christians or communists, social democrats, ecologists or liberals. For this reason we have to join forces in the struggle against the deployment of new US missiles in our country, irrespective of different opinions on other issues."

Kurt Georgi, long-standing chairman of the wood and plastics workers' union in the FRG

"In the past century France was designated Germany's 'arch-enemy'. Nowadays they do not get tired of slandering the Soviet Union. We do not need new hysterical pictures of an imagined enemy... 500,000 secure jobs through trade with the East, natural gas and energy from Siberia are vital resources for us while new missiles from the United States might spell annihilation. With a mill-

tary budget of more than 42,000 million D-marks we are already top of all European NATO countries this year. There is not the slightest doubt that this immense expenditure is detrimental to our society."

Willi Piecyk, national chairman of the Young Socialists

"The peace forces in Europe and throughout the world will not let themselves be deceived by President Reagan who had the cheek to present to the world public his unrealistic proposals as a 'zero option'. He who advances unacceptable proposals to the other side and is not ready to include his own medium-range missiles in the project comes within the terms of wilful deceit."

Dr Ernst Girth, speaker for the Hessian Doctors' Campaign

"Should we who inoculate and vaccinate children against epidemics and infectious diseases remain inactive and do nothing to spare them radio-active contamination and assured death through nuclear weapons and neutron bombs? The current representatives of the USA have intimated that for them there are things more important than peace. Should we allow such people to deploy medium-range missiles in our country? This would be equivalent to sacrificing ourselves. No, Europe needs, once and for all, peace and detente; the Federal Republic needs good-neighbourly relations with the East and West. Let us use our ideas and strength, but also a few million D-marks from the military budget, for more sensible and humane aims. The cardinal question of today is to make Washington and the whole world understand that Europe does not want to become the theatre of a nuclear war."

Among the prominent guests at the Second Forum of the Krefeld Initiative in Dortmund were Anthony Benn, member of the Labour Party executive in Britain, E. P. Thompson from the British movement against nuclear weapons, singer Harry Belafonte from the USA, and the president of the Japanese Anti-Atom Bomb Campaign, Prof. Ichiro Moritaki who survived the horrors of Hiroshima. He described the Krefeld Appeal as an important mobilising element within the peace movement. Prof. Moritaki was given a standing ovation when he proclaimed in German: "Europe must not become Euroshima! We must not allow a nuclear catastrophe to happen again! We want peace! Life has to be safeguarded!"

-ich.

Third Session of the SED's Central Committee

There are ways of banning the danger

AT THE end of November last year the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED) met for its third session after the party's tenth congress.

The question of peace played a big part in the report of the Political Bureau presented by Erich Honecker. After a realistic assessment of the current situation the speaker said that world peace since the end of the Second World War has never been so threatened as it is at present. But he also made it clear that there are ways of banning this threat.

The most aggressive forces of imperialism in the world, particularly the USA, are pushing mankind to the brink of a nuclear war through their over-arming and global expansion. The desire for political and military power is behind the present kindling of strife. For the imperialists it is a question of spheres of influence, of oil and other raw materials, of the subjugation of other peoples and their incorporation in the policy of encirclement and threat to socialism. "It would be suicidal not to see this," said Erich Honecker.

For a long time now the imperialist mass media have been conducting an insidious campaign against the common sense of millions of people. On the one side the ancient lie of the "threat from the East" is being trotted out again in order to justify their own aggressive plans, and on the other the maniacal attempt is being made to attune mankind to the possibility and feasibility of a nuclear war. During the session the deceptive "zero-option" manoeuvre planned and widely propagated by Washington was exposed for what it is. This trick is designed to consign to oblivion the fact that the USA, as US Admiral Gene LaRoque himself said, would "preferably have World War Three fought in Europe". The "zero option", in reality no option whatever, which has now been brought into play is to cut the forward-based American nuclear missiles, the sea and air-launched atomic missiles, out of the debate while the unreasonable demand is made of the USSR to completely dismantle its medium-range missiles which are actually just a counterweight to the NATO weapons systems that already exist.

Such an offer hardly serves as a serious approach to the talks in Geneva. Neither is it suited to putting an end to the peace movement in Western Europe. That is shown

by the "Second Forum of the Krefeld Initiative" just as it is by the impressive peace rally in Amsterdam. It is also shown by the many statements of well-known public figures from all over the world. The "peace theatre", as one likes to call it in official USA, around the American Pershing-II and Cruise missiles in Western Europe just cannot be wiped off the table.

The third Session pointed out that there are ways and means of countering the danger that threatens peace. The socialist community, with the Soviet Union at its centre, is resolutely putting all its strength on the side of peace. The Soviet Union, the GDR and the other socialist states have put forward a comprehensive and constructive concept to prevent human civilisation from being destroyed by a nuclear war. In this connection the Political Bureau's report heavily underscored Leonid Brezhnev's statement that there is no area of armaments and no category of weapons on which one cannot reach agreement.

The session characterised the mighty peace movement presently growing in the West as a hope for humanity. With this movement which is directed against the arms drive of NATO, and particularly that of the USA, there exists in the imperialist sphere itself a growing force whose members, despite all differences of political opinion and religious views, are pitting themselves against those who are playing with the idea of a nuclear inferno.

In view of the present relation of forces in the world Erich Honecker estimated that there is by all means the opportunity of preventing a worldwide nuclear war from breaking out. "This can happen," he said, "when all open international questions are solved at the negotiating table and not by force; when political realism retains the upper hand over adventurism and when all the peoples of the world struggle for the maintenance of world peace, for the curbing of the arms race and against the plans and actions of imperialism's most aggressive forces."

Jürgen Schulze shopping with the family.

The Hohlfeld family celebrate topping-out (Hartmut Hohlfeld 2nd from left—photo on opposite page).

Marianne Neitsch and her husband spend a relaxing evening on the terrace of their small house.

Klaus Engmann's hobby is photography.



Dialogue

GDR REVIEW READERS QUESTION



The “World Peace”
Work Brigade ➔

PART 3

In the name of the work brigade the questions were answered by Ruth Simon, Jürgen Menzel, Hans Schulz and foreman Karl-Heinz Fischer.

Money matters

— Is the income of the brigade closely connected with performance or is payment on an hourly basis?

Turners, which most of us are, receive performance pay. This is made up of the basic wage and two performance increments. The first depends on whether we, as a brigade, fulfil the plan figures set us by the factory. The second is dependent on the personal norm fulfilment and the quality of the work of each member. Our three semi-skilled workers receive payment by the hour to which are also added certain increments for quality and results. Our foreman receives a monthly salary.

— Are you satisfied with the form your wages take?

Yes, it's something that is just and fair. Equal pay for equal work; but this does not mean egalitarianism.

— Isn't performance payment a veiled form of piecework—there is, after all, just as much pressure for output?

Work norms that exercise such a high pressure that it is oppressive do not exist here. And apart from that behind every action that we take is not the thought that the profits of our work will go into the pocket of some private factory owner. In the long run the profit benefits us and that gives us quite a different incentive.

— How much income tax do you pay?

For people receiving performance pay it works out at five per cent.

— Do you receive any increment for shift work?

Yes, seven marks per night. On top of that 1.10 marks per hour when the work norm is fulfilled.

— Is overtime paid extra?

In the case of overtime on weekdays we receive an extra 25 per cent on the basic wage. On Sundays and public holidays we are paid double time.

— Is pay reduced during maternity leave?

No it is not.

— What is the highest and what is the lowest monthly income in your work brigade?

The highest is around 1,000 marks net and the lowest about 950 marks net.

— Does a member of a work brigade receive more pay than a worker who is not?

No.

— What is the average monthly income in the GDR as a whole?

About that which we earn in our workshop.

— Can the members of the work brigade decide for themselves how much money each of them is to receive?

What a to-do that would be—put all the money in a heap and then switch off the light. But quite seriously, we cannot decide this for ourselves. We have tariffs which take all the factors included in any one job into account and lay down the type of wage and its breakdown into groups.

— Do those in responsible positions receive more pay than the ordinary brigade members?

No, the head of the brigade has the same type of pay, performance pay. He operates a machine just like every other member and does exactly the same sort of work. The foreman receives 900 marks over the table as he is paid a fixed salary and not performance rates.

— What is the difference in the payment of an engineer and that of a worker?

Corresponding to the differences in their work, the engineer receives a salary and the workers wages. In the net sums they receive there is no great difference.

— Does discrimination against young people and women exist in payment?

None whatever. Here in socialist society all receive equal pay for equal work. If we had a woman turner in our brigade she would earn just as much as we men. We used to have one; with regard to norm fulfilment she was better than some of us men and her pay packet was, of course, better.

— Do you receive wage increases? Are they at regular intervals?

For an increase in performance, yes. But not at regular intervals.

— Is heavy or difficult work reflected in your wages?

Yes it is. Depending on the nature of the work there are extra payments for this. In our shop these are 14 pfennigs an hour.

— Is there a savings system by which a certain percentage of the wages are deducted?

No, it's up to each individual to decide whether and how much he wants to save. It is, however, possible to have a part or the whole of one's wages transferred to a bank or savings bank account.

— Do you have a 13th month, that is, an end-of-year bonus?

Yes, we do. For us three-shift workers it amounts, on average, to 1,200 marks net.

Are wages enough to live on?

— How can the workers bring their wages into harmony with the increase in the cost of living?

Karl-Heinz Fischer: First of all we must say

that the prices of the basic foodstuffs have remained, and will remain, stable here in the GDR. But apart from that we just have to budget our money.

Hans Schulz: Wages have gone up in recent years too.

Jürgen Menzel: My motto is always — The better we all work the more stable and efficient is our economy and the better we shall be able to satisfy our wishes.

— Do you have at least a partially guaranteed income in the case of economic crises?

We have not had any economic crises. With our production relations we just could not arrive at such a crisis.

— How much do you spend on food, rent, clothing and leisure?

As far as rent is concerned, on average that is, about five per cent of our income. The other things cannot be worked out quite so exactly for everybody does things differently according to their needs. That also applies to food where nobody need cut down, except to keep weight down, of course.

— How much of your wages do you put aside for leisure activities in general?

Hans Schulz: To be quite honest I find the question irritating.

Ruth Simon: That all depends on what you've planned to do and what it costs.

Jürgen Menzel: In the one month you go to the theatre or cinema with the family, the next you buy the boy an accordion...

Karl-Heinz Fischer: Who plans things like that so exactly?

— How much of the family budget is spent on travelling?

Oh, dear, that depends on all sorts of things; the place where you're spending your holiday, the number of people, their demands, whether you use a car, and so on and so forth. A 14-day holiday for three people—at least 1,000 marks, I would say. But if you have a trade union holiday place you get by cheaper...

— Do you do the football pools or something similar as a collective?

Not as a collective. It's a question for the individual—some do, some don't.

— Do you fill out your leisure time with a second job just to make money?

Nobody in our brigade does that, we don't need to.

— Are your wages high enough for you to be able to live decently?

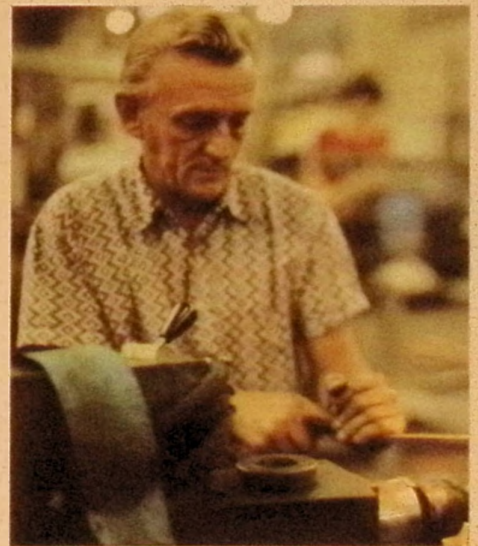
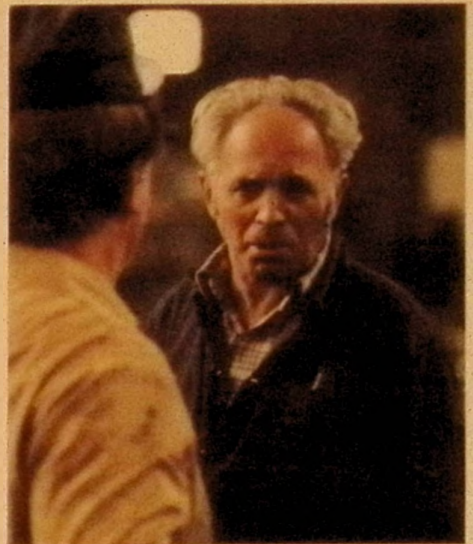
Ruth Simon: Mmm, you have to plan your expenditure, of course.

Jürgen Menzel: Certainly. You cannot, of course, look at the "second pay packet": the state subsidies paid for rents, for the basic foodstuffs, for free medical care, for cultural



Foreman Karl-Heinz Fischer with his son.

Jürgen Menzel



Hans Schulz.

Ruth Simon in the recreation room of the Voluntary Fire Brigade of which she is a member. She is often seen here "quenching" the thirst of her colleagues.

life and education, for the community services and so on.

- Are you happy with what you earn?

Who is really satisfied with what he has? And happiness is included in satisfaction. Let's be honest: we would not mind a "few pfennigs" more. But unhappy? No we are certainly not that either.

- Is severance money or compensation paid on the termination of employment?

When anybody is pensioned off he receives a monetary gift.

- At what age does an industrial, building or farmworker receive a pension in your country?

Pensionable age in general in the GDR is 65 for men and 60 for women. Miners and one or two other trades receive their pensions at an earlier age.

- How are pensions calculated?

That is too complicated to put it briefly. A major part is played by the number of years worked and also the income during this time.

To do with health . . .

- Are there any preventive health care measures in your factory?

We shift workers, for instance, have to undergo a fitness examination once a year to see whether we can carry on with shift work. Jobs with a health hazard - the grinders, for instance, who are subject to dust during their work - have to be examined by the doctor at regular intervals. Influenza inoculations are carried through at intervals, also cancer tests for the women workers. All these are free of charge. For medical care in the factory we have two general practitioners, a dentist and seven nurses.

- How is inability to work certified in your country and what system of checking exists?

Inability to work is certified by a doctor after a thorough examination. Should the illness be of longer duration further visits to the doctor are necessary.

The social insurance representative elected by the brigade is duty bound to visit a sick colleague after 14 days to see that everything is above board and that he is receiving the necessary care and attention.

- Do you in the GDR have a problem with people being written off sick although they are not, just because the sick pay is favourable?

There's nothing like that in our brigade. Of course, there are, no doubt, people who would try and do that sort of thing. But in principle it is no problem of a general nature. If it were it would document incompetence among our doctors.

- Is medical treatment free of charge?

Yes it is, both the treatment and the medi-

cines and drugs prescribed by the doctor.

- What do the factory and the state do for workers who suffer from an industrial disease?

Every opportunity for the restoration of health that there is, is open to them free of charge, from hospital treatment to spa treatment. Sick pay equivalent to the average net income is payable until ability to work is restored or until a pension is granted, just the same as in the case of an accident at work. If necessary these people are given other jobs. But as I have already said much is done in the way of preventive measures . . .

- Are all workers able to take a course of treatment at a spa?

Not all, of course. The number of places available is limited. Spa treatment is reserved for those whose state of health demands it.

- Do you think that you are sufficiently protected from industrial accidents?

Accidents happen everywhere. You just have to watch out; even when the factory does do everything it can to keep the number of accidents as low as possible. The foreman is responsible for labour safety here in our shop, he is responsible for the monthly labour safety schooling, from the side of the state, so to speak. Reinfried Friebe is the brigade's elected trade union labour safety officer who checks that labour safety rules are not infringed at grass roots level and he can and must move heaven and earth to put things straight when he does spot anything. The last industrial accident in our brigade was more than a year ago. It must have been something insignificant because none of us can remember the details now. Even the smallest cut is registered as an industrial accident.

- Can you directly help cut down or eliminate industrial accidents?

Oh yes, in the first place by taking our monthly schooling very seriously. Secondly each and every one of us is both entitled and under obligation to report sources of accidents to the factory management. Every such report is to be treated as a complaint and must, as stipulated by law, be processed and answered within a certain laid down period of time. These stipulations are also contained in the factory collective agreement and the works' regulations. Thus all shortcomings are put to rights and as quickly as possible at that.

- Should a factory accident occur do you take part in the investigation of the cause?
Yes, we are in fact obliged to.

- Does the affected worker receive a disability pension?

If his injuries are so severe that his physical capacity is reduced by at least 20 per cent, yes. He receives all necessary

help from the state and the factory for his re-integration in the labour process.

- Is an accident on the way to work regarded as an industrial accident or are there other settlements?

Accidents on the way to and from work are regarded as factory accidents.

- At the age of 51 I was suspended from my place of work and thus driven to the very edge of working life. The only thing I was "guilty" of was that of becoming deaf the cause of which was to be found in the factory itself. What would have happened to me if I had worked in your factory or in one of the GDR's textiles factories?

Here it would hardly be possible for a disease to reach this extreme and a suspension of this nature is unthinkable. You would have been given more suitable work in good time. After all, the preventive examinations show up such progressive diseases in their incipient stage. And if any one of us notices that something or other is not in order he would go to the doctor straight away.

- Do you regularly use cream to prevent your skin being attacked by oil and other substances?

Everybody does as he thinks fit. Creams are available to us free of charge.

- Do you work with dangerous substances like cutting oil or emulsion?

Yes, but they are not exactly dangerous to health unless you drink them. In our workshop we have somebody who is responsible for poisonous substances and he keeps them under lock and key. All those who work with them are schooled once a month in their use and have to sign a statement to the effect that the schooling has taken place.

- If a worker suffers injury during his non-working hours, what help can he expect from the state and does he receive recreative treatment?

Financial aid is given through sick pay. Apart from that he receives all medical aid free of charge. Should he need special aids like crutches these, too, cost him nothing. If necessary he is sent to a rehabilitation centre.

- What is your attitude towards handicapped people who do not go out to work?
Here in our country they are looked on as second-class, as lazy or even as swindlers. We do not differentiate between them and other healthy people. Our society does a lot for the disabled and handicapped. They receive special medical care and, as far as possible, a flat suited to their needs. The People's Solidarity (a mass organisation in the GDR devoted to care for senior citizens - The Ed.) and the National Front which unites all political parties and mass organisations pay much attention to their needs. They are often visited so that no feeling

of being left on their own can arise. They are certainly not cut off from life.

– As I am handicapped I would like to know how handicapped people are treated in your works, whether any work there at all and what they earn?

Yes, we do have handicapped people working in the factory, one of them is in our workshop. He draws a disability pension of 476 marks a month and can earn up to 400 marks a month in addition. The doctor has stipulated that he may only work a few hours a day.

About rationalisation, educational opportunities and working environment

– Do you think that rationalisation spells a danger for the working people?

Whether it is a threat or not depends on the social system. In ours it is no threat. We are the owners of the machines and factories, the means of production, and can therefore make our own decision as to what is to happen to them. Rationalisation poses no threat for us. On the contrary it helps us produce more for ourselves with less expenditure all round.

– How is the question of automation solved in the GDR? Will there, for example, be a reduction in the working week or a lowering of the pensionable age? Or will two workers share one job?

We cannot answer this question. But one thing is clear: we shall never have any unemployed here, and neither will there be cuts in pay.

– What happens with those workers who do not have the necessary qualifications or who, as a result of complex automation measures, are no longer needed?

What does "no longer needed" mean? There is work for everybody in our country. In fact we need workers. The workers affected either learn the new job and acquire the necessary qualifications or they change their place of work.

– Has any one of the brigade members had to change his or her place of work because of rationalisation?

No, not one of us has. As a result of the introduction of modern machines three-quarters of the brigade no longer operate centre lathes but numerically controlled machines which they learned to use after attending courses or schooling of one sort or the other.

The brigade now has 18 members, of these

– 16 are married and two unmarried. 15 of them have children. From a total of 31 children two attend a creche, two a kindergarten, 12 attend school, the rest are grown up.

– 16 have a home of their own, four of these own a house of their own. Two live in lodgings.

– nine own a car, eight a motorcycle; five a colour TV set and 11 a black-and-white TV set; 16 have a washing machine and 17 a refrigerator.

– 12 travel to and from the factory (between 0.5 and 25 kilometres, average 6 kilometres) by bus, one by car, one uses his moped and four walk.

– four go in for sports regularly (bowling, handball, football and volleyball).

– At present microelectronics are invading all spheres. Do you regard that as a threat to your livelihood? If yes, how do the members of the brigade react to the prospect of becoming unemployed one day?

We can only repeat again and again: we shall not become unemployed, that is quite certain. For us the matter is inconceivably simple and logical: the more microelectronics we have the easier will be our work and the greater the benefit.

– Can a worker gain further qualification if he wants to or are such courses only for those who are to take up a new job?

Anybody who wants to can attend further qualification courses. In the factory school, evening classes at the People's College or at a vocational training school.

– Can one take further qualification courses in the political and social sciences?

Yes, that is possible, too. There are the courses run by the trade union and also the party schooling arranged for members of the SED.

– Do you use your leisure time for vocational training?

Yes, of course. Anybody attending a course of further qualification has to do his pre-

paratory work in his own time. There's no other way.

– Do the younger workers have more opportunities with regard to vocational training than the older ones? And have the older ones caught up on the backlog?

The younger ones do have a certain advantage, a lead, over the older ones as a result of the ten-year school which has not always existed here. The older workers—depending on what their previous job was—are specially qualified on their particular machine. The younger ones receive a solid, basic all-round trade training when they have finished their ten years' general education at school.

– Is there a research laboratory in your works that looks after the improvement and modernisation of the products?

Research and development here is carried on under the auspices of the design office. One of the tasks of this office is the steady improvement of our products. This includes the development of new technologies as well as proposals for cutting down on materials and time. In addition to this, every worker has the opportunity of making improvement proposals for his own work area as well as innovation proposals extending into the work process as a whole. Suggestions and proposals of this nature are submitted to the design office where they are checked. If they are put into practice the worker receives a bonus the amount of which depends on the benefit accruing from his proposal.

– Do you think that working conditions in your factory are satisfactory?

At the moment we are satisfied with them. But, of course, we shall never stop trying to improve them still further and to make our work still lighter. That's something that never stops actually.

– What, do you think, are the advantages you enjoy over a worker with a comparable job in the Federal Republic of Germany?

We do not know the conditions there in detail. One advantage, though, is clear to see and it is to be found in our socialist relations of production: we gain from the profit made and enjoy social stability.

– Do the workers benefit in any way when they reach or overfulfil target figures?

But of course. It is reflected in wages on the one hand, and then there are the bonuses as well. Good work pays out.

– Who washes the working clothes? Does the factory mend them and do you have a second set of working clothes?

Anybody who wants to can have them washed in the factory, mending you have to do yourself. A second set of working

clothes is always available, usually more than one.

- What does a meal cost in the factory? Does the factory subsidise these for all workers?

A hot midday meal costs 75 pfennigs. No meal can be cooked for this low price and the factory pays 92 pfennigs subsidy on each portion. For the hot meal for the night shift the factory pays a subsidy of 1.92 marks per portion.

- What is the factory canteen service like?

Good. Particularly what they have on offer for the breakfast break. The whole service, in fact, is really good.

- Are there creches, kindergartens and after-school clubs?

Yes, but not in the factory itself. The factory has agreements with the municipal creches and kindergartens and participates in financing them. This means that the factory can lay claim to a certain number of places. In addition to this the factory has a so-called "mothers' bus" at the beginning and end of the day shift so that the mothers do not have to rely on public transport. And the after-school club? Our factory has nothing to do with that at all. Every poly-

technical school in the GDR has such a club for the first to fourth forms. If the parents wish they can send their children there before school starts in the mornings and after lessons finish in the afternoons.

- Do you have a factory library?

Yes, we do and all workers can use it free of charge.

- Do you have rest rooms in the factory?

Yes, they are in the medical centre.

- Why are there not more windows in your workshop?

How come? In our workshop we have nothing but windows all round.

- Do the pupils of a polytechnical secondary school do practical work periods with you in the brigade?

Not in our brigade as the work is too heavy and too dangerous for children. But they do have them here in other departments of the factory.

Variations on leisure

- Do you have enough time for leisure activities?

One can never have enough. If you plan your time well you've no need to go short.

- Do you have time to go to the cinema,

Jozef Trochimiuk recently became the proud father of a son.

The Engmann family relax after work.



Dietmar Schmalenberg in his garden and in front of his privately owned house.

Reinfried Friebe turning in his spare time.



the theatre or the swimming baths during the week?

Yes we have.

– Is it possible in the GDR to do two hours sports a day outside working hours?

If one wants to it is possible.

– Do you have a factory sports club and who finances it?

Our factory sports club has a total membership of 300. To meet the various needs, it has sections for football, handball, volleyball, ladies' gymnastics, billiards and chess. All factory sport clubs, not just ours, are financed by the factories to which they belong.

– Have you a factory sports ground of your own?

No, but we can use the village sports ground as our factory participates in the up-keep and care of this, from the financial side as well.

– Does the factory give releases for sports training?

No it does not.

– Are you allowed to play your brigade football matches during working time?

No, that is not allowed. Work is work, and leisure leisure.

– Who in the factory is responsible for sports and other leisure activities; the trade union, the collective or society as such?

In the first instance the trade union.

– What leisure facilities does the factory or the local authority provide?

In the factory itself we have in addition to the sports club a small jazz band and a choir. Anybody with a bit of talent can join in if they want to. There is no lack of participation. Money and rooms are provided by the factory which is also responsible for such activities. In the village itself there is the swimming pool which is extremely popular during the summer months.

– How do you arrange your leisure when working three shifts?

Well, everybody does that differently. You just have to take your shift into consideration and things work out all right.

– Is leisure a problem for the individual or is it a collective requirement?

Oh, that's a tricky one. Leisure is certainly no problem. Well, only in as much that one would like more time for it.. Leisure as a collective requirement? I am sorry to say that we do not quite understand what is meant by this.

– Does the brigade undertake joint leisure activities like sports, hikes or something similar?

Yes, we go to the theatre together, take

Dietmar Schmalenberg with his son at the dentist's.

As part of its leisure programme the brigade planned a walk through the countryside (bottom).

A view of the canteen at the Singwitz factory.



part in the factory sports festivals, make excursions, and go hiking together now and again. There is a hobby show once in a while where people can exhibit what they collect or make outside working hours. Such joint affairs are marked down in our annual brigade plan.

– Do the families visit each other?

That differs quite a lot depending on the distance people live from each other and also, of course, personal likes and dislikes.

– Do you do anything for the socialist community in your leisure time or is this only devoted to the family?

Well, you see that's not so strictly divided up. Socialism is no hobby, it's a part of everything everywhere. Here in the GDR we have a mass movement, we call it VML, in which many people, including us, join in during their leisure time. This movement covers things like laying out lawns and flowerbeds, making playgrounds for the children, renovating old houses, repairing damaged pavements and so on...

– Do you have a variety of libraries in your area?

Every village has its own library from which books can be borrowed free of charge.

– Can books be bought at reasonable prices?

That depends on the book. Art books and books of pictures or photographs are, commensurate with their value, expensive; other books, fiction, for example, are reasonable in price; and then there are also low-priced books with a very demanding content.

– Do you have restaurants, inns, etc. you can go to at weekends with prices that people can afford?

Oh yes, the prices are quite reasonable but here in the rural districts there are not many opportunities for that sort of thing. There are far too few of them.

– What do you prefer to do: work or go fishing, do sports or listen to music?

Being funny—work last, of course. But in all seriousness: if somebody cannot go to work for a long time because of sickness he very soon has the wish to be able to go back to work again. And that's true. Here work really has become a necessity: and that has nothing whatever to do with the fact that some of us like to go in for sports or to listen to music. There is a time for everything.

Holidays—how, when and where?

– How many days holiday does a worker receive and how many a member of the intelligentsia?

The basic holiday for both is 18 working days. A worker doing two shifts has three additional days holiday. Depending on his position, an office worker, too, can claim additional holiday time.

– How much holiday does a young worker under 20 years of age receive?

Young people in the GDR reach legal maturity at the age of 18. From their 16th to 18th birthdays they receive a basic holiday of 22 working days.

– Is there paid time off for births, marriages and deaths of relatives?

Yes, there is, and for removals, too; one day if the new home is in the same town and two if it is somewhere else.

– How long do you have to wait until you can take a holiday in the GDR?

When starting new in a factory, three months.

– Are holidays paid at the same rates as working days?

Yes, the full average wage is paid.

– Are holiday allowances or bonuses paid? No they are not.

– How much holiday does one receive during one's first year in a factory?

Just as much as later, there is no time factor for this.

– How do you take your holidays: all at once or split up? Do you also have winter holidays?

To the first question. That depends on the wishes of the individual, on the length of the holiday taken and also on the needs of the factory. A lot of us take a holiday twice a year, usually three weeks together and the rest later on.

As far as winter holidays are concerned these are very popular among a lot of us.

– Are you able to spend your holidays at trade union holiday homes and hotels?

We can do both. The trade union also has a certain number of places in Interhotels at its disposal. Then there are the holiday places in which the factory participates financially. Our works pays an average of 60 marks per head for a 14-day holiday. These trade-union and factory holiday places are very popular, of course, because they offer the guest a lot at comparatively low cost. The demand for such places is often much higher than the availability.

On top of that we can naturally go on holiday privately. Those who do so can do as they like; there are no restrictions.

– How are holidays usually spent?

Some people travel, others not every year. A lot of us live out in the countryside, have a house of our own or at least a flat with

a garden where we can enjoy ourselves during holidays as well as at other times. Anybody who has a car can make day trips here and there. Apart from that you do not always get a holiday place, let alone the one you really wanted, in a trade-union or factory holiday home.

– What are the most popular holiday destinations among the members of the brigade?

Put briefly: the Baltic coast and the mountain regions.

– Which countries do the brigade members like travelling to most?

The list is certainly headed by Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

– Does the collective arrange excursions to the socialist or western countries at the wish of its members?

Trips of one and several days' duration in socialist countries will continue to be arranged now and again.

– How many members of the brigade will be travelling abroad for a holiday next summer?

As it is now November we just cannot say at the moment. Holiday plans are usually made a little later. But five or six families are certain to travel abroad.

Petra Siemon and Brigitte Thal took down the answers.

Carla Arnold and Günter Ackermann took the photographs.

These and other readers posed the questions:

Leopold Barre, Jambes; Marcel Delsipée, Chate-lineau (Belgium)—Orla Knudsen, Hurup; Stephan Malberg and Christian Jørgensen, Copenhagen; Knud Hagen Andersen, Odense; Knud Winkel-Skersved (Denmark)—Hannu Mikkonen, Toijala; Margit Ketola, Helsinki; Reijo Johansson and Pertti Kolvisto, Tampere; Erkki Salonen, Nokia; Pekka Turunen, Porokylä; Jukka Viikala, Pori; Martti Keskinarkaus, Sleppljärvi (Finland)—René Alcher, Carpentras; Claude Hoedts, Tourcoing; Christian Fleisch, Erstein; Bertrand Koeppel, Marange-Sivoye; Jacques Dhers, Lorrez-le-Bocage; Claude Têrouet, Pessac (France)—T. Walton, Leeds; David Dominey, Flitwick; Alfred Epton, Edgeware; David Whittington, Yeovil; G. A. Lansdale, Chodaleigh; Graham Hall, Southport (Great Britain)—Ermanno Furlanis, Fontana Fredda; Massimo Battisti, Rome; Palmiro Ferretti, Roselle; Irene Finotto, Cimpello di Fiume-Veneto; Sergio Mussone, Vigliano Ballese; Eraldo Gazzetti, Livorno; Antonio Nigro, Parabiago; Sergio Baldinacci, Massa Marittima; Renata Isola, Genoa (Italy)—Leifur Björnsson, Reykjavik (Iceland)—Jon Zegel, Boijl (The Netherlands)—Günther Hofer, Rohrbach; Dr. Alfred Pokorn, Graz (Austria)—Ludovina da Silva Moreira and Carlos A. S. Oliveira, Porto (Portugal)—Klas-Göran Karlsson, Halmstad; Eric Johansson, Trollhättan; Hakan Forsell, Älvkarleby (Sweden)—Eric Weber, Basel (Switzerland)—Alan Milsberger, Cadahy (USA).



En Route in France with the Friendship Caravan

TWO sidelights: on the last day of my stay in Bobigny the chairman of the Seine-St-Denis committee of the France-GDR Society, pastor Jean Dechet, accompanied me on an excursion to the Marne—to the war cemeteries and huge battlefield of the First World War where thousands upon thousands of French and German soldiers lost their lives—victims of the imperialist war and today a reminder for the living.

A few days before this excursion our delegation was given a cordial reception by representatives of the Noisy le Sec municipal council in the town hall which was decorated with the national flags of France and the GDR. During the subsequent discussion of local government affairs, mayor Gouhier informed us that his

International Friendship Strengthens Peace

View of the congress presidium in Paris: (from the left) Jacques Risse, Monique Beaussier, Prof. Georges Castellon (president of the France-GDR Society), Christiane Schwarzbard, Senator Serge Boucheny, Pierre Mattei, GDR ambassador Werner Fleck, Prof. Rolf Sieber and Alexander Mallickh (left photo).

With our friends in front of community establishments: Alexander Mallickh in a newly-built residential complex in Givors (right); Hans-Georg Lehmann, local government official and chairman of the LDPD in Potsdam County, viewing sporting facilities in Bondy (below).

FORUM



FOR
FRIENDS



town was badly damaged in the Second World War. Since the town was a railway junction and accommodated a railway repair yard it was often bombed. Noisy le Sec was also a centre of the anti-fascist resistance movement where, at great sacrifice, French patriots waged a heroic struggle for their country's liberation from the fascist yoke. Monsieur Gouhier added that he had told us this because we came from the GDR, a country which—as was well known in France—was campaigning for peace, and because the consolidation of friendly relations between our two peoples was serving our common aim, the maintenance and safeguarding of peace.

With these words he exactly outlined the purport of our two-week visit to France

which had been arranged by the France-GDR Society.

Our delegation was headed by Prof. Rolf Sieber, who was the GDR's first ambassador to the USA and is now vice-chancellor of the Berlin College of Economics. Further members of our caravan were Rolf Lützkendorf representing the GDR's International Friendship League, Alexander Mollickh, member of the secretariat and the presidium of the GDR National Front's National Council and of the presidium of the National Democratic Party's national executive, Sigmund Rotstein, vice-president of the Association of Jewish Communities in the GDR, Herbert Trebs, theology professor at Humboldt University in Berlin. It also included local government officials from the counties of Berlin, Leipzig, Halle, Potsdam, Frankfurt and Magdeburg, and artistes such as the singing duos Peter and Paul, and Gabriele Munk and Ingo Krähmer, chanson singer Jessy Rameik and guitarist Gundula Sossalla. Our tour took us to the Parisian region and various departments in central and southern France.

During our stay we had many memorable meetings with workers and trade union officials, with town councillors and employees of the health and social-welfare services, with scientific workers, teachers, school students, with church representatives, young people and sportsmen, to put it in a nutshell, with people from many walks of life. Our talks with the dockers and workforce of the railway depots in Marseilles have become deeply imprinted in our memories as well as those with trade unionists from Gore de Lyon station in Paris, from Chaix, Babcock and many others.

All these meetings revealed the great interest in the first socialist German state, the desire to learn more about its economic and social-welfare policy, particularly about social-welfare provisions. And we encountered everywhere recognition for the GDR's foreign policy which is directed towards the safeguarding of peace. Time and again the members of our friendship caravan had to answer questions on the GDR's housing programme, its price and rent policies, the support for young married couples and young mothers, the

prospects of youth in our socialist country and on sports affairs.

We on our part received eloquent proof of the fact that the great humanist, revolutionary-progressive traditions and a conscious anti-fascist spirit are still very much alive in the French people. Civic centres, educational, social-welfare, sports and other establishments bear the names of Karl Marx, Jean Jaurès, Salvador Allende and Anne Frank to name but a few.

Our stay in France was highlighted by our participation in 12 departmental congresses of the France-GDR Society. These meetings were addressed by people from different strata of the population who spoke about our joint aim: the establishment of friendly relations at all levels between the people of France and the GDR drawing into this process all social forces; the safeguarding and expansion in the spirit of detente, security and cooperation of the achievements gained so far; spreading the truth about the socialist German state, particularly about its peace-oriented foreign policy. They called for action to ensure that the signed agreements and treaties are observed and cooperation between France and the GDR intensified and extended to other spheres. At several departmental congresses the desire for a GDR-France summit meeting was expressed.

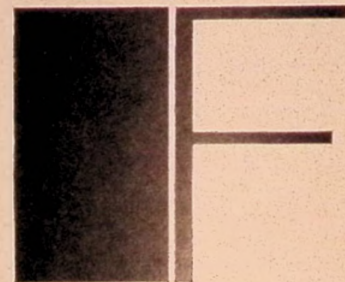
The speakers informed the participants in the congresses about exemplary activities serving the further consolidation of the friendly relations between our two peoples and the winning of new members for the Society. They said that particularly notable success was achieved in those areas where the France-GDR Society's committees closely cooperated with the coordinating committees set up in GDR partner towns in France.

Those members of our friendship caravan who addressed the meetings—the congresses in Paris and in the Seine-St-Denis Department were also attended by the GDR's ambassador to France, Werner Fleck, and further members of the GDR Embassy—expressed their thanks for the invitations to these congresses which provided us with the opportunity of talking with representatives of broad circles of the French population in the period of preparation for the France-GDR Society's ninth national congress. The



Peter and Paul performing to school-children in Givors (above); friendship meeting in Paris; general secretary Gabriel Duc and Prof. Rolf Sieber greet each other.

FORUM



FOR
FRIENDS

International Friendship Strengthens Peace



guests from the GDR paid tribute to the activities of our friends in France who often have to work under difficult conditions. Thanks to the successful cooperation between the France-GDR and the GDR-France Societies more and more people have come to advocate friendship between our two nations which has resulted in a better mutual understanding and promoted the feeling of mutual trust. Last but not least, the activities of our friends were a major contribution towards the development of state relations between France and the GDR.

In explaining the GDR's socialist home and foreign policies the members of our delegation concentrated in particular on its consistent struggle for the safeguarding of peace. At the congresses and in many talks our French friends agreed with us that in view of NATO's nuclear missiles and neutron bomb plans the policy of nuclear armament pursued by the enemies of detente gives cause for great concern.

I would like, last but not least, to write about another experience that left a lasting impression on me.

As in many other places our friends in Givors introduced us to achievements of which they are justifiably proud: the newly-built residential district with its eye-catching architecture provides more than 380 homes and includes a creche, a children's library and many other public establishments; the reconstructed and modernised hospital in Montgelas; the gymnasium with several sports and playing grounds attached to it—today one in four inhabitants of the town go in for some kind of sport there; the civic and youth centre which has 700 registered members; and the special school in Mornant where experienced teachers and psychologists look after handicapped children. The people with whom we talked in these establishments informed us about the enormous efforts which were necessary to create all this and that it is now a question of safeguarding these achievements.

It is in this light that the statements of many inhabitants and councillors from Givors and Pierre Bénite have to be seen. They reject Reagan's intentions of turning Europe into a theatre of war and are putting up strong opposition to these plans.

Meetings in Austria



Herr Moser being honoured for his services to the Austria-GDR Society at the town hall of Steyr. On the right mayor Weiss, next to him GDR state secretary Werner Lorenz.

In front of the "Goldenes Dachl" restaurant in Innsbruck (left).

The "Judahej" Sorb folk art ensemble livened things up in the vine tavern at Rust.



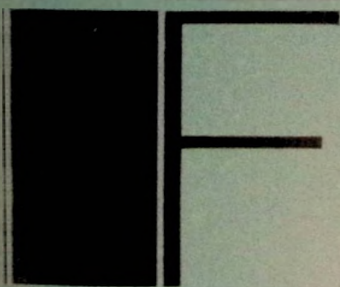
International Friendship Strengthens Peace



The visit to the shipyard in Korneuburg provided plenty of opportunities for talks.

View of Innsbruck as seen from the run-out of the Olympic ski jump.

FORUM



FOR
IFRIENDS



IN OCTOBER 1981 the Austria-GDR Society celebrated its tenth anniversary. It has good reason to be proud of its achievements in this first decade of its existence. The Society's contribution towards the strengthening of international friendship and peace and towards spreading the truth about the GDR is highly regarded and meets with broad response in Austria.

On the occasion of its anniversary the Austria-GDR Society arranged for a delegation of public figures from the German Democratic Republic to tour their country. The friendship caravan—as our group was called—included members of different political parties, deputies to the People's Chamber, scientific and factory workers, artists, writers and athletes. It was headed by Prof. Christoph Brückner, director of the work hygiene institute of Jena's Friedrich Schiller University and chairman of the health committee in the GDR's People's Chamber.

Our delegation toured the country in all directions; we visited six large enterprises and thirteen towns. We were guests at more than eighty meetings—official receptions, discussions, cultural and other events—which were attended by about 6,500 people. Our tour took place under the slogan "International Friendship Strengthens Peace" and we made use of the opportunity to introduce our socialist homeland to our Austrian friends and to have a close look at the life of the people there. We also had a comprehensive exchange of opinion on the further development of the already exemplary relations of peaceful coexistence between our two states and on the cardinal question of today—on how to maintain and safeguard peace. The animated talks with our hosts revealed both different as well as similar and corresponding views. Both sides underlined that the dangers for peace in the world, and particularly in Europe, evoked through the policy of certain forces which are stirring up the arms race and are putting disarmament in question have never been as grave as they are today. We agreed to jointly counter a further poisoning of the international climate. Meetings between public figures from different countries assume special importance in the current situation because they are capable of giving fresh impetus to the policy of peaceful coexistence between states with different social systems.

Our Austrian hosts paid great tribute to the GDR's achievements, particularly in the economic and social-welfare spheres. They regard the German Democratic Re-

public as a state which consistently honours its anti-fascist pledge and the principles of humanism and which untiringly advocates peace, detente, disarmament and fruitful international cooperation.

In many large enterprises, for example in Kapfenberg, Graz and St. Pölten, which have maintained stable trading relations with the GDR for decades, our delegation was given the opportunity of having a close look at the working and living conditions of the working people, of talking with general and other managers as well as with trade union officials. Our hosts, on the other hand, were particularly interested in the economic and social-welfare policy of the GDR. They asked, for example, questions about the driving forces behind our dynamic economic growth, about planned socialist economy, the role of socialist democracy in the production process, the solving of our housing problem, the implementation of human rights, the provision of health services in the enterprises and labour safety regulations.

With reference to the mutually advantageous relations between Austria and the GDR the desire was expressed to further expand this cooperation, whereby stress was laid upon the economic, scientific-technological and cultural spheres.

A cordial welcome was extended to the members of our delegation by the mayors and further members of local authorities in the towns we visited, including Linz, Steyr and Klagenfurt which have partner towns in the GDR. Our talks here soon switched to local government affairs focussing on the construction of new residential districts, reconstruction and modernisation of old housing units particularly in the town centres, the educational establishments and the rights of the citizens in the towns and villages.

The Austrian town and village councillors emphasised the possibility and necessity of cooperation between towns and villages beyond state frontiers in the interest and for the benefit of the people. They pointed out that local government officials bear great responsibility for the maintenance of peace in order to ensure that the devastated towns which were rebuilt with great effort and sacrifice after the Second World War never again be reduced to ashes.

The discussions with the National Prize winner, writer Eberhard Panitz, on GDR literature, with the international chess champion Wolfgang Uhlmann who also played simultaneous games almost every day, and with the Olympic and world champion in the women's luge event, Margit Schumann, on sports in the GDR attracted lots of interested people.

The daily performances by amateur and professional GDR artists under the artistic direction of the popular GDR radio and TV moderator Peter Bosse were enthusiastically received and often interrupted by applause. Their audiences were astonished at the high standard of their repertoire and grateful at having been able to get an insight into cultural activities in the GDR. Both officials and ordinary people spontaneously expressed the desire that the artists should soon return.

From the great number of opinions on the tour of our delegation I would like to cite that of Dr Alois Lugger, mayor of the Olympic town of Innsbruck, who said in his words of thanks: "The idea of sending such a representative friendship caravan to Austria, and also to our town, was excellent. Your tour delivered proof of the fact that we can get on well together. This day turned out to be a great experience for all of us."

In Austria we met amiable and hospitable people. They showed great interest in receiving objective information on life in the first socialist German workers' and farmers' state. Despite different opinions with regard to philosophical outlook and questions concerning our two social systems the majority of them agreed with us: this visit promoted understanding and mutually beneficial cooperation between our two peoples and countries and served the cause of peace and international friendship.

Heinz Gebauer

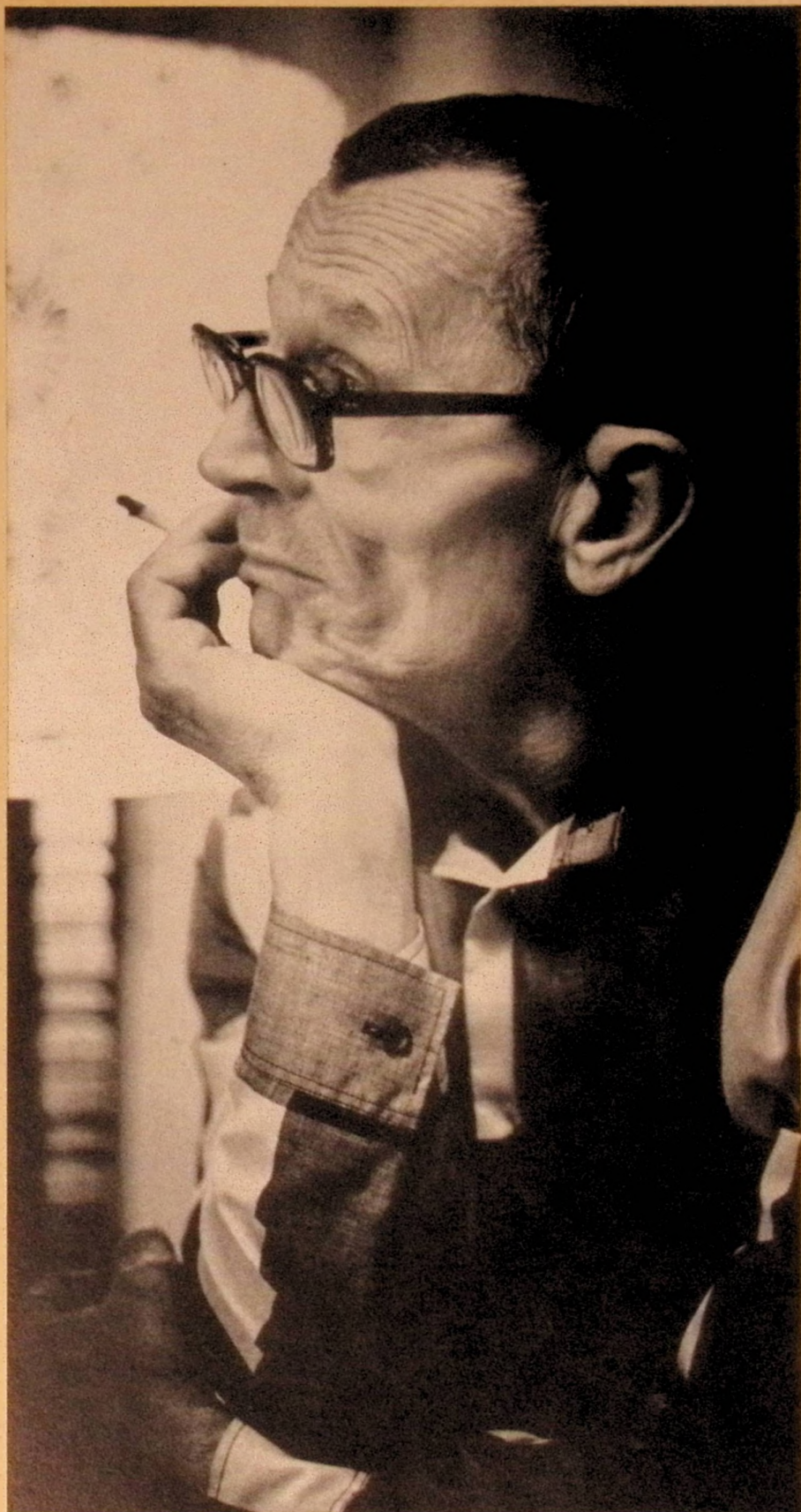
Photos:
Dieter Rödel (4), Peter Bosse (5), Barrie

International Friendship Strengthens Peace

In 1957 a "foundling" became a topic of talk throughout the whole of the republic. It was to be found on the counters of bookshops everywhere from whence it passed quickly into the hands, bookshelves and cases of numerous buyers. Who had written the book?

Almost twenty-five years later, and at the instigation of Danish readers, we paid a visit to the "foundling's" father, the writer Herbert Jobst, and spoke with him about his literary work.

A Fancy For Story- Telling



HERBERT JOBST, in the meantime no longer an unknown writer, has a hospitable home in Neustrelitz, a small town in the Mecklenburg region. Nobody knocking at his door need be assailed by an attack of nerves. His dog too, if one may be permitted the simile, seems to have the same affable and hospitable disposition. He barks but shortly as if to say: "Good morning, do come in—my master enjoys having visitors."

Herbert Jobst radiates naturalness, intellectual liveliness and a great deal of joviality. Without much in the way of preliminaries he began to relate...

It was, indeed, a dramatic and unusual life story that he had to tell. Herbert Jobst's story likens that of Adam Probst, the main character of his novel. It is a story of great length for *The Foundling* (published in 1957) continued along his road in *The Ward* (1959), *The Vagabond* (1963) and *The Seeker of Happiness* (1973). With no beating about the bush whatever the author admits: "Adam Probst is an unmistakable self-portrait."

Herbert Jobst alias Adam Probst makes no secret of the fact that he is a thoroughly straightforward person who says exactly what he means. A man with no polite touch of discretion who knows no taboos: a characteristic not always to the liking of others. Two other characteristics mark him off from those who carry too large a portion of conceit around with them: he is modest and he can laugh at himself.

This, briefly, is the story he told us.

"My cradle was a park bench; my godfather the Welfare Office; and my officially assessed taxable value was thirty marks a month. For this latter reason there were quite a number of people who took an interest in me. But despite this I changed foster-parents like other people their shirts: probably because my food intake was above the permissible level. As my fellow beings neglected to kiss me the Muses did: I wrote essays for my school-mates and received slices of bread and margarine in payment. In time I donned long trousers. I learnt the trade of printer, was thrown out of the works at the end of my apprenticeship and then went to sea. Following this I defended all German welfare offices against the enemy on the land, water and in the air and eventually arrived in Siberia as a prisoner-of-war. After my return home I found a job as a miner in an ore mine. During the eight years that I worked underground I encountered not one of the Muses but people who feared neither Death

nor the Devil. 'Write it all down,' an old miner told me. He was right."

Herbert Jobst settled accounts with his past. He did so in a bitterly satirical indictment which incorporates all the terrible things he personally experienced in the Germany of the Junkers and the bourgeoisie and later as a soldier in the Hitlerite Wehrmacht. With the exception of a very few events he remained true to his autobiography. And although he radically did away with the fairy-story of the so-called good old times and depicted the "golden" twenties in anything but golden hues he does nevertheless regard even the bitterest of conflicts from the comical aspect. Neither does Herbert Jobst dispense with his satirical pen when dealing with post-war events. In his humorous stories he describes how his hero starts a new life as a miner, how the miner becomes a mine inspector, the mine inspector a worker-writer and, in the end, a writer of books; he depicts the people he came into contact with during this process and the conflicts that had to be solved. Herbert Jobst's many experiences in both the personal and social sphere dictate the way in which he unfolds his narrative. In this manner the author guides his hero along his path from a downtrodden and helpless



Dates in the life of Herbert Jobst

- 1915 Born in Neuwelzow (Lusatia) as the son of a worker who fell in the First World War. His mother was forced to abandon him out of poverty and he grew up in various orphanages and homes.
- 1930 Apprenticeship as book printer; joined the Socialist Working Youth movement and later the Communist Youth League.
- 1932 Unemployed. Casual labourer.
- 1938 Sentenced to fortress imprisonment by the nazis for demoralising and seditious activities within the armed forces. Forced enlistment in the fascist army during the Second World War.
- After 1945 On returning home from a POW camp worked as night-watchman and later as a miner in an ore mine.
- 1954/55 Studies at the Mining Academy in Freiberg.
- 1956 First literary attempts. Today Herbert Jobst lives as a freelance writer in Neustrelitz, a small town to the south of Neubrandenburg.



And how does he view the freedom of the writer in this country of ours?

"The writer certainly has his opportunities unless, of course, he tries to stand things on their head. When I write something I do not first ask: would this subject be to your liking, may I do this, or might that be better? I write down what I want to as it comes to me. And when that is done I go to a publishing house. That there are then disagreements and alterations is quite the normal course of events. That's the same the whole world over in this profession of mine and has nothing whatever to do with freedom or a lack of it. There is, perhaps, the one or the other writer here in our republic who is of the opinion that our literature is too provincial. But do we really write to please somebody or other in some place or other? No, we write about the things that touch our emotions and stimulate us in some way. Freedom—Restriction; for me this question is fiction. One is always as free as one feels."

When we asked about encouragement

bundle of humanity to a man who spontaneously acts in self-defence. He then advances him to a person who actively participates in the life of society and from there on to one whose actions show an increasing measure of self-confidence. In the end Herbert Jobst allows his Adam to arrive at a way of life which he can confidently regard as his own house and home. All that for so long is now his: he is, at long last, a human being among his fellows.

Apropos home. How does the writer feel in this home of his today, in a socialist country?

"My relationship with socialism is an 'unproblematical' one. I had, in fact, already cocked an eye at it whilst still an apprentice. Unlike a number of others I did not join the working-class movement from an intellectual cognition but quite spontaneously through my innermost feelings. One could say that I grew up in that environment. It really is as simple as that.

Writer is just one profession among many. Looked at from its work structure it is, to be sure, less confined than others. You can always decide for yourself if you want to add something new to what you have already done. This, though, calls for self-discipline. You have to place what you yourself do in relation to what others do. But whatever the case, I do feel myself to be a citizen among citizens even if my 'unusual' vocation distinguishes me from some of my fellow citizens."



from, and contacts with, his readers Herbert Jobst's gestures left us in no doubt about having touched on a somewhat vexatious subject. He cannot complain of a lack of encouragement. It is just the opposite which gives rise to the problems. He receives invitations from all over the republic to read from his works. Even with the best will in the world he cannot accept anywhere near all of them. And neither does he want to because then hardly any time would remain for writing anything new.

The most faraway place from which a letter has reached him till now is Africa. As a result of having read a book of his that had chanced to come into their hands a Danish couple living there had felt an urge to write to him and also make him a gift of a handsome teak box.

The modest writer is, of course, pleased that so many people read his books. One letter he received, for instance, told him that his Adam had arrived in the Soviet Union, in Latvia to be exact. Apart from Russian, Herbert Jobst's four-part novel is available in translations for readers in Hungary, Yugoslavia, Poland, and the Netherlands. It has appeared in many reprints in the GDR itself.

And on what is the writer working at present?

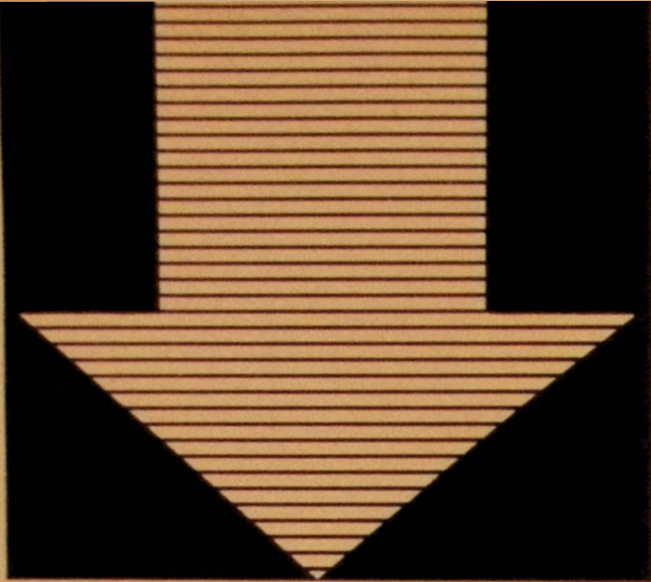
His readers will soon find a book of contemporary and war stories on the market. Speaking about the latter Herbert Jobst said: "I experienced the war at a time when heroes had become more than rare at the front. I loathe everything that has to do with war. I am just the opposite of a hero."

He is also working on a book for children: a story set in a mining community. He said that the subject matter was difficult but that children were curious about everything around them, and that he would take them by the hand and awaken their wish to read the story.

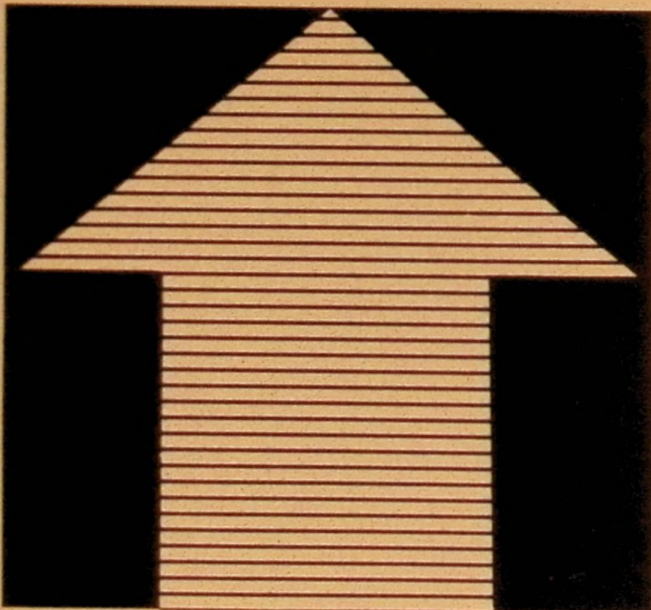
A last question. What does Herbert Jobst the writer wish to achieve through his work?

"I have always had a fancy to tell stories. Most important of all is that you have an idea and also the feeling that you've got to get it off your chest. From this stem the recurring attempts to put the ideas running around in your head to paper in the form of stories. Tales about our so terribly complicated past and about our present which is not all that simple either. And this as enjoyably as possible so that they are read with pleasure."

Text: Brigitte Thal
Photos: Carla Arnold



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.

Generals Speak Out

LAST SPRING a book appeared in the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) published by Pahl-Rugenstein Verlag in Cologne and entitled "Generals For Peace." In this book eight high-ranking military experts expose the present attack by the USA and NATO on the existing approximate military balance, drawing on their years of experience in high command posts of NATO and their close knowledge of the strategic plans of this imperialist military pact. These former generals and admirals have joined the constantly expanding front of the peace forces because they realise that NATO's strategy is threatening peace and subjecting mankind to deadly dangers, and because they are determined to contribute to a realistic appraisal of the situation.

Since issue 10/81 GDR REVIEW has been publishing extracts from "Generals For Peace." Today we conclude this series.

Cultural Notes

College of Dramatic Art inaugurated

The former State Drama School in Berlin has now become a college of dramatic art bearing the name of "Ernst Busch". Hans-Joachim Böhme, the GDR's Minister of Higher Education, presented the inaugural documents to the rector of the college, Professor Hans-Peter Minetti (in our photo returning thanks). In his address the minister underlined the growing significance of dramatic art in enriching the cultural life of the entire population and stated that the conferring of the name "Ernst Busch" set high standards for the college's future activities.



Twenty-fifth Berlin Theatre and Music Festival

The vast programme of last autumn's Berlin Festival included performances by leading soloists and ensembles from 22 countries as well as the GDR. One of the highlights of the 16-day theatre and music festival was the premiere of Tchaikovsky's "Queen of Spades" at the German State Opera House in Berlin (our photo).



Library anniversary

In October 1981 the Saxon Provincial Library in Dresden celebrated its 425th anniversary. It is particularly well known for its extensive music department which includes, along with modern music literature, manuscripts and other items that belonged to famous composers such as Antonio Vivaldi, Georg Philipp Telemann and Richard Wagner. The orchestral arrangements for Wagner's operas reproduced here were recently taken over by the Dresden State Orchestra.



A new Gewandhaus for Leipzig

At the beginning of last October Leipzig's renowned Gewandhaus Orchestra received a new concert hall. The building was inaugurated during a festive ceremony arranged by the GDR's Council of Ministers at which Beethoven's "Ninth Symphony" was performed.

We shall be printing an article containing more detailed information about Leipzig's New Gewandhaus in a future issue.



Kaleidoscope

In Brief . . .

Press, Radio and Television in the GDR

At the present time the following mass media cater for the needs of the seventeen million citizens of our country:

Newspapers and Magazines

39 daily newspapers with a total daily circulation of 8.77 million copies;
32 weekly newspapers with a total circulation of 9.2 million copies;
656 factory newspapers with a total circulation of two million copies;

523 magazines with a total circulation of 20.1 million copies.

For many years now every family in the GDR has taken on average at least one daily newspaper, at least one weekly newspaper and more than two magazines the prices of which have not, or only slightly, risen in over 20 years despite the rising costs of paper and printing.

According to the UNESCO yearbooks of recent years, in the number of newspapers sold per 1,000 of the population the GDR takes up one of the leading positions in the world.

Radio

GDR Radio transmits five national and 12 regional programmes. There are eight broadcasting centres, seven studios, one long-wave transmitter, 26 medium-wave, 10 short-wave and 44 VHF transmitters. Prac-

tically every family has one or more radio receivers.

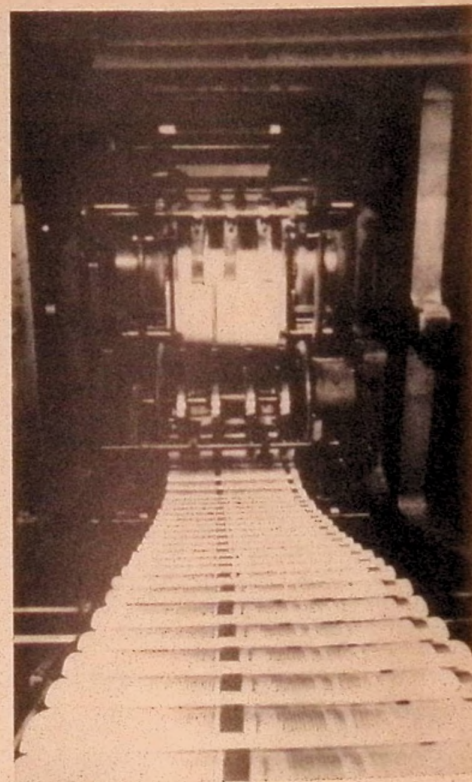
Television

GDR Television broadcasts daily on two channels in colour (SECAM III b system). Altogether about 20,000 individual programmes are broadcast annually.

90 out of every 100 households are registered at the Post Office as having TV receivers.

Channel 1 can be received on 98 per cent of the territory of the GDR. Channel 2 can be received by just under 90 per cent of the population.

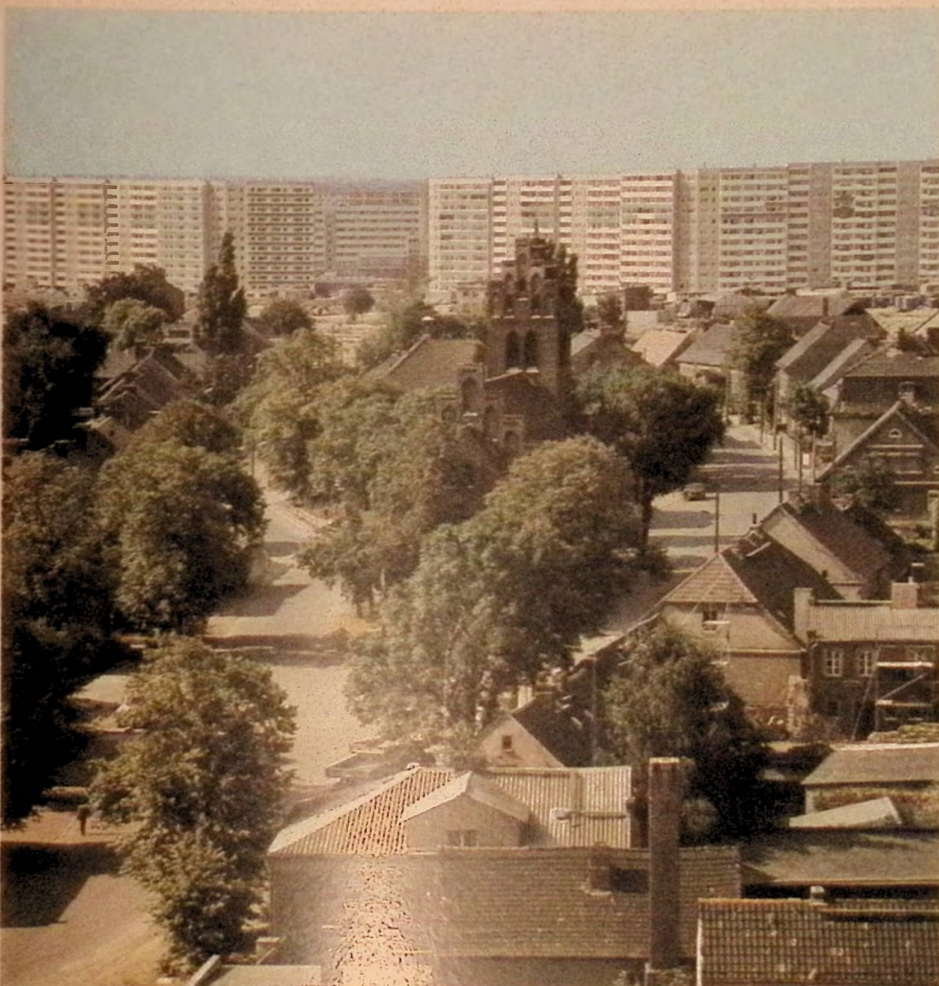
Licence fees have remained unchanged since 1962 at 84 marks per year for one channel and 120 marks for both TV channels. This fee includes the reception of radio programmes. Over 161,000 households (e.g. pensioners) do not have to pay licence fees.





More energy

In October last year the first 500-megawatt block of the republic's latest big power station at Jänschwalde went into permanent operation. This means that considerably more energy will be available to the national economy. Work was begun on the site, which covers an area of more than 200 hectares, in March 1972. In July 1976 the symbolic cutting of the first sod for No. 1 Block took place. The GDR construction crews at this power station are being assisted by specialists from the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. No. 2 Block is scheduled to go into full operation in May this year.



Better homes— improved living conditions

in Berlin-Marzahn

The largest new housing development in our country is now under construction on an area covering 600 hectares in Berlin-Marzahn. An attractive low-density housing sector has been included with the incorporation of the core of the old village of Marzahn and the existing groups of owner-occupier homes.

- Almost 53,600 people now live in the housing development.
- So far the area includes five senior citizens' homes, 22 kindergartens and creches, seven supermarkets, 17 gymnasiums, three restaurants, three service centres, a polyclinic for the residents and one for the building workers, a chemist's shop, a multi-purpose building, a youth welfare home and a cinema.
- In addition, about 19 kilometres of main roads with 20 bridges, a pedestrian subway and a pedestrian bridge have been completed.
- More than ten kilometres of accessible underground conduits contain the district heating, water and power mains as well as telephone cables.
- Shrubberies and lawns cover about 650,000 square metres and the residents themselves took an active hand in laying out about a third of this area.

Kaleidoscope

Introducing

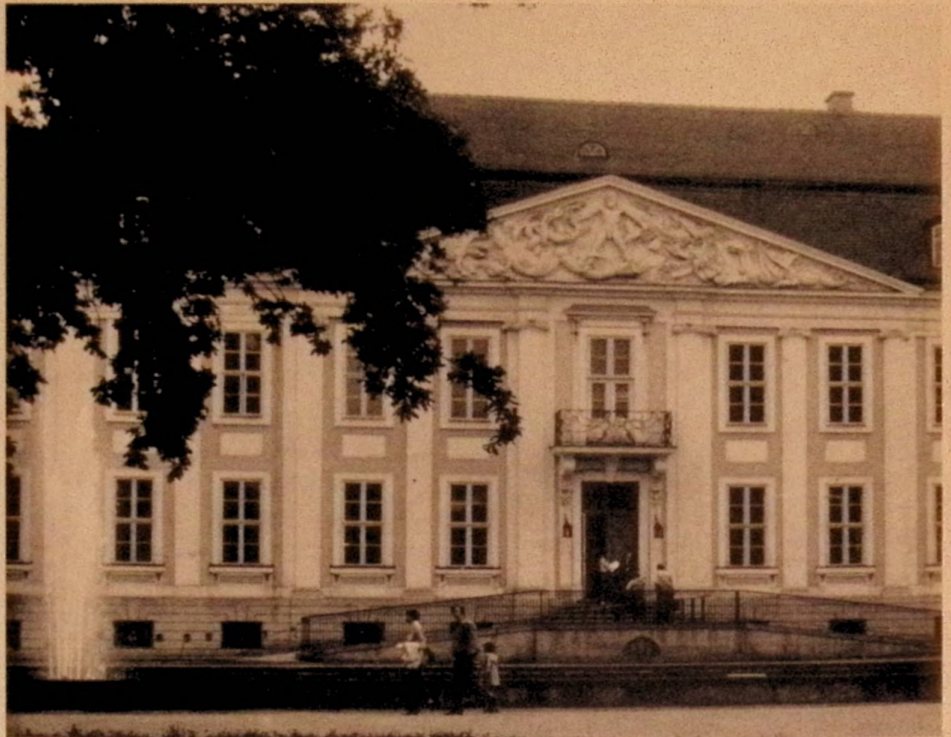
Schloss Friedrichsfelde in Berlin

After years of painstaking reconstruction work under the expert guidance of the GDR's Institute for the Preservation of Monuments, Schloss Friedrichsfelde, a Baroque mansion, was opened to the public last year. This building, which stands in the Berlin Zoological Park, has been restored to its original splendour, and its magnificent historic rooms can now not only be visited but also used as an attractive setting for various musical and literary events.

The chequered history of the mansion, which frequently changed hands amongst the aristocracy and underwent countless alterations, goes back for many centuries. Its restoration testifies to the fact that our workers' and farmers' government allocates large sums for the preservation of an architectural monument that was allowed to decay for many decades in the capitalist era.

Sixteen rooms of the two-storey mansion have been decorated in historical style. The chief attraction is the main hall built in 1785/86 (17 metres long and six metres wide), with its white stucco ornaments, gilded doors and fanciful painted ceiling. Adorned with hunting and fishing scenes painted on canvas frames the Garden Room also features dainty eighteenth century console tables and an ornate fireplace. Every other room too has its distinctive colour, style and furnishings. Dominating the Classicist staircase with its carved oak bannisters is a boxed painted ceiling, a restoration of the original.

Many of the items that the architects and restorers have used to adorn the rooms were salvaged from the ruins of historic buildings. Museums in the Berlin area supplied the furniture, statuettes and vases. As a result Friedrichsfelde is now a composite mansion and a source of undiluted pleasure to those who visit it.



View of the Garden Room.

The staircase that has been restored to its original appearance.

Photos on the Kaleidoscope pages: ADN-Zentralbild (2), Dieter Andree, Günter Linke, Brigitte Nevoigt, Siegfried Thiene! Editorial work: Brigitte Thal

Calendar Page of the Month



Professor Kurt Maetzig (70),
film producer

During his schooldays he used to work as lighting operator so as to "learn all the ins and outs of film making," as he says. So he made an early start. It is also a fact that in his student days—he read philosophy, psychology and law at the Paris Sorbonne—the young man took a particular interest in subjects associated with the cinema. In various Berlin firms he then learnt about film developing and copying and the secrets of the sound track, did practical work as a cameraman as well as building up his own small animated cartoon studio. In 1933 he made his debut as assistant producer. After obtaining his doctorate in the technical sciences in 1935, he was compelled to assume an anonymous role as cameraman in an animated film company since his mother was of Jewish origin. Before the war was over Kurt Maetzig had joined an underground group of the Communist Party of Germany. After his country had been liberated from Hitler fascism he was at long last able to devote himself to film making. His initial step in this direction was to become a co-founder of DEFA, the first socialist German film corporation.

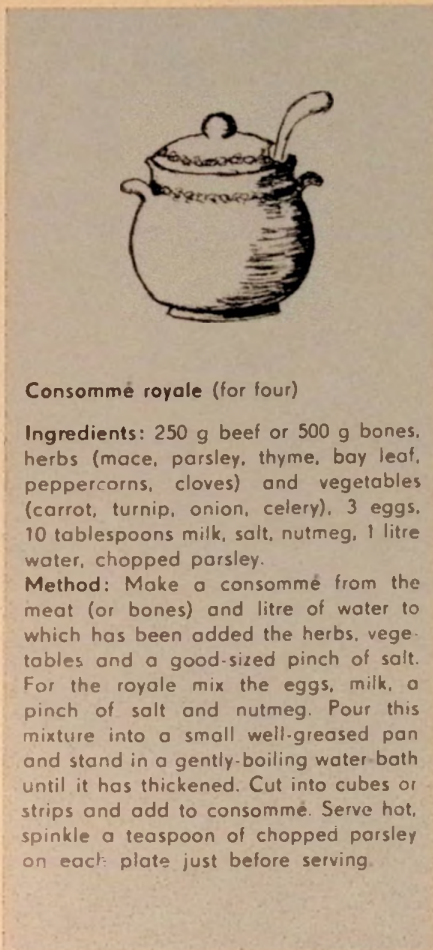
In 1946 he made his first feature film *Ehe im Schatten* (Marriage in the Shadows), the tragic story of a married couple whose stage careers and personal lives were shattered by the nazis' racial persecution. It made the name of DEFA known in many countries and was followed by a number of other outstanding films, including the two about the life of Ernst Thälmann, the great German working-class leader. Their

films Maetzig and his authors have always interpreted major political conflicts in terms of the critical decisions they involved for the individual.

In 1955 Maetzig was given a professorship of film producing and was also appointed rector of the German College of Film Art whose fellow he still is today. He held this appointment with great success for ten years so that many of today's film makers in our country are his former students.

Maetzig is a member of the GDR's Academy of Arts and lifetime honorary president of the National Film Festival of the GDR. In acknowledgement of his distinguished services to socialist film art Professor Kurt Maetzig has been awarded the National Prize of the GDR several times.

For The Tureen



Consommé royale (for four)

Ingredients: 250 g beef or 500 g bones, herbs (mace, parsley, thyme, bay leaf, peppercorns, cloves) and vegetables (carrot, turnip, onion, celery), 3 eggs, 10 tablespoons milk, salt, nutmeg, 1 litre water, chopped parsley.

Method: Make a consommé from the meat (or bones) and litre of water to which has been added the herbs, vegetables and a good-sized pinch of salt. For the royale mix the eggs, milk, a pinch of salt and nutmeg. Pour this mixture into a small well-greased pan and stand in a gently-boiling water-bath until it has thickened. Cut into cubes or strips and add to consommé. Serve hot, sprinkle a teaspoon of chopped parsley on each plate just before serving.

Personalities

Bishop Werner Krusche

has been elected chairman of the GDR's Evangelical Church governing bodies. Dr Werner Krusche, who is bishop of the Evangelical Church of the church province of Saxony, is succeeding Bishop Albrecht Schönherr who has now retired after holding office since 1969.

Max Walter Schulz, writer,

vice-president of the GDR's Writers' Union and director of the "Johannes R. Becher" Literature Institute in Leipzig, recently visited the United States at the invitation of Kansas University. He was the main speaker at several events during which German language students from the USA showed great interest in contemporary GDR literature.

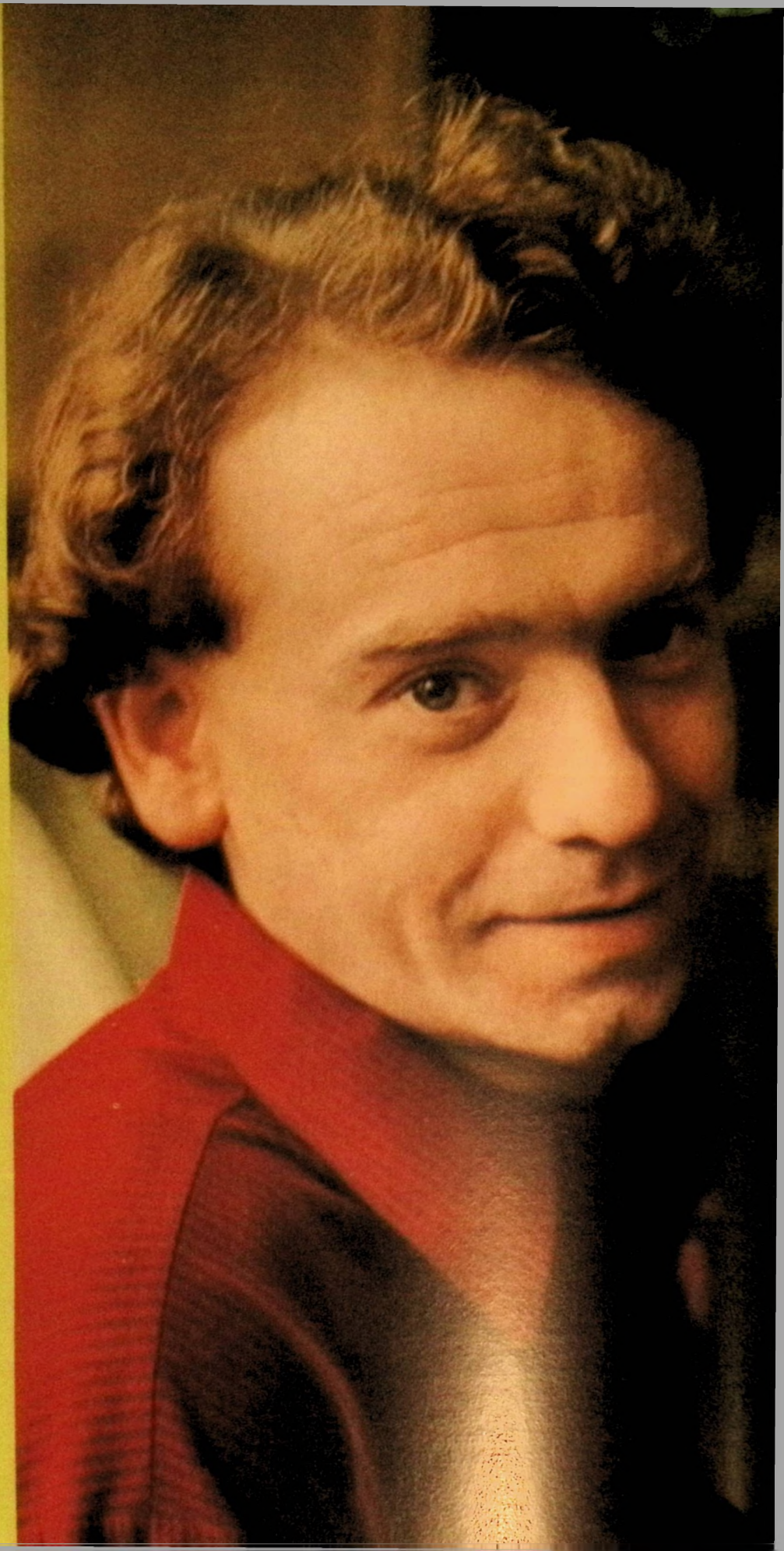
From the Medical World

Machine preserved kidney transplants

A new machine for the preservation and storage of kidney transplants has been developed at the Experimental Transplantation Section of Humboldt University's Department of Urology. An automatic pressure controlled system of perfusion pumps guarantees the conditions for prolonged perfusion and reliably prevents damage to the arterial vascular system of the kidney. All working functions of the machine are automatically regulated and all operations controlled through a complex system.

Preservation is based on maintaining the temperature of the kidney, which has been completely drained of blood, at 8 °C. This new machine brings a number of advantages for clinical practice. It is now possible to reliably preserve kidneys for a period of up to 72 hours without the machine having to be under constant observation. The machine can be used as a mobile or stationary unit.

**Repre-
sented
Workers'
Interests**



WITH about 8.8 million members the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions is the largest mass organisation in the GDR. The trade unions have a say in all questions of economic planning, on all issues concerning the living and working conditions of our working population.

More than 2.2 million trade unionists have been elected by their colleagues into responsible offices within the individual union branches. Their task is to represent the interests of the workforce of their enterprise. Shop stewards in particular have to cope with a broad sphere of activities. Generally speaking, there is nothing with which they do not concern themselves, no matter whether it is plan fulfilment, management issues or even private problems. In these matters much depends on the personality, aptitude and intelligence of the shop steward, in fact, whether the workers are happy within their work brigade or not depends a great deal on their shop steward's activities.

GDR Review talked to one of the 299,539 shop stewards in the GDR: Lothar Jäckel, 31 years old, married with two children, internal grinder at the nationally-owned Mikromat Works in Dresden.

Lothar Jäckel, what do you consider to be the most important thing in your day-to-day work?

It is honesty, because if I am honest I will gain the confidence of others. Otherwise things would not work properly. Honesty is a must in discussions on questions of everyday concern, on questions dealing with our future or with aims we have set ourselves. In my opinion honesty among the members of my work brigade is of great importance.

What makes you angry?

Egoism, it separates people instead of bringing them closer together. Although it does not occur too often it still crops up occasionally. Once for example when we had to tackle a new task there was one worker whose first question was whether he would stand to gain personally or not. Such behaviour annoys me very much. In such a situation every member of a brigade should, first of all, rack his brains to see what he can do to help successfully accomplish the task. Then it will turn out that none of them has any disadvantages.

Do you not have any doubts?

Well, I do not fling myself headfirst into a new task. I am all for due consideration within our collective. In this way we have already found better solutions. It is a good thing if the members of a brigade thoroughly discuss the pros and cons of a thing. Individual thoughts will form an integral whole and the interests of the workers and the enterprise will intertwine with each other. We certainly do think things over because we want to get on, to make good progress.

Does really everyone act that conscientiously?

Everybody goes out to work to earn his living. However, money is not everything that counts for us. We want to prove our capabilities and skills, too. We are looking for ways of how to improve the quality of our products, of how to produce more in a shorter space of time. In doing so we do not merely think of our own wage packet. Our efforts are directed at the interests of our factory, our residential district, our town, the socialist development and international reputation of our country. Of course, in our discussions we do not expand every single question to the advantages for our state. But even though we do not talk about it we are constantly aware of this aspect. We should think far more, for example, on the question of war and peace, on who is profiting from war and who suffering.

We, that is the socialist countries, are against war, against intensified arming and the madness of weapons of mass destruction. We do not have any advantage whatsoever from this.

How do you represent the interests of your workmates?

At this point I must mention first that due to the national ownership of the means of production in the GDR both manager and workers are the co-owners of the enterprise and thus have congruent interests.

This does not, however, mean that everything goes without a hitch. Life is not that easy in socialism, either. Everything is done by people and no human being is perfect; a foreman, for example, may also make a mistake. If this occurs I must put things right again.

After all, a foreman is only human with

two eyes, two ears and one head. He might unknowingly violate the rights of the workers, the stipulations of the Labour Code or the factory collective agreement. In such cases I have to intervene and represent the interests of my workmates; at factory level this is done by the works' trade union committee and at national level by the national executive of the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions. The trade union runs a holiday service of its own, controls the social insurance scheme, settles wage disputes and concerns itself with the creation of opportunities for education, recreation and leisure activities for the working population. The managers of all enterprises are duty-bound to regularly account to the trade union for their works' activities. You see, the rights of the trade union as the representative of the working people are far reaching.

Does the shop steward Lothar Jäckel never make any mistake?

I would be lying if I did not admit that sometimes we shop stewards are also wrong. This is quite normal. But, finally, we always succeed in finding an agreed solution because there is no antagonism in our society and our interests tally.

Could you reduce these joint interests to a common denominator?

Everything is done for the well-being of our people, for our happiness, for peace, social stability and international solidarity. That is what all people in this country want no matter whether they are ordinary workers or foremen, that is what the trade unions, our political parties with the SED in the vanguard, and our state want.

And the nicest thing about this is that these issues have not remained a mere desire either but they are actually implemented. Our state has created favourable conditions for this. Such are relations under real socialism. The aims for which we are jointly working comply with the basic interests of our whole people. It is for this end that we shop stewards, too, are active.

The interviewer was Karl Heinz Böhle who also took the photographs

AROUND THE TRAWLER'S DECK

Continued from page 5

In the Seaman's Home

If the ship only puts in for a short time and the men cannot get home to their families these can stay with them at the Seaman's Home.

Per bed and night the fishermen pay two marks. The food is well cooked, in satisfying portions and is low in price. Otto Zeglat, who is in charge of the Home, told us: "We are not interested in the turnover. What we want to do is look after the needs of the fishermen. And there's a lot we do to this end. The family afternoons, for instance; we even arrange family Sundays: after a morning concert we have a midday meal together, in the afternoons there is coffee and cake and

later on in the evening we arrange a dance or social get-together. We have a fine time, I can tell you.

We have arranged hobby groups for the families who live here in Sassnitz. We have literary, painting and drawing circles, and a needlework group also meets together regularly. In the evenings there are film shows and popular science talks and lectures. There is always something going on in our Home which can be used by all of the Fishery's employees.

Medical care is, of course, free of charge. We have a sauna bath, other medicinal baths, rooms for short-wave and ultra-sound treatment, and so on. I think that people can live very well here which does not, of course, mean that our Home can fully replace the home proper."

*

We met a lot of young people in the Seaman's Home. This fact raised our curiosity.

"Who can take up deep-sea fishing and what is the training like," we asked some of them.

Here are some of the answers we received: "Our vocational training school trains 130 people a year as first-class seamen, as equipment operators, as electricians and as cooks. Our work on board covers all areas of fishing and processing as well the normal seaman's duties. The course takes two years to complete. During the first six months we receive 120 marks a month, in the second 130, in the third half-year 150 marks and during the last six months 180 marks a month

pay. During this time we 'live-in' at the school's hostel where we pay 1.10 marks a day for full board and lodging."

Budding deep-sea fishermen have to show good results at school in the natural sciences and sports as well as having completed a ten-year polytechnical secondary education. Their health must be good and they must possess a feeling of responsibility, for the trade makes heavy demands on body and mind.

"We also get twenty-four days holiday a year as well as four free trips home from Sassnitz," said one of the youngsters.

We wanted to know at what age a seaman has to stop going to sea. "As long as the doctor has no objections he can go on sailing until he reaches pensionable age. If anybody wants to leave his ship before being pensioned off the Fishery finds him a shore berth; as rigger or in the net stores, perhaps. Occasionally such people have been found jobs right outside our branch. But nobody need have any fear of growing old. Our pensions are good and most of the fishermen have paid into a superannuation scheme of some sort. But for us that's all a long way off. We're young and we're healthy and we want to be off to sea without any worries."

Ursula Tintemann

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AS OTHERS SEE US

Every year a great number of people come to visit our country in order to see with their own eyes what life is like in the first socialist German state or to expand their knowledge acquired during former visits. Many of these visitors note down their impressions and send them to GDR REVIEW. We would like to express our thanks to all of them and invite other readers to follow suit. In this issue we are again publishing a number of readers' articles though, for space reasons, slightly abridged.

“Honesty Shock”

THIS was my third visit to the GDR. Few of our 12-strong delegation—all trade union members—had been to the GDR before. The expected impressions of the others were obviously influenced by the media image produced in Britain. It is an image of regulations, drabness, an unhappy people, an armed Soviet Army presence on the streets, empty shop windows and empty larders and leaves its mark on all of us in the West. Even supporters of the socialist GDR realise after a visit how their judgement had been tarnished by the barrage of hostile propaganda in the West.

Those visitors who on arrival are sceptical of the GDR and cannot believe they are about to visit a clean, healthy, efficient and democratic socialist state have their faith in western media honesty sorely shaken. “It's not like it is portrayed in the West” is a common reaction from western tourists. They suffer from an “honesty shock”. The lies, half-truths and the almost total lack of objective reporting in the West is counter-productive once the recipient of that reporting visits the GDR.

What are the main impres-

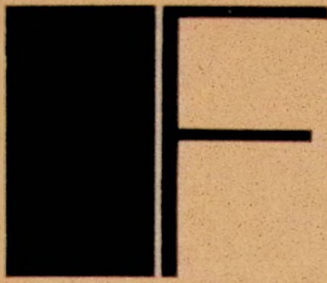
sions after a stay in the German Democratic Republic? It is the cleanliness, calm, relaxation, massive social and educational care, rebuilt cities, peace, friendship, a caring society with high moral and social values, full employment, no obvious vandalism, a high standard of living and a well-fed and well-dressed population.

To a man we came back impressed. The highlights of our visit are worth a brief mention here.

At the Karl-Marx-Stadt nationally-owned Textile Machinery Works we met shop stewards and trade union branch officials. We talked to school children on their half day practical work which is part of their curriculum. We talked to workers at their benches. In these discussions peace and the future featured prominently.

A very memorable visit to the slab enterprise at Oelsnitz took place. We met the ex-miner manager Herbert Kropf, the staff and trade union officials. Many miners from shut down mines were re-trained for a job at the slab enterprise. They are now producing large pre-fabricated concrete sections for multi-storey flat dwellings. We were shown how the surrounding





mining area, slag heaps and mine shafts had been reclaimed for nature, trees, fields, park lands and museums.

We visited the large trade union holiday complex at Fichtelberg (see photo). It was extremely spacious and accommodated more than 1,000 trade unionist holidaymakers. It is sited in the mountains with swimming pools, a ski run, etc., and a marvellous view of the country. Was it just a place for a handful of trade union officials? This is an obvious question to ask in Great Britain. No—it is just one of the 665 trade union holiday homes in the GDR where all working people can spend their holidays. There are many other holiday homes in that country of 17 million people, for example run by factories or institutions. The trade unions have 4,1 million holiday places each year at prices so low as to be almost without noticeable cost.

We saw so many places and discussed with so many people so many things that I cannot recount them all in this short article.

One final remark: in the GDR there is a great desire to

live in peace with the rest of the world. To my readers I say: go to the GDR and see for yourself!

*Ray Flint, Hull,
Great Britain*

Entry in the visitors' book of the slab enterprise in Oelsnitz:

"To our comrades and workers at the slab enterprise in Oelsnitz we express our solidarity with you in your struggle to build socialism and win world peace. We will do our best in our own country to defeat the warmongers, stop the siting of Cruise missiles and fight for complete nuclear and total conventional disarmament.

Your factory is an impressive socialist enterprise—its system is one which we wish to emulate in our country. Keep on with your peaceful construction. From your efforts we gain strength and hope.

We, the first British trade union delegation to visit your enterprise, pledge to fight for peace and for our common prosperity."

signed Ray Flint, Hull TUC,
and all of the 12-strong
delegation

We saw with our own eyes

All Basic Human Rights Are Respected

The visits of delegations of our Society to the first socialist German state are motivated by the desire to have a close look at life there and to make the GDR known in France and vice versa. Our delegation, too, had this aim in mind. We wanted to help further deepen the friendship and cooperation between our two countries and peoples as a contribution to lasting peace in Europe.

IN Dresden County we were given the opportunity of studying one of the GDR's major achievements: children's education in creches, kindergartens and polytechnical schools. We got to know what great importance the GDR attaches to bringing up and educating its young generation.

The youngsters are well looked after

The majority of small children up to three years of age are accommodated at creches, and almost all three to six-year-olds attend a kindergarten. This sets parents in the position of being able to make use of their right to work, guaranteed in the Constitution, without any worries about their children. These establishments are open from 6 a.m. until 6 p.m. The youngsters do not stay overnight but are fetched by their parents after working hours. The monthly contributions to be paid by the parents are extremely low, strictly speaking they constitute but a symbolic payment considering the fact that the children receive full board and are looked after by specialised teachers.

Equal educational opportunities for all

After leaving the kindergarten the children go to a ten-form polytechnical school. Here it has to be pointed out that at-

tendance at these schools is obligatory for all children, irrespective of their social origin. In this way all children are given equal opportunities. Children who have difficulties in learning receive particular assistance from their teachers and form mates. They are trying hard in the GDR to ensure that as few school children as possible have to repeat a year. At school, too, the children get a hot meal daily. As in the creche and kindergarten it costs only a small amount, 0.55 marks a day, the rest is paid by the state.

In form 7 the school children begin to gather practical work experience. Once a fortnight they receive practical instruction at an enterprise and even do useful work in accordance with their capabilities. In this way they get an insight into working life and the problems of an enterprise.

There are not too many children in a form. In rural areas their number varies between 15 and 20, in towns there are 25 on an average, but no more than 30 pupils in one form. After concluding their ten-year schooling the students may either go on to an extended secondary school, where they will take their university entrance examination, or start vocational training.

When we visited a polytechnical school in Dresden we were given a cordial welcome by its pupils and teachers. We were deeply moved when the children sang in honour of us the

French popular song *Sur le pont d'Avignon*.

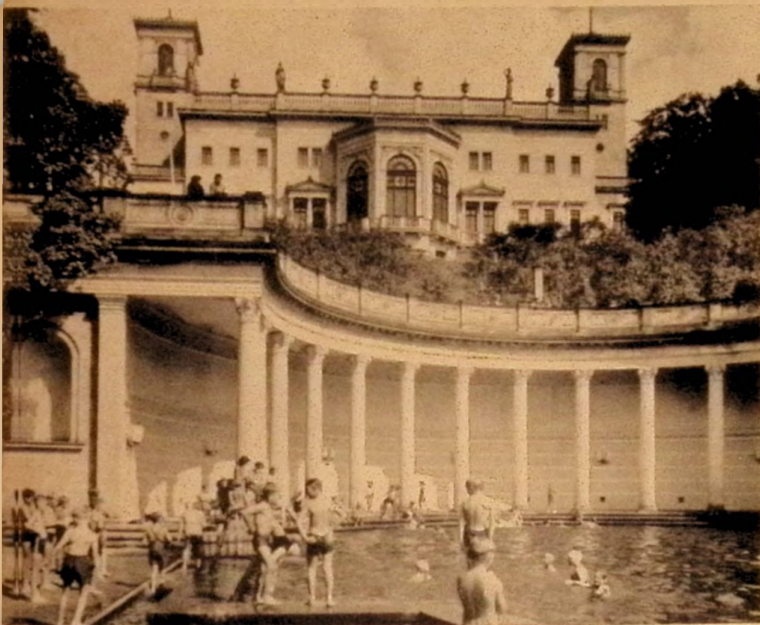
Leisure activities at a palace

We also went to Dresden's Pioneers Palace (see photo) which, in former times, used to

the course of their simulated spacecraft.

The workers have a say

During our stay in the GDR we also visited a handicrafts enterprise. In our talks with the



be the residence of a nobleman. There we got an idea of what the opportunities for young people's leisure activities are like. Many school children go to the Pioneers Palace after their lessons or during school holidays to participate, according to their interests. In the activities of one of the many hobby groups dealing, for example, with photography, ceramics work, drawing, sewing, etc. Many of these hobby groups have concluded sponsorship agreements with enterprises. The children do not have to pay anything for their participation in these groups. They are guided and instructed in their activities by experienced people who do these jobs on a voluntary basis. Our delegation was particularly impressed by one room which has been turned into a command capsule where the children can handle various items of equipment, radio installations and control levers. Taking the stress for orientation they can also follow

workers there we learnt that they they have a say on all major issues. The figures for the state economic plan for the following year are elaborated and coordinated at national level. These planned targets are submitted for discussion to the enterprises where the workers jointly deliberate on how to fulfil the plan. In no case, save for the introduction of new machinery which results in less manual work, is the pace of work increased.

Our talks with the workers revealed their personal commitment to work and their satisfaction at their contribution towards their country's prosperity. Their self-discipline was remarkable. The enterprise has arranged plenty of opportunities for vocational qualification. Each worker who wishes to do so can attend specialised or general courses. If necessary employees are released from work without any cuts in wages.

Thanks to such favourable conditions everybody in the

GDR has a fair chance of getting on well in his occupation. Many former factory workers are promoted to hold responsible offices after the completion of a course of qualification.

The enterprises also pay great attention to the cultural sphere. Their trade union committees get state subsidised tickets for concerts, theatre performances, film shows and other cultural events. There are theatre and dance ensembles and music bands in some enterprises. We noted that in the GDR everybody can attend cultural events or go in for cultural activities himself. In view of the fact that in the capitalist countries culture is a privilege of the ruling class we consider this to be extremely noteworthy.

*

During our stay in the GDR we visited many places and saw for ourselves how people live there. In socialist society nobody has to fear for his existence, and we came to realise that, time and again, the mass media in the capitalist countries spread infamous lies about the socialist countries. In view of these facts all members of our delegation pledged to help spread the truth about the first socialist German state in their families, their residential districts or workplaces. All of us can say: "I've been to the GDR and I saw with my own eyes that all basic human rights are respected there."

Maurice Klentzy, head of the delegation of the Bas-Rhin departmental committee of the France-GDR Society

A Secure Future For All Children

THE GDR's International Friendship League and the Italy-GDR Society had arranged for us—three students and two workers—to pay an eight-day visit to the German Democratic Republic. Ours was a tour of study and exploration of life in the first socialist state on German soil. Not only did we make sightseeing tours to famous monuments and memorials but we also had talks with leading public figures and numerous GDR citizens. This helped us a great deal to understand the problems with which the country is confronted. We, on our part, made use of the opportunity of bringing the peoples of the GDR and Italy closer together thus contributing our share towards the safeguarding of peace in the world.

*

Although we started our tour in Berlin we spent most of our time in the GDR in Halle County. Since our delegation exclusively consisted of young people we were, of course, particularly interested in the situation of youth in the GDR.

The GDR has a uniform curriculum for the whole country on the basis of which all children receive a thorough education preparing them for their future vocational careers. This is but one fact distinguishing our two countries: every child in the GDR may rest assured that after leaving school and concluding vocational training he or she will get a place of work on which to build their future lives. Such a situation is wishful thinking for people in Italy where unemployment is rampant while the GDR even has a lack of manpower which causes some problems.

*

We were also given the opportunity of having a close look at the situation in a GDR

enterprise at a pump producing works near Halle. This visit turned out to be of particular interest for the two workers among us: We got to know a well-working factory with both older plant and up-to-date equipment. But above all, we learnt how Karl Marx's demand that the workers have to be the owners of the means of production has been put into practice. It was the socialist emulation contest, in particular, which left a deep impression with us. Within its framework the individual work brigades are striving to increase labour productivity. In recognition of outstanding results the workers receive bonuses and moral acknowledgement.

Also worth mentioning is the committed attitude of young people towards work. The Free

German Youth, the GDR's youth organisation, occupies a respected place within the factory. It represents the specific interests of the young workers which are also formulated in the factory's plan for the promotion of young workers. The Free German Youth organisation also arranges a variety of leisure activities for young people.

*
In a talk with members of the management of an agricultural cooperative we were informed that they have to account before their members for their activities and the situation in plan fulfilment. In this way the cooperative farmers are exercising control. They make use of their right to codetermination and decision-making in the general meeting, the supreme body of

an agricultural cooperative, as well as in its individual sub-committees.

Our friendly hosts answered all our questions. They also introduced us to various methods of cultivation and demonstrated the mode of operation of agricultural machinery. Their modern method of production enables the cooperative farmers to achieve ever better results from year to year.

*
At the end of our stay in the GDR we visited the former Buchenwald nazi concentration camp near Weimar which was turned into a national memorial. It signifies the consistent anti-fascist stand of the GDR which, since its very foundation, had to protect its frontiers against imperialist attacks and which is providing

proof of the fact that socialism needs peace for its own advancement and at the same time safeguards peace in the interest of all peoples.

*On behalf of the youth delegation
Fausto Mazzoni, Livorno, Italy*

Stage Sets From Italy

AN EXHIBITION of graphic works, stage designs, statuettes, costumes, posters and marionettes by the Italian artist Emanuele Luzzati was mounted in the *Unser lieben Frauen* cloister in Magdeburg last year. The exhibition, which was

arranged by the Theatre Institute in Rome, gave a broad insight into the work of the 60-year-old stage designer from Genoa who has close connections with Italy's large theatres and opera houses as well as with many small and experi-



mental theatres in the country. The Magdeburg exhibition was the result of the long-standing relations between the GDR Visual Artists' Association, the artists' association of Italy and the municipal administration of Genoa. It is the first time that the exhibition has been on show outside Italy.

*Photos: Heinz Oppermann,
ADN-Zentralbild*

FRIENDSHIP MOSAIC



COUNCILLORS and people's representatives from various towns of Potsdam County and their French partner towns and villages underlined at a joint colloquy their responsibility for peace. Jean-Pierre Marais, mayor of the village of Petit Quevilly, sharply condemned the decision of the US administration to go ahead with the production of the neutron bomb. The colloquy had been arranged by Potsdam's county committee of the GDR's International Friendship League.

*

The delegates to the general meeting of the Switzerland-GDR Society in Berne expressed their overall support for the appeal for peace and against nuclear death issued by progressive Swiss citizens. In a resolution the Society called upon its members to help spread the text of the appeal among the country's population in order to secure half a million signatures by next spring.

*

In many countries a variety of events was arranged to mark the 32nd foundation anniversary of the GDR.

A week of friendship with the GDR was held in Sardinia/Italy which informed people about the achievements of the first socialist German state in all spheres of social life.

The Britain-GDR Society had arranged for the Eckholdt Quartet of the Dresden State Orchestra, which was touring the country at that time, to give a festive concert on the eve of the GDR's anniversary.

The opening of the exhibition "Magdeburg, a town in the GDR, greets its partner town of Setúbal" initiated a GDR week in that Portuguese industrial centre.

To further good-neighbourly relations a GDR festival was held in the southern Swedish town of Landskrona.

*

In late October of 1981 local government officials from the Congolese capital of Brazzaville paid a several-day visit to Dresden. They informed themselves on the development and further projects of the city on the River Elbe. They also discussed ways of strengthening the relations between both cities which were established in 1975.

*



Within the framework of the GDR cultural festival in Japan the Ulbrich Quartet of the Dresden State Orchestra gave a special concert in Kobe which had been arranged by the Kobe branch of the Japan-GDR Society. During their stay in that Japanese city the four musicians had cordial meetings with representatives of the Kobe branch (our photo).

*

At the end of October the Sweden-GDR Society celebrated its 25th anniversary. Dr Paul Wandel, vice-president of the GDR's International Friendship League, conveyed the congratulations from leading representatives of the GDR at the gala event arranged to mark the occasion.

In Stockholm a seminar took place on the importance of bilateral relations between Sweden and the GDR for the development of international cooperation in Europe. The participants in this event included leading representatives from political, economic and cultural life as well as church dignitaries.

*

The mayors of Longuyon (France) and Varkaus (Finland) paid a visit to their partner town of Pirna in Dresden County. During their stay they informed themselves on the development of the educational system and achievements of the youth policy in the GDR.

*

A delegation from Leipzig County went to Lombardy Region in Italy where it had meetings with the presidium of the regional council and the regional administration. The visitors also made excursions to several agricultural and industrial establishments. In a Milan working-class district they par-

FRIENDSHIP MOSAIC



FRIENDSHIP MOSAIC



ticipated in an event which had been jointly organised by the Italy-GDR Society and sub-committees of the Italian Communist Party. This discussion focussed on questions of peace and disarmament. Rolf Opitz, head of the delegation and chairman of Leipzig County Council, outlined the GDR's services for the safeguarding of peace. The Italian hosts informed their guests on the campaigns launched by people in Italy against the deployment of new US nuclear missiles in Western Europe.

*

In early October Prof. Friedrich Epstein, president of the Austria-GDR Society, inaugurated an exhibition of water-colour paintings from the GDR in the gallery of the Globus Publishing House Vienna. It had been arranged by the Centre for Art Exhibitions of the GDR and was open until the end of October.

*

Last September an exhibition of posters from the Finnish town of Kuopio was mounted in the foyer of the theatre of its partner town in the GDR, Gera.

*

Under the heading "Five centuries of German painting and graphic art" eight art museums from the GDR had arranged an exhibition which included works by Dürer and Cranach as well as contemporary artists and was mounted in the Japanese cities of Tokyo, Fukuoka, Sapporo, Nagoya and Nara. The art experts who accompanied the exhibits answered plenty of questions about the development of art and society in the GDR at the exhibition, during discussions with members of the Japan-GDR Society, after lectures at universities and in museums as well as in the mass media.

*

Last October a delegation of the GDR's International Friendship League visited Mexico on the occasion of a week of friendship with the GDR. The guests had a cordial meeting with members of the seven political parties represented in parliament. Alejandro Sobarzo, chairman of the parliamentary foreign affairs committee, pointed out that the Mexican parliament denounces the production and storing of the neutron bomb as does the People's Chamber of the GDR.

Leipzig Trade Fair

Centre Of Worldwide Trade

Preparations for the 1982 Spring Fair are already well under way in Leipzig. On opening day, March 14, 9,000 foreign trade agencies and export enterprises from a total of 60 countries will open their doors. Under the slogan "For worldwide trade and technical progress" Leipzig Trade Fair will once again document its great importance for international commerce and thus for detente in the world. This statement is fully backed by the experiences of past years.

DESPITE the fact that the international situation has become more complicated last year's Autumn Fair proved to be an outstanding economic event. The impressive number of exhibitors and buyers from all parts of the world and the visits of official government representatives from many countries underscored Leipzig's significance as a centre of international trade.

The balance drawn at the SED's Tenth Congress on the successful development of the national economy of the GDR was reflected at the 1981 Autumn Fair by an exhibition in which 5,000 new and further developments occupied a special place. In their exhibits the GDR enterprises placed great value on highly processed raw and other materials as well as on the rapid development and application of microelectronics, electronic control technology as well as computer and automation equipment. The GDR's consumer goods industry showed a selected export programme that was dominated by new and further developments meeting up to the latest international standards.

First-class international participation was reported by the chemical industry with exhibitors from 23 countries; medical engineering 18 countries; road vehicles 17 countries; textile machinery 16 countries; and chemical engineering 15 countries. More than 40 per cent of the exhibition space was given over to representative consumer goods exhibitions from over 40 countries. Exporters from 32 countries were represented in food and luxury goods which once again had the biggest international participation in the consumer goods division. 800 exhibitors from 29 countries presented an attractive show covering 580 groups of wares in the textiles and clothing branches.

Leipzig's position as a centre of East-West trade was clearly documented by the participation of 1,500 exhibitors from the capitalist economic area. Under the present complicated conditions in the world economic sphere the presence of concerns, middle-size and small enterprises from Western, Northern and Southern Europe as well as from overseas proved to be an important factor for the expansion of East-West trade and International cooperation. Official information booths of capitalist countries, the regular attendance of well-known enterprises as well as many newcomers provide proof of the maintained interest in Leipzig.



OPINIONS

Dr Robert Scheriau,
general director of the Andritz-
Maschinenfabrik AG, Austria

"We have very successful traditions in our attendance at Leipzig Fair and have already been awarded four gold medals for our products. We use the Fair to make contacts in the GDR and with other countries. We attach particular importance to commercial relations with the GDR, however. Each unit that we sell to the GDR can, when considering that country's importance as a highly developed industrial nation, be regarded as a good reference. Although we have every reason to be satisfied with the development of business with the GDR we are of the opinion that the opportunities and potential on both sides have not yet been fully utilised.

Good relations provide the basis for good commercial contacts. Looked at in this light both our countries have succeeded in achieving agreement on important questions, something we from the world of commerce particularly welcome."



Jean-François Steib-Weber,
director of the sales agency
of the Rhône-Poulenc chemical
concern in the GDR, France

"Leipzig Fair provides an opportunity of making contact with the organising country. To intensify market processing in the GDR we are represented here with a bureau of our own.

We are very satisfied with the development of commercial relations between us and the GDR. At the end of last year we signed in Paris a five-year agreement with the "Chemle-Export-Import" foreign trade agency of the GDR covering deliveries from both sides. According to the agreements signed our turnover with GDR foreign trade agencies will double in the course of the next five years. Goods exchange has gone up from year to year. At the moment we are delivering more to the GDR than we are buying there but our aim is to achieve an equality here, too."

D. S. Preston,
marketing manager,
GKN Contractors Ltd.
Great Britain

"For us this Fair is an important intermediary for trade with the socialist countries and also the developing countries which are exhibiting in greater measure here.

The main object of our presence is, of course, the promotion of trade with the GDR. For us there are three aspects which are of importance. Firstly we want to sell our products on the GDR market.

The second aspect is the purchase of GDR products for both GKN factories as well as for customers in our country. We have, for example, been importing machine tools for many years now and are extremely satisfied.

The third aspect is cooperation on an equal basis in the realisation of projects in third countries. This aspect is of great interest to both partners because we can use the strong points of the other to our mutual advantage."



OPINIONS



Dr Viero Vendrame,
director of the GDR Sales Office of the
Montedison S. p. A. chemical company,
Italy

"The GDR is a very interesting partner for us. Every student of chemistry throughout the world has heard of Leuna, and we know that the GDR is in the process of re-constructing its chemical industry on a long-term basis. We hope to profit from this by selling more plant to the GDR. On the other hand we buy chemical products from the GDR and this year we shall be buying twice as much as last year.

We are optimistic about the prospects for relations with industry in the GDR. Several projects are already being talked about and prepared. We are considering joint activities in third markets. The conditions for this are good; we have a good organisation in many countries and the GDR has good political contacts. In such countries we can sell our products together. In other countries with which we already have excellent commercial relations we could introduce GDR products. In this way we could complement each other to our mutual benefit.

We are of the opinion that peace, détente and trade belong together, that they condition each other. Trade promotes international understanding and also helps the people get to know each other. We feel that we are intermediaries between the peoples and promoters of a policy of détente."

Italy's traditional interest in Leipzig Trade Fair and also in the expansion of East-West trade was clearly documented by 90 exhibitors in 9 consumer goods branches and 9 plant manufacturing branches, the representatives of 12 banks and the renewed participation of the "Istituto Nazionale per il Commercio Estero (ICE)".

*

At the 1981 Autumn Fair 35 French firms represented 8 industrial branches; 6 consumer goods branches were represented by 55 firms. Following a 27-year-long tradition the "Centre Français du Commerce Extérieur (CFCE)" occupied an information booth.

*

75 Austrian exhibitors representing 13 industrial and consumer goods branches attended the Fair. The Federal Chamber of Commerce/Institute of Economic Promotion ran an official contact bureau for the 29th time.

*

The high estimation accorded Leipzig as a centre of world trade by industrial and commercial circles in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was shown by the attendance of 55 exhibitors in 16 branches and also the fact that 64 of the products of British firms have been awarded gold medals at earlier Leipzig Trade Fairs.

*

About 100 Swiss firms of various sizes were represented in 6 branches of machinery and industrial equipment and 10 consumer goods branches.

*

The Netherlands, which has an unbroken participation for more than thirty years, was represented by 55 large, middle-size and small enterprises in 7 machine engineering and 11 consumer goods branches.

*

Along with the many exhibitors in chemicals, medical engineering, household chemicals, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, foodstuffs and allied industries, shoes, textiles, glass and ceramics, the chemical plant information stand arranged by the US Department of Commerce was a centre of attraction in the exhibition of the USA.

OPINIONS

Japanese ambassador:

**1981
was an
epoch-making
year
for
mutual
relations**

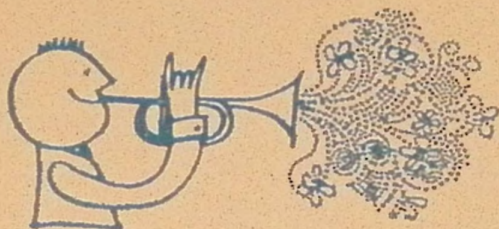
AN increased participation and a larger exhibition area was the answer of Japan's economic and commercial world to the agreements reached with the Japanese government during the GDR state visit last year on the intensification of trade and economic relations. At Leipzig Trade Fair Japanese exhibitors were at the top in the chemical engineering, medical engineering and radio and television branches.

When Erich Honecker visited the stand of the Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO) during the traditional tour of the Fair last autumn Junji Yamada, the Japanese ambassador, said: "It is with great satisfaction that I can note that 1981 was an epoch-making year for the relations between Japan and the GDR in all areas, and in particularly high measure in the economic sphere." The state visit by Erich Honecker to Japan initiated a vast improvement in the mutual relations between the two states. It will continue to provide impulses for a long time to come. The agreement on trade and shipping offers a particularly good foundation for expanding mutual relations in the economic sphere.

The government of the GDR, replied Erich Honecker, supports these efforts and guarantees unlimited cooperation through the GDR's industrial combines and foreign trade enterprises. He added that the relations between both countries were an example of the cooperation between states with different social systems on the basis of the principles of peaceful coexistence and confirmed the fact that the results of the state visit had inaugurated a new stage in the relations between the GDR and Japan.

Our Front Cover

was photographed by Carla Arnold



GDR REVIEW
wishes
all its readers
a happy,
prosperous and peaceful
NEW YEAR!

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Our Back Cover

For The Philatelist

Among the new postage stamps issued in the GDR in the second half of 1981 are six specials devoted to medical instruments from the 16th to 18th centuries. These instruments are a part of the collection of the Karl Sudhoff Institute in Leipzig.

*

A new, 35-pfennig denomination has been added to the traditional "Anti-fascist Memorials" series. It depicts the monument honouring the fighters of the anti-fascist resistance movement in Sassnitz on the Isle of Rügen.

*

"Inland vessels of the GDR" is the title of another set of six specials. They show some of the ships which sail on the 2,500 kilometres of natural and artificial waterways in the GDR. Beginning with the lowest value the vessels shown are a pusher-tug, a pusher train, a diesel-electric paddle ship, an ice-breaker, a motor freighter and a bucket dredger.

*

The 47th general meeting of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) held in Leipzig in August 1981 was marked by the issue of three special stamps depicting precious items from libraries in the GDR. A sheet from the "Ebers Papyrus" (20), a book in the hieratic script and dating from the mid-16th century about the medicines of the ancient Egyptians. A section of the famous Maya Codex written in the 12th or 13th century and probably based on an original dating back to the 8th century (35). A miniature to Petrarch (50), the relatively late manuscript of a French translation of the Petrarch sonnets, from the middle of the 16th century. These treasures are housed in the library of Leipzig University, the Saxon Provincial Library in Dresden and the German State Library in Berlin.

*

Two stamps were issued to mark the Day of the Philatelist 1981. The one shows a letter written by Frederick Engels in 1840 (10 + 5) and the other a postcard written by Karl Marx in 1878 (20).

*

We should like to point out once again that postage stamps from the GDR are only obtainable through the trade in your country of residence.

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