



GDR REVIEW

6/80

MAGAZINE FROM THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC



AMATEUR ARTISTS AT THE BALTIC COAST



GDR Workers' Festival
in Rostock County
from June 27 till June 29, 1980



EVERY two years there are competitions for amateur artists in the GDR, for people from all walks of life, with artistic talents and interests, who spend their leisure time in the service of the arts in order to enjoy themselves and give others pleasure. A broad folk art movement, uniting a large number of talented people, has grown up in our republic. Every one of them has the opportunity of pursuing their artistic interests in choirs and dance groups, brass bands and symphony orchestras, in photography and film hobby groups, in amateur theatres and cabarets, in worker-writer groups, in studios for amateur painters, graphic artists, sculptors, potters, etc. Village clubs and cultural centres in factories, industrial associations, military units, universities, colleges and scientific institutions help many artistic talents to unfold. Financial help comes primarily from the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions, with large sums also flowing from the cultural and social funds of industrial and other enterprises. Throughout the GDR, county offices for cultural work provide valuable methodological and other help to amateur art groups and their artistic directors.

Needless to say, every such group has the desire and ambition to participate and prove itself at a national workers' festival. To qualify, however, the amateur artists have to rehearse very hard, to spend weeks on end working in the respective studios and have to have been successful in local preliminary contests. At the end of June the big event will be on again, with the best amateur artists flocking to Rostock County to compete in the 18th National Workers' Festival of the GDR.

Between "Störtebeker" and the "Innovators' Ball"

In March we visited the wintry Baltic coast to learn more about the festival programme and to meet amateur artists who were preparing themselves for the great event.

First we asked Dr. Heinz Gundlach, an official of Rostock County Council responsible for cultural work, about the major features of this year's festival. "We intend to build a bridge between the struggles of our ancestors and those of our times," he said. "The opening programme will demonstrate this very clearly. It will not consist of songs and dances as hitherto. The festival will be initiated on June 27 with a new production of the dramatic ballad "Klaus Störtebeker" by Kurt Barthel (Kuba), under the direction of Professor Hanns Anselm Perten, director of the People's Theatre in Rostock. The music is by Günther Kochan. The performance will take place from 9 p.m. to midnight at Ralswiek on the Isle of Rügen,

against the magnificent natural background of the big Jasmunder Bay. The cast of 1,200 amateur and 400 professional artists will entertain audiences on seventeen successive evenings until mid-July.

The choice was "Störtebeker" because the play represents a legend in two senses. On the one hand it is the legend of an authentic pirate by the name of Klaus Störtebeker who lived at the end of the 14th century and who became a popular hero in the era of the Hanseatic League because he took from the rich to give to the poor and, in the words of the author Kuba, was thus "the star of hope for the people." On the other hand, the ballad itself has become something of a legend because its first night was twenty years ago during the Isle of Rügen Festival in 1959 as well as subsequent performances in 1960 and 1961. This legend is part of the cultural history and literary heritage of the GDR which we cherish and wish to revive in our present time.

June 28 will see the first Mecklenburg Folklore Festival in Stralsund, involving folklore ensembles from the three northern counties of the GDR. Traditional elements of Mecklenburgian and Pomeranian folklore will be shown in combination with contemporary features and celebration practices. Also presented will be important material and cultural witnesses of Mecklenburg's past such as pieces of architecture, furniture and household utensils, songs, dances and literature in the regional dialect, local wedding and carnival customs, an end-of-apprenticeship celebration, a number of crafts, a historical market etc.

According to Dr. Gundlach, the highlights of the workers' festival also include the Days of Socialist Agriculture in Wismar District, the Song Festival at Greifswald, the inauguration of the new fountain in front of Rostock's university, and also the festival of the fishermen and shipbuilders featuring the Warnemünde Parade, a traditional fishermen's procession with historic character. The Workers' Festival will end with the Innovators' Ball for distinguished workers. The various programmes during the festive days will also feature ensembles from socialist countries and entertainers from Scandinavia, the FRG and other countries.

Amateur artists from the Neptune Shipyard

What are the opportunities for cultural activities in the factories of Rostock County? To find out, we visited the cultural centre at Rostock's Neptune Shipyard. Thirty years ago it was the only one of its kind in the town. For many years the centre has seen much diligent and talented work, setting standards for the amateur art movement in the GDR. Some of the hobby groups there (for instance that for painting and graphic work

which was the first in our country) have been in existence for twenty and even thirty years.

The staff of the cultural centre strive to attract more people by catering to a variety of interests. They also assist work brigades in their cultural and educational work. While the cultural needs and interests of working people are different, they are not dependent on the type of job they do. Thus people doing hard, physical work in three shifts have as many questions and wishes regarding cultural activities as researchers or designers. Today there are twelve dedicated amateur art groups at the shipyard. All of them have diligently prepared themselves for the Workers' Festival. The worker-writer group, for example, will present a literary programme of its own, the workers' theatre group has rehearsed a new contemporary GDR play, the choir has enlarged its repertoire with modern songs. Inspired by John Brinkman's North German poem *Höger Up* (Higher up), the amateur sculptors and potters have made special tiles for a fountain to be built at the shipyard.

We also visited a folk-art club on the ground floor of a tower block near the Sports and Congress Hall in the southern part of Rostock. Every Wednesday the amateur painters and graphic artists from the Neptune Shipyard meet there to try their hands at various drawing techniques or at painting in oils. They discuss their paintings and drawings, make trips to the Isle of Rügen or to Thuringia. For the Festival they have prepared a folder containing drawings of various places in the town of Rostock.

For twenty years now this hobby group has been headed by Waldemar Krämer, a painter and teacher at the local school of arts. We asked him why the shipbuilders came to the club. "The group has twenty members of different trades, for example lathe operators, electricians, offset printers, apprentices, shop assistants, scientific workers, engineers, mathematicians. Not all of them are from the shipyard. Their motives are also different. Some enjoy the creative aspect of the art, the skill of their hands. They want to impress with fine colours and delineation. For them painting is a relaxation after work. Others are ambitious. For them painting is more than just a hobby, it is a vital necessity. And there are those who come here to prepare themselves for a course of study at a college or school of art."

The amateur painters and drawers regularly exhibit their latest works at the shipyard to hear the frank, critical judgement of the shipbuilders. Some of the works have also been on display in the Soviet Union, Poland, Mongolia and in some Scandinavian countries. "Those whose paintings give themselves and others satisfaction, feel that they have created something," said Wal-

Photos on the previous pages:

A visit to the art studio of the Neptune Shipyard in Rostock where the painters and graphic artists work under the guidance of Waldemar Krämer.—View of the shipyards on the banks of the Warnow river.

Photos: Carla Arnold (6), Neptune Shipyard, Levermann, Westerholz

A girls' brass band will be playing at the Workers' Festival.

The members of the Ribnitz-Damgarten Folk Dance Ensemble present a Wolgast fishermen's dance.



demar Kramer. "And soon they start going about their daily work with the same feeling of being creative people, full of ideas and constructive energy."

Folklore at Ribnitz-Damgarten

We travelled about thirty kilometres along the trunk road between Rostock and Stralsund to reach the small town of Ribnitz-Damgarten on the Soaler Bay. The girls and boys of the fibreboard factory's dance ensemble were rehearsing in the ballet training centre. We were welcomed by their director, Dieter Lattner, who is aged 19. He is a steel construction worker by trade after completing an apprenticeship at the Warnow Shipyard, has been dancing for twelve years and is now working full-time with the group. Such a course in life is open to many amateur artists in the GDR. At present the ensemble has 97 members. It comprises a children's dance group (the youngest in it are six years old), a mixed group of teenagers, a girls' dance group and a group of women aged between 20 and 40. The dancers are either schoolchildren, apprentices, industrial or office workers. About half of them work at the fibreboard factory. The ensemble has been in existence for more than twenty years now and has gained quite a reputation throughout the republic.

"We concern ourselves mainly with authentic Mecklenburgian folklore, but interpreting it as young people of today, i.e. we combine traditional elements with modern dancing," Jürgen Kólzow, choreographer and artistic director of the ensemble, explained. He himself danced in the group for many years. His mother Gertrud Kólzow, makes many of the various national costumes the group needs for its performances in her spare time.

"At the Workers' Festival we shall present a 90-minute programme of our own," Jürgen Kólzow told us. "The central character in the dance performance will be Captain Brass. Children of our times approach him with questions about the customs of past centuries. The captain is an intelligent man who can tell them a great deal. And so the children and youngsters dance through the ages, showing old New Year's Eve customs, Whitsuntide traditions of Mecklenburg's shepherds, spinning-room dances and, of course, fishermen's dances."

The Ribnitz ensemble performs about 60 times a year, visiting many towns and villages on the Baltic coast and participating in folklore competitions in the south of the GDR. The ensemble has also been to Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria and Romania. "Most of the money we need for our work comes from the fibreboard factory which is very interested in its apprentices and young skilled workers engaging in folkloristic activities. While the people of our town are, naturally, proud to see their dance ensemble returning from a successful tour abroad, they would like to see us perform more in the town. We present our programmes at the town's cultural centre."

How are you off for recruits? we asked Jürgen Kólzow. "We have little worries in this respect. The entry tests are often attended by between 100 and 150 children. It is more difficult to win teenagers over 16, for many of them do not like the idea of attending strenuous rehearsals and weekend performances or are just not interested. Compared with other ensembles ours has relatively many youngsters. This has already become a tradition. Unfortunately the public often view folk dancing as a purely women's occupation, although they require

The sculpture and ceramics studio of the Neptune Shipyard. During their leisure time, electricians, building workers, teachers, students and others learn how to work with modelling clay.

a great deal of bodily strength from our male dancers."

The Ribnitz ensemble receives specialised assistance from the Mecklenburgian Folklore Centre in Rostock, which was founded two years ago. So were other such centres in the GDR, for example those in Karl-Marx-Stadt in the Erzgebirge Mountains, in Wernigerode in the Harz Mountains, in the Thuringian towns of Erfurt and Suhl, and in Bautzen in Lusatia. Run by the respective county councils, these centres assiduously collect, study and present to the public witnesses of the cultural history of the working class and other working sections of our people. Like Thuringia, the Erzgebirge Mountains and Lusatia, Mecklenburg is rich in folkloristic traditions which are increasingly cultivated nowadays. More than 50 folklore groups will perform at Stralsund, presenting mainly North-German songs and dances. "It is not a question of staging a historical ceremony," Marion Schmidt, director of the Folklore Centre, told us. "There is simply a need to enrich our cultural and political life with elements of our history, and to make better use of folklore in our present era."

Norbert Landsberg

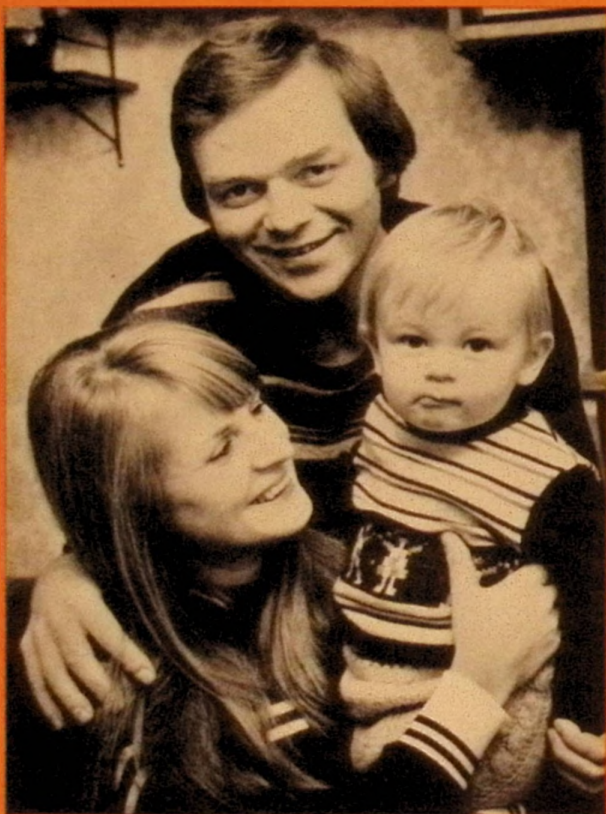




4

OF 6.5 MILLION

GDR REVIEW READERS
QUESTION
GDR FAMILIES



1 The Lehmanns, a working-class family from Suhl/Thuringia

Andreas Lehmann, born in 1950, hunting weapon mechanic/technologist, Rosemarie Lehmann, born in 1953, milling machine operator: both are employed with the nationally-owned vehicle and hunting weapon factory at Suhl; son Frank, 18 months old, attends a creche.



2 The Kanns, a farmer family from Viesecke/ Schwerin County

Heinz Dieter Kann, born in 1924, pig breeder at a cooperative farm, Gonda Kann, born in 1926, cooperative farmer, who comes from an old-established peasant family in this area. The Kanns have two daughters (Roswitha, born in 1948, accountant, married with two children; Sybille, born in 1950, medical instructor at a university children's hospital, single) and one son (Klaus Detlef, born in 1953, farmer, married with one child). Our photo shows from right to left: Heinz Dieter Kann, daughter Roswitha with her children, son Klaus Detlef, Gonda Kann, their daughter-in-law with her child.

Dear readers,

Once again we would like to ask you to contribute to the contents of **GDR Review**. At present the German Democratic Republic has a population of 17 million who live in 6.5 million households. Again and again your letters reveal the desire to know all about everyday life of the average family in the GDR, their joys and worries, their origin and development.

Here they are, four out of 6.5 million families from different regions of this

country; from a statistical point of view, average families.

GDR Review invites all its readers: send your questions about these families to our editorial office under the heading "**4 of 6.5 million**".

In the course of the next few months these citizens will answer your questions in detail.

Every reader sending in a question will receive a small souvenir as confirmation of the receipt of his letter. We shall also be holding a draw among

all contributors for picture volumes about landscapes, buildings, museums and towns of the GDR.

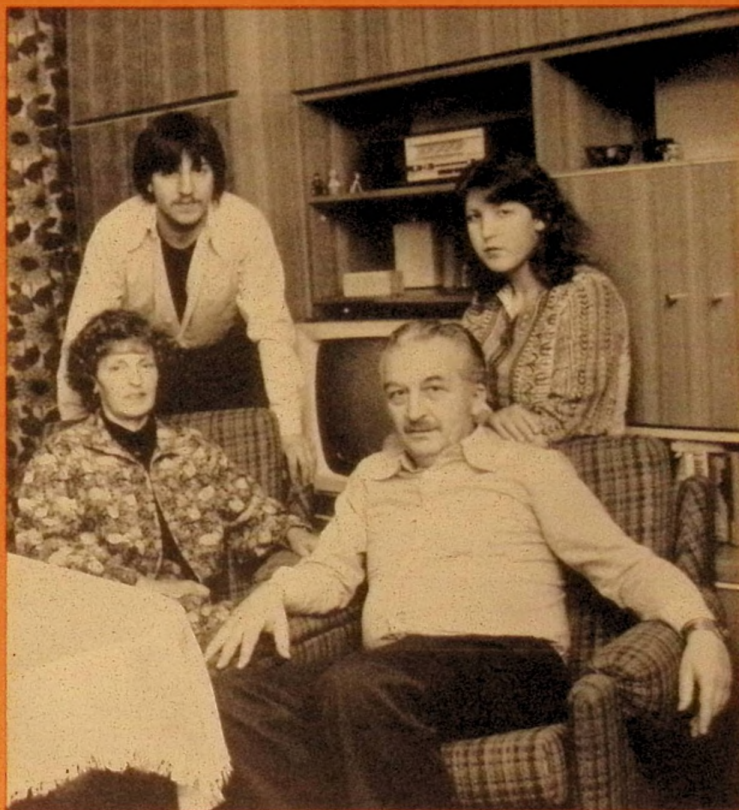
We thank you and await your questions which should be addressed to:

The Editor, GDR Review
DDR - 8012 Dresden
Postfach 61
Julian-Grimau-Allee
4 of 6.5 million



3 Old-age pensioner
Hildegard Eibig from Dresden

born in 1913, she used to be a domestic servant and later a worker, widowed since 1975, one daughter, two grandchildren.



4 The Belkes,
from Berlin

Karl-Heinz Belke, born in 1929, teaches mathematics at the Bert Heller Secondary School in Berlin-Köpenick, Moja Belke, born in 1929, accountant at a Berlin metal-working factory. The twins Carola and Andreas, born in 1961. Carola wants to become a clerk and Andreas a car mechanic. They are both in their second year of vocational training.

Photos: Günler Ackermann, Carla Arnold

Act Now — New US Missiles

1980 — Year of Mass Action

WARNINGS THAT MUST NOT GO UNHEARD

Bertolt Brecht's *Deutsche Marginalien* written in 1938 contain the following warning: "The painter speaks of the great times to come. The forests are still growing. The fields still bear harvests. The towns are still standing. The people are still breathing."

Why did this call meet with so little response at that time? The poet who had to leave his home country was by no means the only one to warn of the imminent danger.

Today other people than the painter Hitler are making big talk of human rights, of western culture, of a threat from the east. It is the same people who are trampling underfoot human rights, who are putting at risk the cultural treasures of the whole of mankind and who are incessantly trying to develop new, ever more horrifying weapons of destruction and do not hesitate to deploy these on the territories of the most densely populated countries. They are doing this because they are not prepared to relinquish their most profitable business: deals with armaments, a deal with death.

And many, far too many, people believe in good faith that, surely, all these deadly weapons will never be employed, that the worst will never happen. This was the way many Germans thought when Hitler pronounced his "policy of strength". When they awakened, the world was already ablaze.

Today many people in many coun-

tries are raising a warning voice. A worldwide peace movement has come into being which represents a power capable of thwarting the plans of those who favour the arms race instead of disarmament, who want the cold war instead of detente and who will lead our world to the brink of catastrophe instead of happiness and prosperity.

In the three-and-a-half decades that have passed since the end of the Second World War the peoples' strength has always proven its tremendous influence when their activities were guided by unity. The mighty demonstrations of the peoples, which we have witnessed with great satisfaction during recent months, will eventually put the supporters of the new round in the arms race in their proper place. Peaceful coexistence is alive—in spite of the disastrous NATO plans, despite all the sabre-rattling by the Pentagon and its followers. There is no alternative to peaceful coexistence. The socialist countries take this into account in their proposals, activities and negotiations. They did so in the past and they will continue to do so in the future, too, because socialism both needs and wants peace. This has always been socialism's aim and it will not deviate from it.

Let us recall Bertolt Brecht's words. Let us ensure that the forests continue to grow, that the fields continue to bear harvests, that the towns remain standing and that the people keep breathing.

Together against the NATO missiles plans

THE North Atlantic Treaty plans to deploy about 600 new nuclear weapons in Western Europe . . . Our continent is faced with the threat of being drawn into a new round of armament. The aggravation of military tension is reflected in all spheres of life. International cooperation is in jeopardy and there exists the imminent threat of a revival of the cold war.

The executive of the Finland-GDR Society's Kotka branch discussed the danger caused through the new nuclear weapons. We hold the opinion that this situation will aggravate the tension in Central Europe, undermine the spirit of Helsinki and endanger the security of our country and of all other peoples in Europe.

We call upon all friendship societies to jointly oppose these plans which imperil world peace.

Pentti Tuusanen, president, Pauli Sutela, vice-president, Sirpa Grönval, secretary
(From a statement issued by the executive of the Finland-GDR Society's Kotka branch.)

To guarantee the children a happy future

We, the men and women of the world united by the desire for peace, are alarmed at the NATO plans to deploy 572 new nuclear weapons in Western Europe. We all are faced with a nuclear catastrophe. All life on our globe is in danger of being destroyed by the holocaust of a thousandfold Hiroshima.

The renewed escalation of the arms race

Stop The Threat

for Military Detente



must be opposed with all means. We have to struggle to prevent a further build-up of nuclear weapons.

We welcome the decisions taken by the governments of the Netherlands, Denmark and Norway not to allow the stationing of nuclear missiles on their territories. We declare our solidarity with the protest demonstrations held by the peoples of Europe.

We support the USSR's efforts for disarmament and its generous initiative, announced by its head of state, Leonid Brezhnev, to withdraw 20,000 troops and 1,000 tanks from the territory of the GDR.

For the sake of the children, to whom we are pledged to guarantee a future in peace and security, we advocate friendly links and fraternity between the peoples. We protest against the warmongering policies pursued by the governments of the USA and the other NATO countries which accepted the establishment of nuclear bases in their countries thus putting at risk the security of their own people and that of the world as a whole.

International friendship strengthens peace.

(From a statement by the Mexico-GDR Friendship Society.)

We support peace initiatives

Our Society's programmatic aims include active support for all movements and initiatives in the interests of world peace, peaceful coexistence and solidarity. We therefore agree with the declaration issued by the presidium of the GDR's International Friendship League and voice our alarm at the jingoist plans of certain ruling circles in the USA and some other NATO coun-

tries for a further build-up of arms and the deployment of new nuclear weapons that are directed against the countries of the socialist community.

(From a statement by the Society of Friends of the GDR in Venezuela.)

To stop the arms race

The declaration by Leonid Brezhnev that the Soviet Union will not use nuclear arms against those states which renounce the production and acquisition of such arms and do not have these on their territories is most welcome in India which has already pledged never to manufacture nuclear weapons.

We hope that these proposals and steps will find a positive response from the NATO states, that they will take measures to stop the arms race, to desist from stationing new medium-range nuclear missiles in Western Europe spearheaded against the socialist countries.

The USSR, the GDR and the other socialist countries have always been striving to remove tension from Europe and to turn it into a region of peace and mutually advantageous cooperation between states with different social systems...

The stopping of the arms race, the strengthening of detente and going over to military detente will not only ease tension in Europe but also in our region and the whole world.

(From a statement made by Subhadra Joshi, president of the All India Indo-GDR Friendship Association.)

Maintenance of peace is a primary task

The maintenance of peace is a primary task of our time. This conference highly assesses the contribution the German Democratic Republic is making today together with the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries towards halting the arms race and reducing stockpiles of weapons. This is vital for the preservation of peace and for the lessening of tension.

(Taken from a message of greeting sent by the First National Conference of the Sri Lanka-GDR Friendship Society.)

Photo: ADN-Zentralbild

WARNINGS—

PROTESTS—

ACTIONS



Washington. In March more than 30,000 US citizens demonstrated in Washington shouting slogans and carrying banners demanding an end to war preparations, ratification of SALT-II and hands off the Middle East. It was the biggest and most impressive anti-war rally since the end of the Vietnam war and lasted several hours with numerous speakers, among them many members of Congress, protesting against the "sabre-rattling" policies of the US government and mass media. More than fifty organisations, among them trade unions, student associations and the US Peace Council, had called for this mass demonstration.

Sofia. The 1,000 delegates to the tenth congress of the Bulgarian peace movement in Sofia strongly protested in a declaration against the NATO decision to station new medium-range nuclear missiles in Western Europe. This step, detrimental to detente, was aimed at "returning the world to the period of the cold war".

In the discussion, over twenty delegates expressed their determination to actively prepare a programme of peace for the

world parliament of the peoples for peace meeting in Sofia at the end of next September.

Delhi. A declaration for peace and security in Asia and a call for the defence and strengthening of the Olympic idea were made in Delhi by the International Conference for Peace and Security in Asia. More than nine hundred delegates from India and abroad discussed the possible steps to be taken for the maintenance of peace. They unanimously condemned the activities of imperialist forces hostile to detente.

Stockholm. At a press conference the secretary of the Swedish peace committee, Per Eriksson, stated that the protest campaign against the NATO decision to deploy new American medium-range missiles in Western Europe was attracting more and more people in Sweden to its ranks. The growth in military expenditure and the escalation of the arms race did not correspond to the interests of the European peoples, he declared. For this reason tens of thousands of Swedes had already signed a demand addressed to the governments of the NATO states to revoke the missiles decision.

Paris. The Socialist Parties of France, Italy, Spain and Portugal are determined "to work for detente and peace in this time of international tension". In a communiqué released at the beginning of March at the close of consultations between the leaders of these parties, the four parties resolved to give their full support to the preparations being made for the Madrid Meeting of the signatory states to the Final Act of Helsinki and to actively work for the "transforming of Europe into a factor for peace".

Athens. The national council of the Greek committee for international detente and peace has called upon the Greek people to intensify the struggle for the stabilisation of international security. In a resolution passed at its meeting the council condemned the decision by NATO to station new missiles in Western Europe and the hysteria against detente being stirred up by the USA.

Moscow. The leadership of the Russian Orthodox Church has also expressed its concern over the NATO missiles decision. In a statement issued in Moscow the patriarch, Pimen, and the synod draw attention to the fact that this decision has greatly aggravated relations between the socialist and capitalist states and impedes international detente.

From letters by our friends

I HAVE much pleasure in writing to you in support of the statement of the presidium of the GDR's International Friendship League to devote all the energies of the organisation to the worldwide struggle for the stabilisation of peace, against the arms race and for disarmament. The plans of militarist circles in the USA and some other NATO countries to step up the arms build-up further and to station additional nuclear missiles in Western Europe are both wicked and foolish, and must be opposed in all possible ways.

Alan Bush, London

(From a letter to Gerald Götting, president of the GDR's International Friendship League.)

IT is incredible that the announcement of the US government to station nuclear missiles which are directed against the Soviet Union in Italy and other European countries has been accepted without any comment whatever by a great number of West European politicians.

At the same time an almost unprecedented anti-communist and anti-Soviet slander campaign has been stirred up against the support the Soviet Union is rendering Afghanistan at the request of that country's legitimate government. The Soviet assistance has been asked for to prevent the country from losing its independence and the Afghan working population from being murdered by counter-revolutionaries...

I think that the American plans for the production and deployment of new nuclear missiles in Europe represent an aggressive act against the working people of the Soviet Union and all other countries. They are a crime that has been planned for a long time.

Adriano Benini, Cesena, Italy

WHAT took place in Chile should never happen again. Thanks to the help from the Soviet Union, the Afghan people can hold the freedom won in April 1978. I am sure you know my feelings. The Soviet assistance to the Afghan people is not an "invasion" as the mass media in the capitalist countries

would have us believe in a bid to disparage the USSR's desire for peace.

The Soviet Union, the GDR and the other socialist countries have shown the road to a stable peace. The socialist countries know that the maintenance of world peace calls for vigilance.

The imperialists and their mass media are afraid-afraid of the truth. This is the reason for the present anti-Soviet hysteria in western propaganda.

**Thomas Armenti, Newark,
New Jersey, USA**

I FULLY support the initiative for peace and disarmament put forward by the USSR and the population of the GDR. The NATO plans for an increase in the nuclear arms build-up in Europe must be stopped. We all have the right to live in peace. Long live international friendship! Down with the senseless plans of the warmongers!

Arvid Rundberg, Stockholm

I WAS one of the almost 300,000 participants in the mass peace rally in Florence which had been organised by the Italian Communist Party last February. I saw people carrying slogans and red flags and also the blue one of the peace movement, with the rainbow and the dove. In my opinion this mighty demonstration of the people has been the most impressive for years. It delivered proof of the fact that broad circles of the public in Italy are aware of the danger the NATO missiles decision poses to detente and peace. Many people in our country have realised that US imperialism uses the events in Afghanistan to disguise its own hegemonic ambitions for world predominance and that it pursues a great-power policy of blackmail. It is now a question of preventing the warmongers from carrying out their plans.

The slogans chanted by the demonstrators in Florence were not to be misunderstood: "Carter, mind your own business, we look after Italy's affairs ourselves!" Or: "We have not come to Florence for a walk but to demand disarmament!" And: "Yes to the Olympic Games! No to medium-range missiles! No to blackmail!"

At the end of the mass rally Enrico Berlinguer called for demonstrations all over the country in support of the people's demand: "We do not want any medium-range missiles in our country!" Our foremost task is now to actively stand up for peace and safeguard the achievements gained during the years of detente. We are trying hard to enhance the engagement of the masses in the struggle against the aggressive and adventurist plans of the Pentagon.

**Sergio Simoni, Moncalierei,
Turin Province**

AS PROOF of the fact that people in Switzerland, too, are active against the mad nuclear arms build-up in the European NATO countries, particularly in the FRG and Italy, I am sending you a post-card which is to be signed by all peace-loving citizens of Switzerland and passed on to the Federal Council in Bern. It has been issued and distributed by the Swiss peace movement.

Willy Raths, Pieterlen, Switzerland

The text on the card reads as follows:

"Dear Sirs,

There exist plans to deploy new nuclear weapons in the FRG and in Italy as well as in other NATO countries. Considering the prevailing equilibrium this would induce a new round in the arms race. The threat of a nuclear war that would have incalculable consequences for Switzerland, too, is thus increased. It is one of your tasks to guard the safety of Switzerland (Article 102, subparagraph 9 of the Federal Constitution). I am of the opinion that military defence alone is not sufficient. An active peace policy that reduces and removes the danger of wars is equally important.

For this reason I ask you to apply to the NATO states to renounce the production and deployment of new nuclear weapons and, instead of this, to respond to the recently-made proposals by the socialist states, particularly the Soviet Union, and to enter into negotiations."



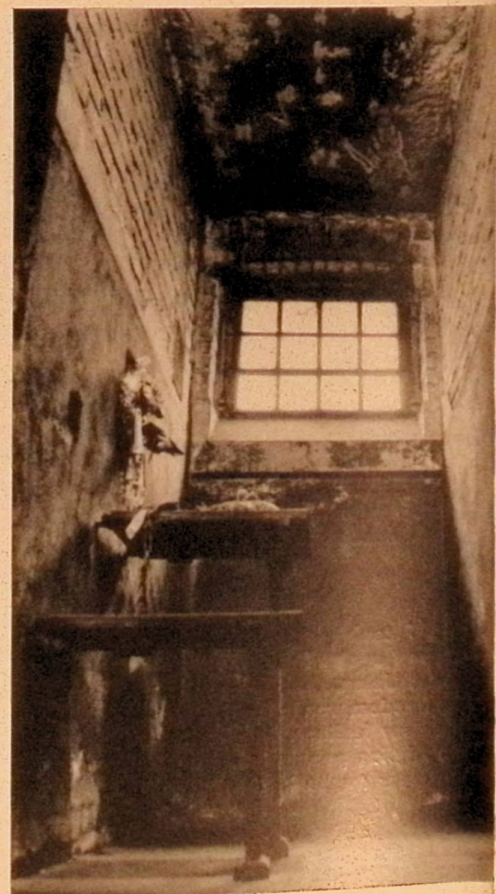
HOMAGE TO THE DEAD- A REMINDER TO THE LIVING



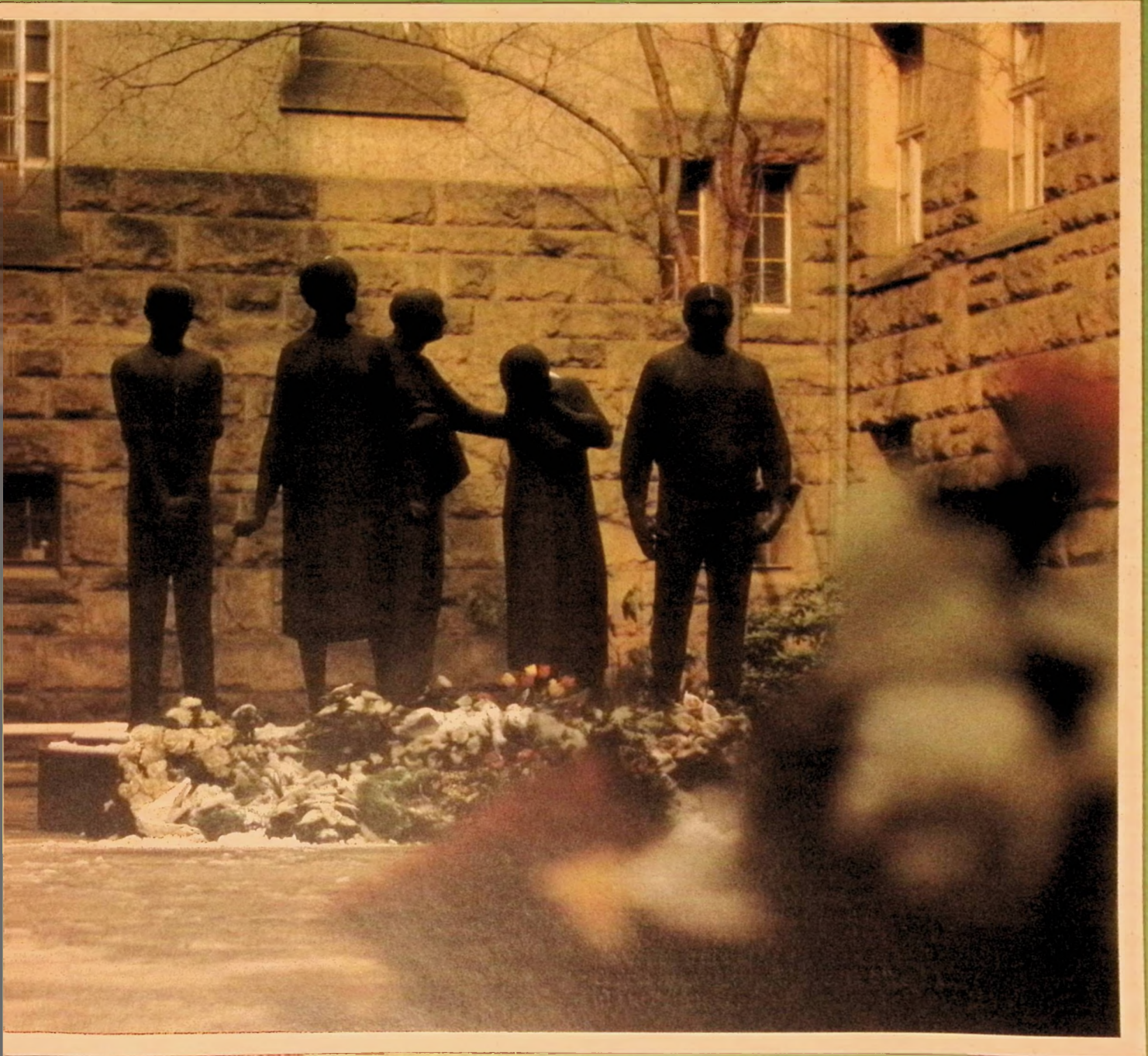
DURING the twelve years of the nazi rule of terror in Germany 1,069 anti-fascists, including 46 women of all ages, were guillotined to death in this courtyard of the former provincial prison. The courage with which they all-patriots from eleven countries-fought and were eventually done to death for can be heard in the words spoken by Georg Schumann, who headed a resistance group in Leipzig, after the death sentence had been pronounced: "The Germany of peace and humanity, the socialist Germany, will be created by those who come after us, even if we have to die!"

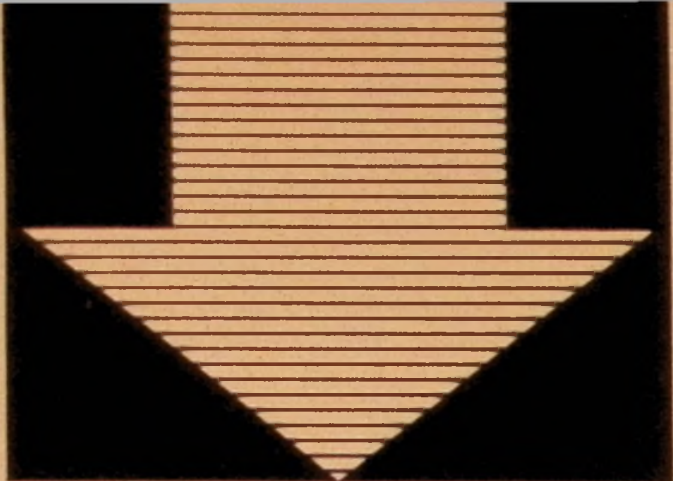
After the liberation from Hitlerite fascism this longed-for humanistic Germany was able to grow in the form of the German Democratic Republic. In 1958 the government of the GDR granted the University, at that time the College of Technology, several million Marks to enable the building to be reconstructed for a new and peaceful purpose. Along with teaching and research facilities the memorial was created in the former execution courtyard. Thousands of people from all parts of the world have already paid homage to the murdered but unforgotten victims of nazi barbarity at this bronze group of "Resistance Fighters" made by the sculptor Arndt Wittig.

*Text: Brigitte Thal
Photos:
Günther Ackermann (3),
Brigitte Nevoigt*

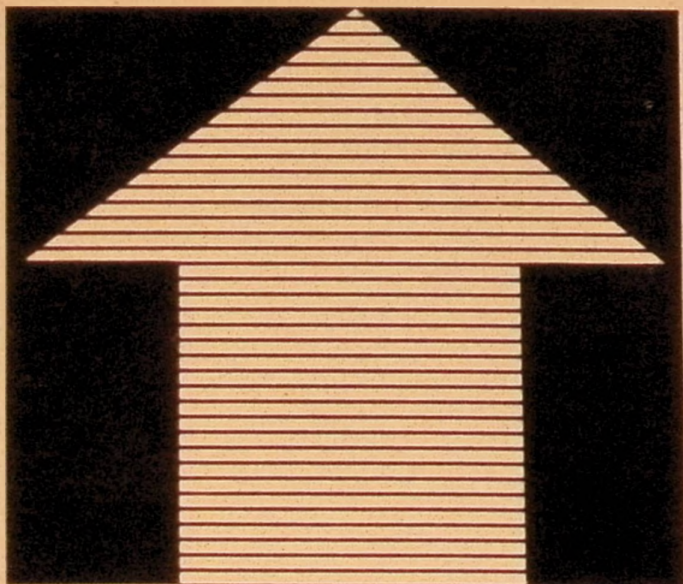


The International Memorial in the Georg Schumann Building of Dresden's Technical University





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.

Pentagon's quick-strike



force stands by



OVER the past months Brzezinski, the security adviser of the American president, has repeatedly pronounced recipes for the aggressive policy pursued by Washington under the guise of safeguarding the security interests of the USA. In doing so he, as previously, referred to an alleged Soviet threat in order to justify a possible first strike by the imperialists, i.e. a US military operation in the Persian Gulf area.

According to the French news agency AFP, Brzezinski also stated that the mobility of American armed forces permitted "retaliatory strikes in a number of areas". Significantly enough, he made this statement in an allusion to the so-called rapid intervention force of the USA. Only a few days prior to one of Brzezinski's threatening pronouncements, the chief of the Pentagon, Brown, announced that the first special units of this 110,000-strong quick-strike force would be ready for action by March 1, 1980.

The first allocation for its training and equipment amounting to more than 100 million dollars was requested by the Pentagon at the beginning of 1980. Of this sum 58 million dollars were envisaged for the formation of 14 new supporting units, and 30 million dollars for the procurement of heavy artillery and modern CH 47 transport helicopters. About 16 million dollars were allocated for the special training of the troops. The desert training in California of 25,000 American servicemen of the ground forces, air-borne troops and marines, which began on February 26, shows that Washington means business.

What is the role of the rapid intervention force? It is common knowledge that this force of the Pentagon is to be used in all areas where the USA considers its vital interests threatened. Past and present-day developments show that such areas are always those where the peoples' struggle for self-determination foils the Pentagon's plans for aggression against socialism and stops

the American multinationals from raking in super profits. Hence the intervention in Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, Chile, and the long sanguinary war against the Vietnamese people, to name just a few examples.

Such open and brutal interventions are now to be facilitated by the creation of the new force. Having arbitrarily added the Persian Gulf and the Middle East to their sphere of interest, the USA is now brazenly proceeding with the formation of a task force which is to impose the imperialists' jungle law on the peoples of that region situated thousands of kilometres away from the USA.

The USA arrogantly declares that it has strategic interests in areas stretching from East Asia to the Middle East and to western Europe. The Americans are attracted by the mineral wealth and geographical position of these regions which can also be used as forward bases against socialism. This is nothing but a cynical attempt by the USA to revise the world map and to extend their frontiers up to those of the socialist countries overnight.

The US doctrine of encirclement tramples on the basic rights of sovereign states which, suddenly and against their will, find themselves in the focus of attention of the US Imperialists. The same imperialists, who are now hysterically shouting about an alleged communist threat, have in fact been threatening other states for years, openly and impudently interfering in their domestic affairs. Any state objecting to such treatment is now to feel Washington's new stick. The Pentagon's quick-strike force stands by.

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Millions For Weapons

Rob Millions Of Their Jobs

By Professor Jürgen Kuczynski

NATO's plans for an increased arms build-up are a serious threat to peace and a serious setback to the struggle of all progressive people for disarmament. A part of imperialism's arms strategy is the hope, even the expectation, that through increasing the production of missiles the Soviet Union will be "driven to economic collapse by being compelled to keep up in the arms race".

Since in socialist society there are neither private armament concerns nor monopoly profits and hence no one gains from the arms business, arms expenditure really is, from an economic aspect, a loss for the whole society. But everyone knows the Soviet Union has not collapsed economically as a result.

What everyone does not know, however, is that the economy of the USA, along with the other monopoly-capitalist economies of western countries, is suffering greatly under the increased expenditure for arms.

All the crises and troubles of capitalism are made worse by this senseless arms spending and new crises of gigantic proportions are created as a result. The inflation rate is forced up by continually growing deficits in national budgets following from increasingly higher expenditure for military purposes. Industry is being deprived of massive amounts of basic materials through the use of 10 to 20 per cent of all raw materials consumed annually for arms production. Looked at from a purely economic point of view the effects of the arms industry are today many times more damaging than war itself was earlier.

Moreover, increasing arms expenditure

endangers all social services and the whole system of social insurance. In many countries numerous hospitals have already been closed, school meals for children reduced and teacher training establishments shut down. **And not least of all, the escalation of arms production creates unemployment.**

It is not disputed that before the production of nuclear and other highly sophisticated weapons the arms industry in the large imperialist countries had always provided plenty of jobs. This was, after all, one of the means by which fascism so quickly got rid of unemployment in Germany—only to then send millions to their deaths.

Today, however, modern arms production is no longer labour intensive but capital intensive: that means, relatively speaking fewer and fewer workers are needed to create the most dangerous weapon systems at very high cost. According to American calculations each 1,000 million of state expenditure keeps about 70,000 workers in the non-arms industrial sector employed or about 110,000 administrators and other public sector workers, but only about 35,000 workers in the arms industry.

Investment in the arms industry therefore reduces the number of possible jobs. Capitalist practice bears this out: continually rising arms expenditure over previous years has not reduced the army of unemployed in the large capitalist countries but caused it to grow still bigger. Millions have been thrown out on to the street as a result of the arms industry.

At the moment there are six million officially registered unemployed in the USA and arms expenditure amounts to around

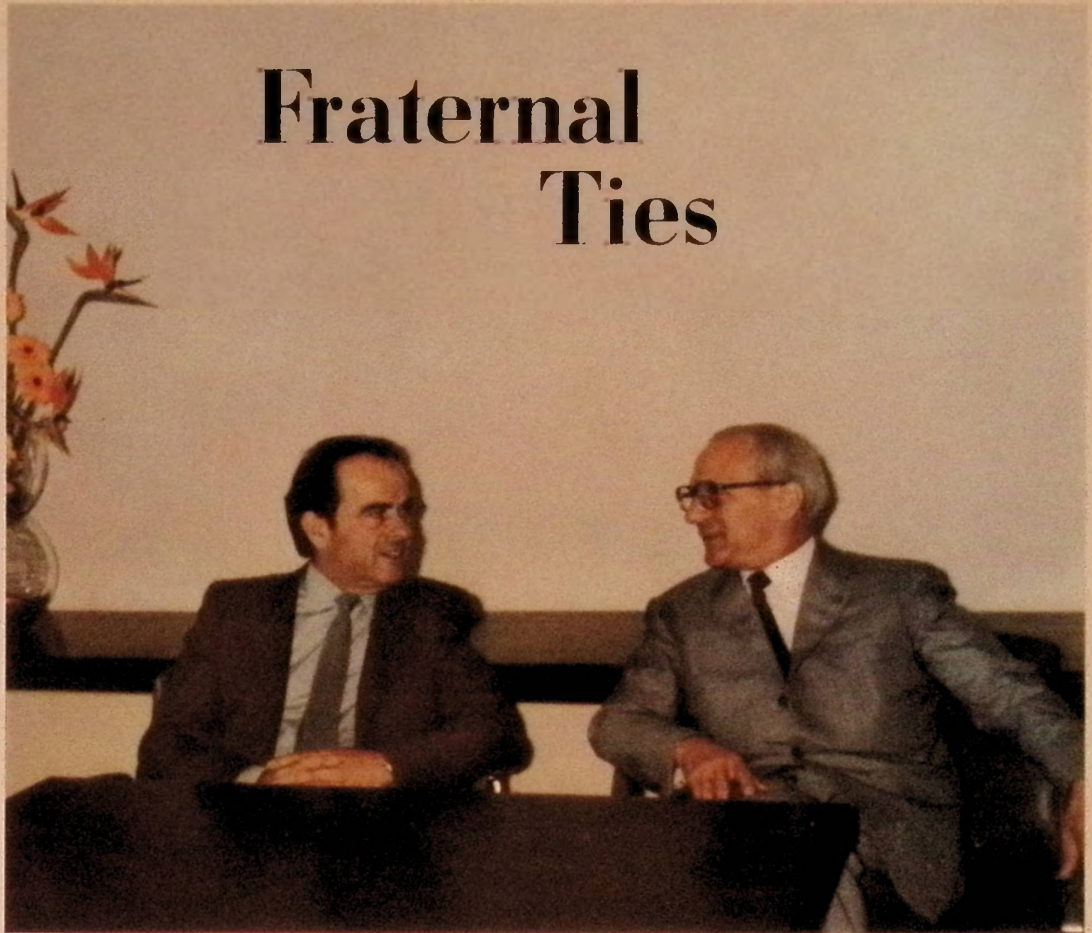
150,000 million dollars. Under these conditions of high unemployment, as is the case in all NATO countries today, each additional 1,000 million dollars expenditure for arms robs 35,000 people of the possibility of employment in the non-arms industrial sector or 75,000 jobs in the administrative and public service sector. Put another way: if two thirds of these 150,000 million dollars were to be invested in non-arms production and one third in the expansion of public services practically all the unemployed would have jobs and there would be as good as no unemployment. However, there would also be no giant profits for the arms monopolies for the profits in the arms industry are double and three times as high as in the non-arms industrial sector. Official analyses from the USA show that the profits by the arms monopolies are on average up to 70 per cent higher, and in individual cases up to 500 per cent higher, than in comparable areas of non-arms production.

A reduction in arms expenditure would be a hard blow for those few who gain from the arms business, but for working people in the capitalist countries it would mean an improvement in their social conditions. The working people of the socialist and capitalist countries are united by their common interest in disarmament both for the maintenance of peace and for the raising of their material and cultural living standards. That is why the struggle for disarmament can and must be a worldwide struggle by all those interested in peace, social progress and a socially secure life.

Georges Marchais
visited
the GDR

Fraternal Ties

FOLLOWING an invitation extended by Erich Honecker, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the SED, Georges Marchais, General Secretary of the French Communist Party, visited the GDR from April 25 until April 27, 1980. The discussions between the two general secretaries and their delegations were an eloquent expression of the fraternal relations between the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and the French Communist Party. They underscored the significance of the conference of Communist and workers' parties in Paris at the end of April. As a result of their discussions both parties agreed on a statement which contains, among others, the following passages:



"... Europe faces a decision upon which its future is dependent: either the policy of detente will triumph and peace will become more secure through disarmament and the expansion of international cooperation or our continent will be driven by a policy of confrontation and escalation of the arms race to the brink of a war with the danger of a thermonuclear catastrophe and the destruction of the European civilisation. Nobody can remain indifferent to this ...

Europe, which was the starting-point of the two most devastating and murderous wars experienced by mankind, must reject the new nuclear escalation and the increase in tension which American imperialism and its NATO allies, in particular the Federal Republic of Germany, want to carry through.

This is possible.

The relation of forces in the world has now, and durably, shifted in favour of peace and progress. There are forces which can restrain imperialism and force it to retreat and abandon its aggressive plans. The world is changing ...

Imperialism is accelerating the arms race. The military budgets are being raised enormously in all NATO countries. The USA is threatening military interventions. It is strengthening its military bases, and is concentrating its fleets and air forces in various regions. With its main allies it is supporting the most reactionary and racist regimes.

In the same aggressive spirit imperialism organises intensive campaigns against the revolutionary and democratic forces, against the socialist countries. Its targets are Socialism and Com-

munist which are grossly defamed and distorted. Imperialism places the ideas of progress, liberty and humanity in jeopardy.

The fruits of detente have been too dearly fought for to allow them to be sacrificed to the greed for profit, aspirations for hegemony and adventurism. There is no reasonable alternative to peaceful coexistence. The struggles of the peoples have repeatedly thwarted the plans of NATO. The peoples have the strength to ward off the dangers threatening humanity ...

The Socialist Unity Party of Germany and the French Communist Party regard it as imperative to work for

— the repealing of the NATO Brussels decision on the deployment of new American medium-range missiles in western Europe or the postponement of its fulfilment; this would enable effective negotiations on the question of medium-range missiles to be started;

— the ratification of SALT-II by the USA;

— an agreement on the first partial measures for the reduction of armed forces and arms in Central Europe, which also includes the pledge to freeze figures at their present level;

— the speedy preparation of the Madrid Conference of the CSCE states and its being carried through in a constructive manner as a stage along the road to the consolidation and expansion of detente;

— convocation of an All-European conference on military detente and disarmament which could take as its first task the extension of confidence-promoting measures."

Photo: ADN-ZB/Franke

For Peace and Disarmament

APPEAL BY COMMUNISTS TO THE PEOPLES OF EUROPE

THE senseless acceleration of the arms race is causing you deep concern. Peoples of Europe, you have reason to be vigilant. The means of death and destruction that are amassed or targetted on our densely populated continent provoke great danger for the future of us all. You know, too, that this is an enormous waste: these resources which are indispensable for satisfying the day-to-day needs of the mass of people and for the further development of the peoples of Europe must not be allowed to be squandered.

Great damage has been done to the cause of peace and detente, mutual trust and international cooperation by the campaign of war psychosis recently unleashed to draw the world once more into the whirlpool of the cold war. New nuclear arsenals are to be set up right in the heart of Europe and the successes of detente dashed to pieces. Agreements already signed are being undermined and negotiations as well

as existing economic, cultural, sporting and personal contacts broken off. The peoples of our continent paid a heavy price for the recognition of the value of peace, friendship and honest and lasting cooperation. The thirty-fifth anniversary of the victory over Hitlerite fascism is a reminder of the fact that peace is the most basic of human rights and is absolutely essential to mankind. We all, living in various European countries, can lose everything through the continuation of the present dangerous escalation.

We must refuse to accept the thought of the devastation of this region of the world whose considerable population and economic potential are essential to mankind and protect its cultural and historical wealth—a part of human history. No matter who we are and where we live in Europe, we have everything to gain by the search for agreed solutions to existing problems. We have everything to gain through the reduction of armaments and armed forces and through

progress in detente in accordance with the requirements of equal and guaranteed security for all states and peoples. The forces to achieve this are at hand. We Communists are committed to peace. We want disarmament, cooperation and friendship among the peoples. That is why we proclaim that peace is our common cause and only our common activity can ensure its victory.

—Let us work together for the revocation of the NATO decision on the production and stationing of new American missiles in Europe or for the delaying of its realisation in practice so that effective talks can begin on the question of medium-range missiles under conditions of equality and guaranteed security.

—Let us act together for the ratification of the SALT-II Treaty as quickly as possible and the continuation of talks aiming at the further reduction of strategic arms.

—Let us campaign together for real progress in the Vienna Talks, for the reduction of arms and armed forces and let us support all steps in this direction including the creation of nuclear-free zones on our continent with the guarantee that no nuclear weapons will be used against them.

—Let us campaign together for the staging of the meeting on European security and cooperation in Madrid in 1980; let us pursue our goal for further progress on the realisation of all agreements of the Helsinki Final Act by all states, above all to ensure the consolidation of political detente through military detente.

—Let us work together for the convocation of a European conference in Warsaw on military detente and disarmament on our continent.

—Let us demand together the practical realisation of the agreements made at the

United Nations Special Session on disarmament.

—Let us campaign together for the use of the resources thereby released for the requirements of further growth and for the struggle against hunger. This is in line with the wishes of the non-aligned states and with the interests of the whole of mankind. Indeed, the struggle for disarmament is today a task of the utmost urgency. When it is a matter of peace and disarmament we, Communists of all European countries, are prepared for any dialogue, any negotiations and joint actions of whatever nature. We want to unite all peace-loving forces for this purpose. Whatever our nationality and way of life, and whatever our conviction, we say to all—Communists, Socialists, Social Democrats, Christians and representatives of other creeds: "Peace is our joint possession." From this meeting we declare our readiness to strive for the realisation of an open initiative which will enable a meeting and dialogue on the broadest basis.

We are prepared to hold consultations and an exchange of opinions, on terms acceptable to everyone, with all forces in Europe who are determined to act in the spirit of Helsinki and with regard to the Madrid meeting for detente and the reduction of arms on our continent.

Men and women of goodwill: let us act together in each country and in the whole of Europe. In unity, the cause of progress, happiness and peace will be victorious.

Paris, April 29, 1980

(Translated by GDR Review)

TRUE TO THE HISTORICAL PLEDGE

We owe it to the dead!



BRANDENBURG-GÖRDEN. One of the most feared prisons was here. Here 1,798 anti-fascists, patriots from nineteen European countries, died under the guillotine of the barbaric nazi regime and many of Hitler's opponents languished in the cells for years—until that memorable day on April 27, 1945 when Soviet tanks rolled up to the prison gates bringing liberty.

Thirty-five years afterwards, 90,000 people, citizens of the anti-fascist German state which has taken up the peace testament made by the fighters at that time, have come to the Marienberg Hill in the thousand-year-old town of Brandenburg to commemorate the fallen. Among them were Erich Honecker, who himself spent eight

years of his life behind the walls of this prison and today heads the German workers' and farmers' state, and many others who served time here in those dark years.

But not only the dead were commemorated, the living, too, and those yet to be born.

In his address Erich Honecker said: "When bowing our heads in respect to those from nineteen European countries who died under the guillotine of the fascist executioners in Brandenburg-Görden prison, we are at the same time renewing our determination to continue the struggle for a world of peace and justice. With their unscrupulous policies the aggressive forces of imperialism, especially in the USA, are

striving to effect a shift from detente to confrontation and as a result have considerably aggravated the world situation. Behind all this is their aim for economic and military spheres of influence with which they intend to tip the international balance of forces in their favour. With NATO's massive arms build-up and the Brussels missiles decision, with their boycott campaign and use of blackmail and force against independent countries, they are threatening, in the final analysis, to put in question everything that has been achieved up to now on the road to peaceful co-existence. It—and we pledge this on this spot, too—must never come to that!"

Likewise, 30,000 participants in a rally

We owe it to the living!



on the grounds of the former Sachsenhausen concentration camp near Oranienburg had gathered a week earlier on the thirty-fifth anniversary of the day when the hour of liberty struck for the thousands of resistance fighters from many countries imprisoned there. The scene was extremely moving: Frenchmen, Poles and many others, dressed once more in their striped prisoner's clothing as if for a new roll call, lowered their flags in commemoration of the hundreds of thousands murdered here and renewed their old pledge. Former Sachsenhausen prisoner Horst Sindermann, president of the GDR People's Chamber, addressed the crowd. He hailed the Soviet liberators "who gave the fascist hydra its death blow and the peoples of Europe their freedom and new courage for a life in peace". His greetings applied to all "who in the thirty-five years since their liberation have devoutly upheld the pledge of the former prisoners and passed on the great idea of fraternity and solidarity".

Horst Sindermann reminded his listeners that German fascism had begun with an endless stream of anti-Communist smear campaigns at home and had attempted to justify its terrible war of aggression with an equally endless stream of anti-Soviet propaganda. "Are the main imperialist powers of today aware of the fact that their hysterical anti-Soviet campaigns stem from the propaganda ministry of Hitlerite fascism?" In

view of the new dangers to peace brought about by pressure from Washington the speaker stated: "We anti-fascist resistance fighters have a right to demand reason and a sense of reality from the governments of the NATO states!"

Charles Desirat from France, president of the International Sachsenhausen Committee, then spoke. He condemned the dangerous stepping up of the arms race, endorsed all measures for the limitation and reduction of nuclear and conventional arms and supported the decision by the USSR government to unilaterally cut back Soviet weapons and troops stationed in the GDR.

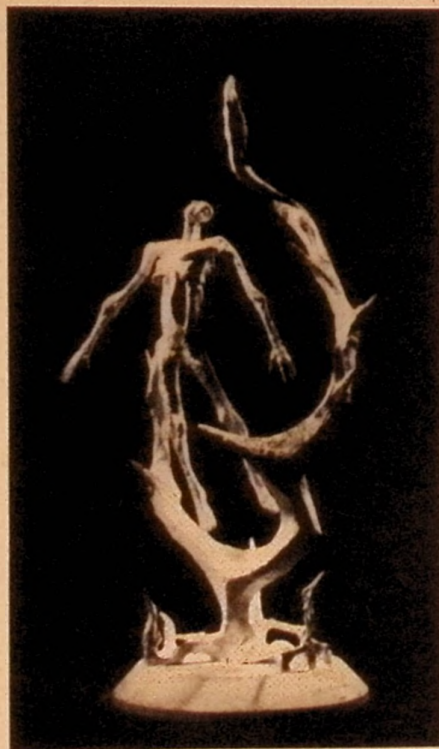
"Here, at the place of our sufferings and struggles, we would like to thank the government and people of the GDR for organising this great rally of remembrance and hope. We thank them for erecting this memorial and museum which will bear witness to us long after we have ceased to exist. We thank them for bringing up a magnificent youth in the spirit of progress, peace and international friendship as well as their clear-cut attitude against all fascist and other war threats."

The dreaded Buchenwald concentration camp near Weimar was also the site of an impressive anti-fascist rally, thirty-five years after the thousands of prisoners overcame their SS guards. Former prisoner at this camp Hermann Axen, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the

SED, proclaimed before 40,000 participants at the rally: "The bell at Buchenwald rings out the warning again and again: 'Those who want freedom must restrain the enemies of freedom!' Powerful action by the peoples is needed to stop in time the realisation of the Brussels missiles plans and all further material and psychological preparations for war... We will—true to the Buchenwald pledge—not spare our strength and energy to play our part in creating a world of peace and freedom, a world in which the real human rights prevail, the right to life, to work, to equality and fraternity! We owe it to the dead! We owe it to the living!"

Dedicated to the French victims

On the occasion of the thirty-fifth anniversary of the liberation of Sachsenhausen concentration camp near Oranienburg the French Sachsenhausen Association presented the museum of the former Nazi camp with a model of the Memorial for the *Résistance* fighters murdered there. The Memorial itself stands in Père Lachaise Cemetery in Paris (our photo). Pierre Guffaut, deputy general secretary of the French Sachsenhausen Association and member of the national executive of the France-GDR Society granted our correspondent, Joachim Neumann, an interview.



Joachim Neumann: *Monsieur Guffaut, when and under what circumstances were you a prisoner in Sachsenhausen?*

Pierre Guffaut: Before the war I was a member of the Communist Youth Union, just like other members of the family. Immediately after the fascists had marched into France—that was on June 13, 1940—we again had contact with comrades and friends in the capital. You know, of course, that many were prisoners-of-war in Germany at that time. Many were still on the roads as refugees—the exodus as we called it. We were members of the *Résistance* from the very beginning and as such were hunted down by the French police who at that time were serving the Gestapo. We were arrested in 1942. In December 1942 I was in Fresnes Prison and on January 21 or 22, 1943 I was sent to Compiègne, the collecting point for deportation to the concentration camps in Germany. Our transport reached Sachsenhausen concentration camp in Oranienburg on January 23 or 24. Thus I was in one of the first French groups to arrive in the camp. On May 2, 1945 I and thousands of my comrades

Rally in the form: death camp at Sachsenhausen thirty-five years after liberation by the Soviet Army. View of the tribune and the memorial.

*Photos: Karl-Heinz Böhle, Zentralbild/
Franke (2), private*

Their testament, too, is honoured and fulfilled in the GDR: French comrades—former prisoners in Sachsenhausen—among the thousands of people from the GDR.



were liberated by the Soviet Army while we were marching along the "Road of Death" from Oranienburg to Schwerin.

Now your Association has sent the model of the Memorial at Père Lachaise Cemetery to Sachsenhausen. When was the Memorial itself unveiled?

That was in 1971. It is the work of the sculptor Leducq. We were in possession of the model from which it was made and somebody came up with the idea that Sachsenhausen would be the best place for it. And now it has found its place—with the help of the GDR Embassy in France—in the French Hall, the first hall of the Sachsenhausen Museum.

The Memorial depicts the barbed wire and a deportee who has been reduced to a skeleton but whose features are marked by hope. It is not a deportee waiting for death, on the contrary, one whose whole bearing radiates hope, the certainty that life, and liberation, will prevail. In a certain sense this is the spirit of our Association and this is the impression the sculptor wanted to create. It was for this reason that all our comrades approved of the work.

IN April Dr. Günter Mittag (second from left), member of the Political Bureau of the SED's Central Committee and member of the State Council of the GDR, visited the FRG's most important trade fair at Hanover. He made the visit at the invitation of Otto Graf Lambsdorff, the Federal Minister of the Economy, and Claus Groth, chairman of the German Trade Fair and Exhibitions Company. During a meeting with Minister Lambsdorff, Dr. Mittag stated that, building upon what has already been achieved, the GDR is prepared to make a constructive contribution to trade, including that between the GDR and the FRG, in the spirit of peaceful coexistence.

During his visit Dr. Mittag met representatives of leading FRG industrial concerns and also Federal Chancellor Helmut Schmidt (right) for talks. Questions of the present international situation and of the relations between the GDR and the FRG were discussed. Speaking at a press conference at the close of his visit Dr. Mittag said that the most important subjects discussed at the many meetings were the maintenance of peace, and disarmament on the basis of equal security.

Photos: ZB/Murza



FOLLOWING an invitation extended by the GDR's International Friendship League a group of Islam dignitaries headed by the Grand Mufti of the Syrian Arab Republic, Sheikh Ahmed Kaftarou (centre), visited the GDR last April. It was the visitors' intention to strengthen the friendly relations between the peoples of our two countries as well as to see how the people democratically cooperate in the building up of socialist society.

At the Humboldt University in Berlin, where they were welcomed by Professor Heinrich Fink (left), director of the Theological Department, the visitors informed themselves about the training of students of theology in the GDR.

During their stay in the GDR the visitors from the Syrian Arab Republic studied the development of socialist law as well as the democratic character of law in the GDR. They also toured the County of Suhl where, among other places, they viewed a nationally-owned factory and looked around the spa of Oberhof.

Photo: ZB/Franke



The Thirty-fifth Anniversary of the GDR's Confederation of Free German Trade Unions (FDGB)

By Dr. Johanna Töpfer, Deputy Chairman of the FDGB's National Executive

IN June 1980 the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions (FDGB), the GDR's unified trade union organisation, can look back on thirty-five years of existence. Shortly after the liberation of the German people from the Hitlerite dictatorship through the Soviet Army and its allies, representatives of all former trade unions set to work on building up their organisations abolished when the fascists took over power in 1933.

A statement published prior to the founding of the trade unions on June 15, 1945 urged that lessons be drawn from the past to ensure the provision of a peaceful future for the people. It also specified the basic nature and main tasks of the future trade unions. The essential lesson to be learnt from the history of the working-class and trade-union movement was that the strength of the working class lay in its unity. The unity of trade unions became an effective foundation for the political unity of the working class, which took effect with the merging of the Communist Party of Germany and the Social Democratic Party of Germany in 1946 to form the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED).

In the period of its foundation and the following years, defining the political status of the FDGB was of major importance for its future role. Should the new trade unions become "neutral" once more and restrict themselves to the economic struggle or should they make a resolute stand as a class organisation and become a political force with an active role in social development? Once again, historical experience provided the answer. In order to prevent a recurrence of the catastrophes of two world wars, economic crises and fascism, it was necessary to crush once and for all the strength of German imperialism which had instigated them and to effect a fundamental turning-point in history. With the aid of the trade unions, the working masses acquired the necessary political skills for assuming the leading role in the process of social transformation. That the trade unions based their philosophical outlook on Marxism-Leninism in this process and became the allies of the revolutionary party, the SED, is clearly a logical consequence of their declared wish to direct all trade union efforts towards the goal of socialism.

Critics of the FDGB who accuse it of being a "state trade union" are, therefore, distorting the truth. It is not the socialist state which created the FDGB, rather it is the working class, the great majority of whom are organised in the FDGB, who

created their socialist state in 1949, four years after the founding of the trade unions. This greatest of all political achievements of the working class was the outcome of a hard class struggle against its enemies, against the enemies of democracy and of socialism.

In this struggle the trade unions provided valuable and indispensable support. The socialist state in turn became the most important instrument of the working class in achieving the necessary socio-economic structural transformation: the transition to socialist ownership of the means of production and the creation of socialist relations of production. This signified the fulfilment of the basic demands of revolutionary trade unions.

This new relationship between the trade unions and the state is reflected in the GDR's constitution. For the first time ever, the constitution of a German state guarantees the trade unions not simply co-determination, but also the right to exercise power at all levels, ranging from the enterprise to the People's Chamber, the people's highest body of representation, in which the FDGB has the right to introduce legislation.

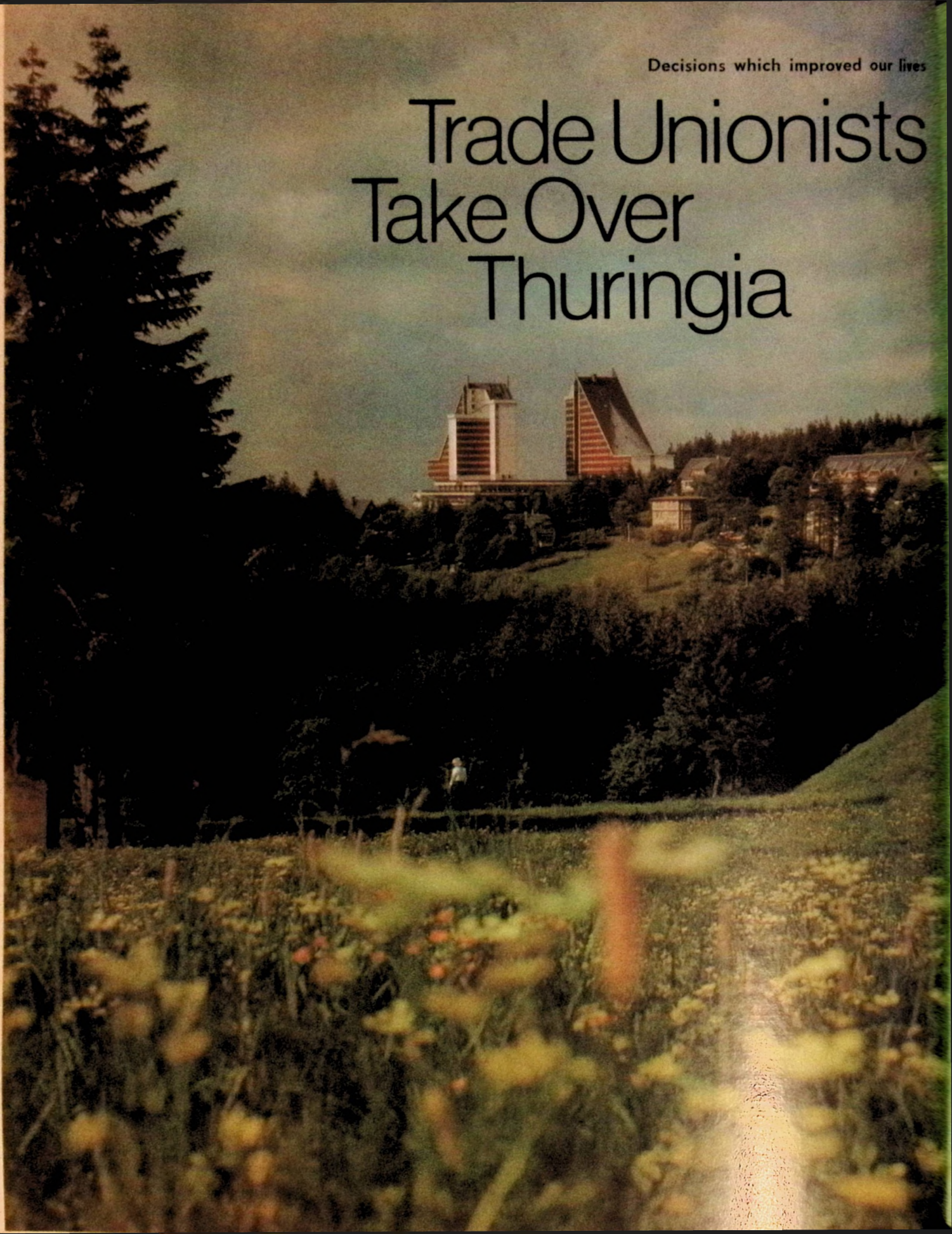
As a result of its extensive politico-ideological and cultural work among the masses, the FDGB has contributed substantially to the political maturity and education of the working class. Alongside the FDGB's formative and educational activities, the trade unions can look back on three and a half decades of tenacious efforts aimed at steadily improving the people's working and living conditions. Thus, for example, considerable sections of the republic's social-welfare programme are implemented by the social insurance service which is administered by the trade unions, and also by the FDGB's Holiday Service. This important aspect of trade union work has been, and will always remain, a unified process of cause and consequence, of action and result. It reflects the simple truth that one can only benefit from something that one has already achieved by working for it. For this reason, the FDGB mobilises its members to participate in the socialist emulation contest and to achieve a high level of productivity, which benefits the producer in socialism, the worker himself.

There is no unemployment or enforced short-time work in the GDR. No-one is anxious about his job, a harmonious working atmosphere prevails in enterprises and social stability is enjoyed by everyone. Progress has been particularly notable since the Eighth and Ninth Congresses of the SED which specified that policies would, in the first instance, be directed towards the further improvement of the material and cultural standard of living of the people on the foundation of a high rate of development of socialist production. As a result, the qualitative influence of the trade unions has increased in all spheres of life. Thus everything touching on the working and living standards of the people is the concern of the trade unions. In the factories no question, from the planning of rationalisation measures to the introduction of welfare facilities, is decided on without the trade union organisation of the enterprise.

Finally the international activity of the FDGB has also contributed to its favourable record. Owing to the progressive nature of its charter, it became a member of the World Federation of Trade Unions as early as 1949. Today the FDGB maintains friendly relations with over one hundred national trade union organisations in ninety countries throughout the world. International class solidarity of trade union members with all revolutionary and anti-imperialist forces is highly developed and has earned the FDGB great respect among workers in many countries. The FDGB is interested in practical cooperation with all trade unions that support peace and detente.

Decisions which improved our lives

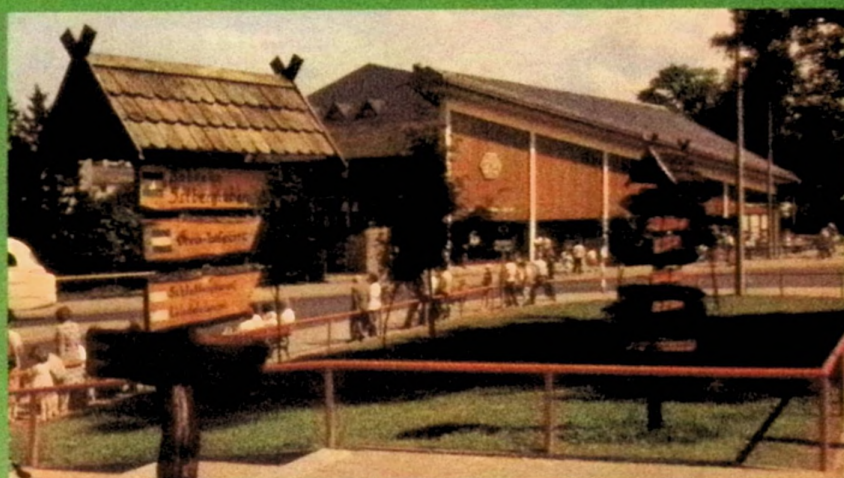
Trade Unionists Take Over Thuringia





"This is an ideal area for a holiday..." is a thought which occurs to many who travel through the attractive Thuringian Uplands and appreciate the beauty of the dense forests. It is a landscape which invites relaxation and recreation. The same opinion was reached by the relevant officials in Berlin, the capital of the GDR, some years ago when they decided to develop the Thuringian Forest in the south of the GDR into a major region for recreational use.

Much has been done in the meantime to realise these plans. The trade union organisation has been particularly involved in establishing attractive holiday homes in the region, a few of which will be examined in this article.



Oberhol with its new holiday homes and the "Panorama" Interhotel is the best-known resort in the Thuringian Forest (above and photo on previous page). The "Fuhrmannsstube" is a much frequented rustic restaurant at the holiday home in Finsterbergen (top left). During their holiday many people enjoy going in for sports. The "Kaluga" trade-union home in Schnett offers plenty of opportunities for this. Apart from the sauna, the swimming pool is also a great attraction.

LOCATED high up in the hills, the "Wilhelm Pieck" trade union holiday home constitutes a new dominant in the landscape around Finsterbergen. Since it was opened on January 14, 1976 and named after the first president of our country, the holiday home's 123 rooms have been fully booked. This modern building provides excellent recreational facilities the whole year round.

As we walked through the building we met the Heizeröder family from Wittenberg. Herr Heizeröder was a skilled worker in a rubber factory and his wife was a postwoman. The accommodation for them and their five children, Christiane (13), Anett (11), Thomas (9), Antje (7) and Marco (3), consisted of one of the twelve special apartments for large families.

Up until a few years ago it was scarcely possible to spend a holiday with five children in such a home. However, these newer holiday homes reserve a certain number of places for families with three or more children. In 1979 there were 86,000 such places available in the GDR as a whole. Recognising the problems encountered by families with several children, our state annually provides about 140 million Marks for the provision of services, free children's meals in creches, kindergartens and schools, recreational schemes in the school holidays and cultural events—and also ensures that each year more and more large families are able to go away on holiday together. In nearby Eigersburg, for example, the former mansion is now a trade union holiday home catering predominantly for families with several children.

Walking in the morning—dancing in the evening

In the "Wilhelm Pieck" holiday home a staff of one hundred cater for the guests' welfare. During the guests' thirteen-day stay a varied programme of cultural and sporting activities provides something for every taste: a fashion show, concert, slide lecture, wine-tasting evening, festive evening in a mountain cabin, readings of fairy tales for young guests, hikes, shooting with air-rifles, card-playing tournaments and many other items.

Kurt Hoffmann, the director of this holiday home, told us that in the summer season they cater not only for the 340 house guests but also for a further 500 holiday-makers living in private accommodation provided by the friendly people of Finsterbergen. In addition to guests from all parts of the GDR, the holiday home also welcomes French guests each year.

The spa authority and local district assembly in Finsterbergen are likewise con-



cerned with the provision of improved living conditions and recreational facilities for both tourists and local residents. The results of these efforts are visible in the sports ground, bowling alley, small cultural centre, the ski jump for young people, the doctor's practice and the mains water supply. The younger residents maintain forty-five kilometres of paths and tracks in the neighbourhood of Finsterbergen, which is now a fine place for relaxation and recreation for 30,000 holiday-makers annually—even if there is sometimes no snow in winter nor sunshine in summer.

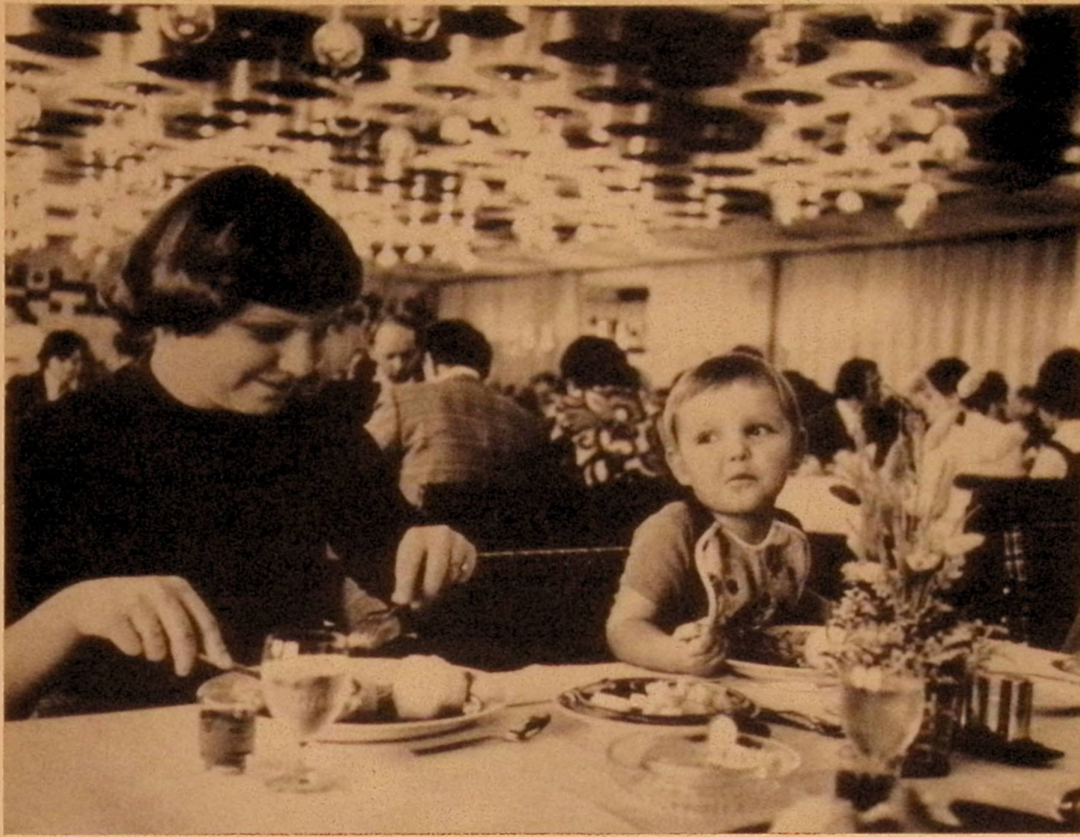
Caring for people

Finsterbergen is typical of many holiday centres in the Thuringian Forest. According to the statistics, one third of GDR holiday-makers visit the Thuringian uplands, although not all of them are accommodated in a trade union holiday home.

When the national executive of the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions (FDGB) decided in March 1947 to establish its own holiday service, it was pleased to be able to set up just one home with seventy-five beds in Thuringia. At that time there were only ten FDGB homes and a few houses rented by the trade unions in the whole of the country. Similarly food-ration cards, bed-linen and cutlery were normal items in the guests' luggage. In

1952 the first new holiday home in Thuringia was built in Friedrichroda; today, this small town of 6,000 inhabitants in the forest annually caters for 72,000 holiday-makers and ranks second as a holiday resort in the GDR after Kühlungsborn on the Baltic coast. With 1,778 places in eight homes the FDGB holiday service occupies pride of place in Friedrichroda among the other categories of holiday accommodation, which include houses booked through the travel bureau, enterprise holiday homes, private accommodation, homes for workers in service trades and property owned by the church. A further FDGB holiday home is nearing completion.

Since its founding in 1947, therefore, the FDGB holiday service has made qualitative as well as quantitative progress both in Thuringia and in other tourist areas. The reader may well ask why the trade union organisation assumes such heavy responsibilities for providing holidays. The right to recreation is firmly anchored in the Constitution of the GDR and who better to realise this right to the full than the largest mass organisation in the country? A right can only be exercised when the appropriate conditions have been created. Working in co-ordination with the state, the FDGB provides the material requirements and administers organisational matters, as well as regulating prices. As at the outset, prices are still very low.



The new holiday home at Feirenbach is situated on the slopes above the village. During the summer months the bungalows, which are attached to this home, offer their guests a pleasant stay (opposite page). At the "Wilhelm Pieck" trade union home in Finsterbergen there is a choice of six dishes at midday. Trade union members pay, according to their income, on average only 32 per cent of the actual costs for a holiday place. Children under 16 generally pay 30 Marks, this does not even account for 15 per cent of the costs. The FDGB spends 35 per cent of its total expenditure on holidays and recreation.

Photos: Siegfried Thienel (7),
Renate Schlegel (3)



Three holiday villages and 51 new holiday homes have been built since 1971. One of these is the "Kaluga" home at Schnell. Last year a total of 4.4 million holiday places were available in the GDR, of which 1.8 million were allocated by the trade union's and 2.8 million by the factories' holiday services.

A new trade union holiday home which is already altering the look of Friedrichroda will be inaugurated this year.

Of course, a holiday organisation of this kind requires substantial resources and adequate finance. Understandably, in the immediate post-war years the finance and constructional capacity needed was inadequate. However, the unity of economic and social policies in a socialist state is expressed through the fact that increasingly high performances in the nationally-owned sector of the economy bring increasingly direct benefits for the working population and, thereby, for each individual citizen.

Rising aspirations

Over the last thirty-five years the citizens of the GDR have acquired increasingly longer periods of leisure and holiday time. That also means more time for satisfying cultural needs, for education and for encouraging personal intellectual development. Unmistakably, recreation, sporting activities, hiking, cultural visits and taking an interest in the history of one's home area have today become an integral part of family life. This also helps to explain the demand for holiday places.

Of course, this positive development has not entirely been free of problems. Although the modern holiday homes remain open throughout the year, demand for places far exceeds supply, since every trade union member has, from time to time, the right to a place in an FDGB home. Thanks to the progress made in the agricultural cooperatives, the GDR's farmers also today enjoy the right to go away on holiday. The trade union holiday commissions in the enterprises are fully aware of the responsibility for ensuring an equitable distribution of holiday places, so that everyone is considered in turn. They make sure that special consideration is given to those working under difficult conditions or on shift work and to parents with large families.

Those who are not allocated places in a holiday home run by the trade union or their enterprise need not be too disappointed, since a range of other possibilities for holidays exists. The GDR Travel Agency, for example, offers holiday places both within the GDR and abroad and camping is growing in popularity annually. Holiday exchanges between partner enterprises in various socialist countries is increasing and "Jugendtourist" organises economical and attractive holidays for young people.

Continued on page 64





Kaleidoscope



Tractors for Mozambique

TRACTORS from the GDR arrived at the harbour of Maputo, the capital of Mozambique. They will be employed on the fields of state farms and cooperatives as well as in road construction and forestry. The manufacturers at Schönebeck near Magdeburg also train the necessary maintenance personnel from Mozambique.



New in surgery

THE introduction of a newly-developed laser scalpel is at present being prepared at the surgical clinic of the Charité Hospital in Berlin. Our photo shows lecturer Dr. Lindenau, who is head of the research group, during an experiment. The scalpel will be used for various kinds of operations. The bundled ray of light cuts the tissue and immediately closes the blood vessels thus preventing germ transmission.



Photos on the Kaleidoscope pages:
ADN-ZB (8), ND/Meister (3)
Editorial work: Brigitte Thal

Information In Brief . . .

Adults At School

EVERY fourth working man and woman in the GDR takes either a short or long-term adult course of further qualification. Both state educational institutions and nationally-owned enterprises participate in the many possible forms that these courses take. The vocational training of adults as skilled workers, work brigade leaders and foremen takes place in the educational institutions of factories, combines and agricultural cooperatives, which are designated as factory academies. There are about a thousand of these in our country. In addition there are 420 factory schools functioning as smaller bodies of further education which, apart from providing courses for adults, are also responsible for polytechnical instruction at the secondary schools and the training of apprentices.

Opportunities for deepening and furthering general education exist at 220 adult evening schools and 900 cultural and club houses, where everyone can take courses in their spare time for a small fee, or also study if they are delegated from their workplace and obtain paid release during working hours. Participants can acquire a secondary school leaving certificate, university entrance qualifications, attend language courses leading to a state recognised certificate of competence or take courses in other subject areas. Each year the evening schools publish a comprehensive prospectus of subjects and timetables ranging from mathematics to art history, stenography and philosophy.

It is also possible for people who have already been working for a number of years to qualify for college or university. First of all they attend a preparatory course and can then either take up a correspondence course or an evening course. In these cases, those interested are delegated by their work-places.

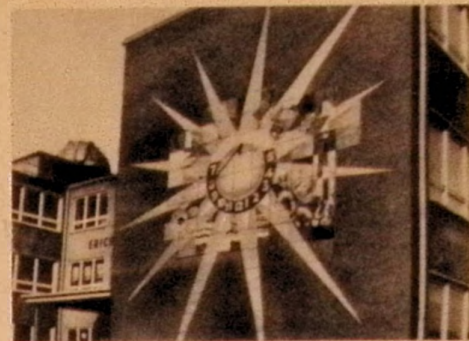
Those workers who have proved their worth in practice over a long period of time and who had few educational opportunities in their youth or for persons reasons did not take advantage of the possibilities within the GDR's education system receive special support for further study. Women with children enjoy particular privileges—for them there are special women's classes, most of them leading to qualification as a skilled worker.

Even if for today's young generation in the GDR the completion of school studies at a ten-form polytechnical secondary school is the norm and a high general education the rule, adult courses as part of the whole educational system have lost none of their significance.



Star-gazers on a school roof

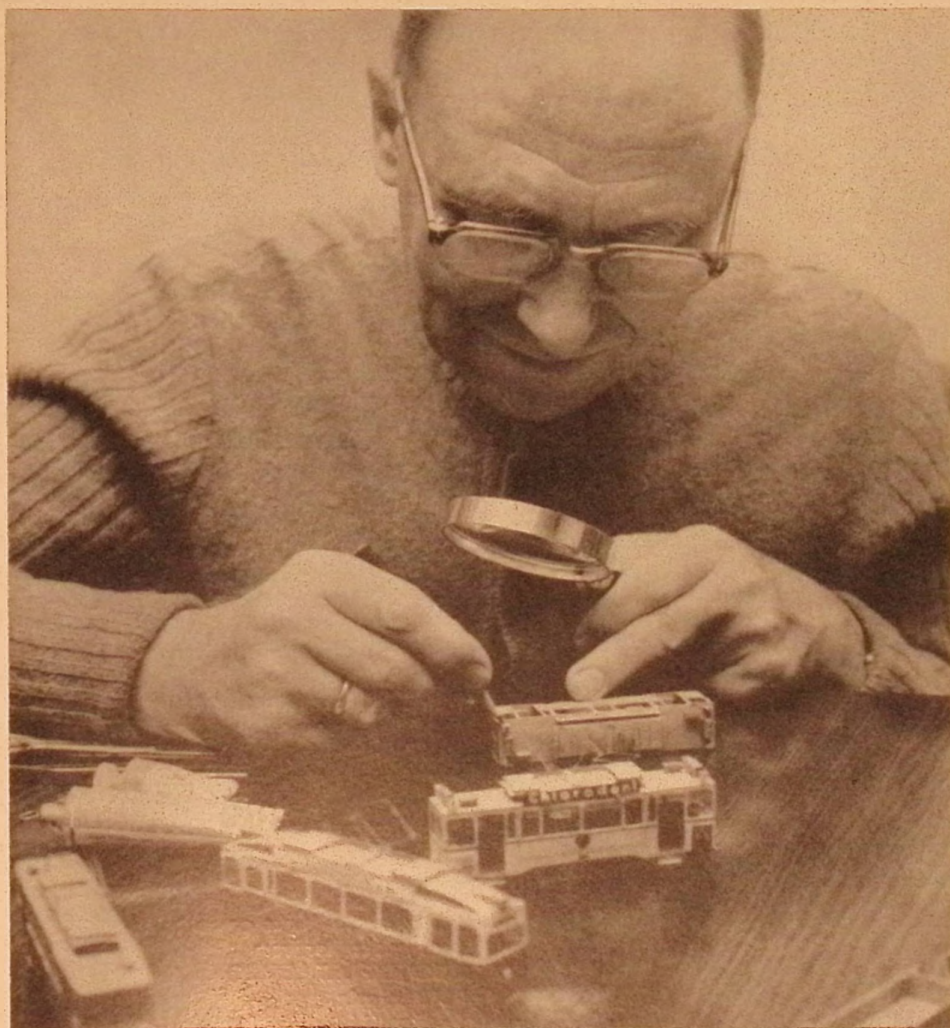
The mosaic sun-dial visible from afar, and the observation cupola on the roof of the Erich Weinert Secondary School in Bad Klosterlausnitz, Gera County, show that astronomy is very popular there. For four years now the girls and boys of the Astronomy and Space Travel circle have been studying the universe and the technical achievements permitting space exploration. By good weather they observe the moon and stars, otherwise they concern themselves with theoretical questions. The observation facility is also used by two neighbouring schools during astronomy lessons given to 10th-form students, by people attending evening-school courses, by pensioners and holiday-makers.



A Passionate Modeller

FOR more than forty years Albrecht Kuhtz, a passionate modeller, has been making exact reproductions of trams and omnibuses of the past and present from his native town of Rostock. The sixty-five-year-old teacher of mathematics and methodology at the "Liselotte Hermann" College of Education in Güstrow already has 980 models in his collection. He recalls: "At the time I was completely undecided as to whether to become a teacher, like my father, or whether to take up a career in the transport system, to which I was strongly attracted." He finally became a teacher and transport remained a hobby.

Albrecht Kuhtz has already twice had the opportunity of exhibiting a part of his collection of vehicles made out of drawing-paper. Now he has a new goal in mind, for the Rostock Transport Corporation will be celebrating a hundred years of existence in 1981. Albrecht Kuhtz is preparing a special exhibition for this anniversary.



Kaleidoscope



New production by the Comic Opera Company

The premiere of the full production of Alan Berg's opera *Lulu* took place at Berlin's Comic Opera House at the beginning of this year. Based on the tragedies *Erdegeist* and *Büchse der Pandora* by Frank Wedekind, the opera was put on the stage by Joachim Herz, the intendant of the theatre. Joachim Willbert was responsible for the musical direction. Ursula Reinhardt-Kiss from the FRG sung the title-role and Johannes Bier the Marquis.



New Books on the Market

We should like to draw your attention to three books recently published by Hinstorff Verlag in Rostock. In a volume of short stories entitled *Der Lügner und die Bombe* (The Liar and the Bomb) Egon Richter tells of respectable people who have reached a point in their development which they cannot surmount without mustering all their energy. The author's subtitle for this book of imaginative stories reads: "Four untypical love stories for men." The second book is by Franz Fühmann, one of the GDR's most successful writers. It is a collection of already known works with a strong autobiographical element representing the author well. Its title—*Das Judenauto—Kabelkran und Blauer Peter—22 Tage oder die Hälfte des Lebens*. Another book in the series *Deutschsprachige Literatur in Längsschnitten* (A Longitudinal Section of German-Language Literature) has appeared under the title *Lebensdaten* (Data of Life). It contains autobiographical texts by eminent writers such as Gerhart Hauptmann, Egon Erwin Kisch, Hermann Hesse, Friedrich Wolf, Thomas and Heinrich Mann and others.

The Eulenspiegel Verlag in Berlin has

Rainer Lindow



Unterm HUT in der
SONNE oder
Das neue BUCH
Nickel

ROMAN

issued Rainer Lindow's first book—a realistic and cheerful novel entitled *Unterm Hut in der Sonne oder Das neue Buch Nickel* (Under a Hat in the Sun or The New Book Nickel). Modelled on the form of the novel *Abenteuerlicher Simplizissimus* from the Renaissance, the narrative describes the adventures of a man who begins to live after returning from the Second World War.

Among the new publications are *Die Thomaner* (Union Verlag), a portrayal of Leipzig's world-famous boys' choir; *Kunstland DDR* (Seemann Verlag), a comprehensive pictorial volume about art treasures and monuments in our republic; *30 von drei Millionen* (Sport Verlag), a survey of popular top-ranking athletes. The Henschelverlag has issued the third volume of Jerzy Toeplitz's *Geschichte des Films* (A History of Film). An anthology of prose, poems and reproductions of paintings has been published by the Mitteldeutscher Verlag under the title *Basar am Roten Turm* (Bazaar at the Red Tower). The text is by Erik Neutsch, Werner Steinberg, Manfred Jendryschik and others; the reproduced paintings are by Willi Sitte, Dister Rex, Karl-Erich Müller, Gerhard Lichtenfeld etc. N.L.

The above books are obtainable through your bookseller from
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The history of salt-making

Our photo shows the Salt Museum in Halle. To save the history of salt-making from oblivion, the museum was opened in 1969 at a former salt-works consisting of two old buildings classified as historical monuments. In one of them, a fine timber-framed house called the "Clock-House", the visitors learn about the more than 3,000-year history of salt-making in Halle and its environs, acquainting themselves with the salt-makers' customs and habits preserved throughout the centuries until the present day. In the other building near by, one can see the various methods of salt-making illustrated by different instruments, models, pictures and diagrams. A particular attraction is a big salt-pan which is still in operation.



A gem in a Berlin museum

This altar-piece of oak with ingenious wood-carving was made at the beginning of the 16th century in Antwerp. Today it is one of the exhibits at Berlin's Bode Museum which attract a large number of visitors.



Introducing:

A Treasure-House on 400,000 Negatives

THE *Deutsche Fotothek Dresden* in the GDR has an immense collection of irreplaceable photographic material consisting of 400,000 negatives which are lent out to publishing houses and academic institutions for their multi-purpose use. This photographic treasure-house is unique in Europe. In 1978 alone the *Fotothek* had over 5,000 users of whom 200 came from abroad, the latter being mainly interested in pictures of works of art from collections and museums in the GDR as well as historical pictures of Dresden.

Many of the 400,000 negatives are of great historical value because of their very uniqueness. Among them are photographic records of art treasures from Dresden museums, including numerous valuable paintings which were destroyed in the Second World War as a result of the Anglo-American bombing raid.

The photographs are not only used at home and abroad for book illustrations, calendars and record covers; they have also played an important part, for example, in the present reconstruction of the *Semper Opera House* in Dresden. The photographic records have provided the restorers with an invaluable source in their complicated work, thus enabling the stonemasons and painters to make exact reproductions of the original.

Kaleidoscope



Calendar Page of the Month

Professor Martin Lehnert (70)
an Anglicist and president of the German
Shakespeare Society

BORN on June 20, 1910, in Berlin, this GDR scholar and professor of English philology has been president of the Shakespeare Society, the oldest literary society on German soil, since 1963. The Society was founded in 1864. Professor Lehnert worked at Ernst Moritz Arndt University in Greifswald and at Berlin's Humboldt University. Since 1961 he has been a member of the GDR's Academy of Sciences. His major works include *Altenglisches Elementarbuch* (Basic Old English) which appeared in 1939, an English textbook (1947), *Poetry and Prose of the Anglo-Saxons' Texts* (1955) and *Englischer Grundwortschatz* (Basic English Vocabulary) published in 1971. Professor Lehnert has also made his mark as



co-editor of a magazine for anglistics and americanistics. In the Shakespeare Society he is concerned with cultivating the works of the great English playwright and, above all, with relating literary and dramatic studies of Shakespeare's plays more closely to the stage. In Professor Lehnert's words, his work in the Society "has received an unthought-of impetus under the auspices of our state which has always promoted science and the arts." Professor Martin Lehnert has been awarded the Patriotic Order of Merit and the National Prize of the GDR.

Personalities

Friedo Solter, actor and producer

from the German Theatre in Berlin (GDR) achieved a great success with his production of *Electra* by Sophocles at the municipal theatre in Bonn (FRG). He shared his triumph with his GDR colleagues: dramatic advisor Hans Nadolny, composer Reiner Bredemeyer and stage designer Lothar Scharfich.

Friedrich W. Hinkel, architect,

recently discovered the more than 2,000-year-old construction plan of a pyramid at the largest pyramid in Begrawiya (Northern Sudan). The draw-

ing, which is 160 cms high, consists of a diagram of scratched horizontal and vertical lines and also indicates the gradient. The pyramid's upper platform is depicted as well.

Friedrich Hinkel wrote that the discovery was possible thanks to a favourable incidence of light and underlined the fact that with the help of this plan it will be possible to answer questions on the drawing of architectural plans. It will also allow conclusions to be made with regard to proportions, angle of inclination and measuring units in the construction of pyramids. It is still not known whether such drawings of the Egyptian pyramids exist.

Active solidarity in the educational sphere

AT the invitation of the Solidarity Committee of the GDR, approximately 750 members of liberation movements from southern Africa, the Middle East and Latin America are at present taking courses of further education at colleges and universities in our republic. They are preparing to employ the knowledge and skills gained in the GDR for the benefit of their peoples in their native countries.

The GDR is providing practical support for the educational systems of thirteen countries on the African continent. At the moment 200 experienced GDR teachers are operating in these countries in accordance with inter-state agreements. They are mainly involved in the further training of teachers, giving advice on the organisation of syllabuses and teaching aids and passing on their experiences for the construction of a national educational system.



A Look In The Pot

Stuffed Cucumber

2 to 4 fleshy cucumbers, 200 g minced meat, 50 g white bread, 1 egg, 1 small onion, salt, pepper, frying fat, ¼ litre stock.

Peel the cucumbers, cut lengthwise along the centre and remove the seeds. Mix the minced meat with the egg, finely sliced onion and soaked bread from which the water has been well squeezed; season with pepper and salt. Fill this mass into the cucumber halves and bind these together. Sear in fat, add hot stock and braise until the cucumbers take on a glassy appearance. When done add flour to thicken sauce if desired.

Serve with boiled potatoes.

"Jobkiller"

A

foreign word

IT WAS in 1974. In one of the north European countries trade unionists in a large industrial town had invited me—a journalist from the GDR—to a discussion evening. I was to say a few words about the economic and social-welfare policy of the GDR and then answer questions. I was well aware of the fact that I was "in another world" and tried to put myself in the place of my listeners, but I received a surprise nevertheless. After I had spoken for about ten minutes I was already on the subject of rationalisation and made the truthful statement that in the GDR, the state, the workers' party and also the trade unions are in full agreement on the implementation of rationalisation measures with the consequent reduction of the labour force. As I was speaking without notes I was able to see how the features of my hosts changed and I was able to read scepticism and rejection in them. Despite all my good resolutions I had made things too easy for myself and during the course of the discussion I experienced the extent to which this term, rationalisation, is, for the trade unionists of that country, linked with the Americanism "jobkiller", with the threat of unemployment, with wage cuts, that is to say with a drop in social status, with an uncertain future for workers, youth and people with an academic training.

In the meantime five years have passed. The "jobkillers" have developed enormously: they were years in which there was a powerful growth of micro-electronics, of computer technology, industrial robots and automation. The forecasts on the number of unemployed arrived at by well-known economic institutions in the capitalist countries seemed to be real enough.

But even today I must, and more insistently than five years ago, point out

that we in the GDR with the aid of micro-electronics, computer technology, industrial robots and other measures aim at improving the performance of our national economy and thus guaranteeing the continuation of our successful economic and social-welfare policy. And we do this without any "ifs and buts" and without the slightest doubt that this is the most beneficial way for all the working people. For this there are several sound reasons:

Firstly: Our labour force potential is limited and will, in the middle of the nineteen-eighties, be reduced as a result of the size of the various age-groups. It is, therefore, not a question of finding new work-places but the elimination of superfluous work-places so as to make it possible to fully man all industrial plants and also to commission the new plant logically needed in the interest of a healthy development of our national economy. Where, indeed, are the workers and engineers of these new factories to come from if not through the rationalisation of existing plant and factories?

Secondly: Rationalisation with the aid of modern technology is directed in the first place against those work-places, of which there are still far too many, that are characterised by heavy physical labour, by monotony and other factors having a detrimental effect on health. This means, then, that those workers who have been freed through rationalisation will be able to work under far better conditions in the future.

Thirdly: Not one production or office worker is threatened by unemployment, social instability or decline. Alone the fact that the means of production, that is the factories, plant, machines and so forth, are the property of the people makes it possible to plan rationalisation measures on

a long-term basis and to discuss and prepare them together with all the workers concerned. They themselves are the deciding force in the question of rationalisation.

Fourthly: Anybody who is to receive a new work-place as a result of rationalisation in the foreseeable future (in one, two or three years) is told of the fact in good time, can prepare her or himself and is given the opportunity to acquire the necessary qualifications for the new job at a factory or state educational institution. In most cases this alone ensures that the worker concerned has higher qualifications than previously and will thus suffer no financial loss. Should, however, problems with regard to work performance arise during the initial stage at the new work-place, the factory makes up the worker's wages.

Fifthly: In a socialist state all working people benefit from rationalisation because productivity rises steadily as does the divisible final product and thus, in the last instance, living standards. In the era of rising prices for raw materials, and they are certain to rise still further, socialist rationalisation is firmly embedded in the struggle for an increase in economic performance allowing the greatest satisfaction of the needs of the whole of the people using a minimum of raw and other materials and also the shortest possible working time.

In this way those newest advances in scientifico-technological progress which are known as "jobkillers" in some countries are, in our country, beneficial things serving the welfare of the people as a whole.

Günther Bobach



Marita Koch



ON THE ROAD TO MOSCOW



In 1979 she was nominated Best Sportswoman of the Year by a poll conducted by the International Sporting Press Association (AIPS)

In 1978 and 1979 she was named Athletics Personality of the Year by the US sports journal "Track and Field News"

In the same period she was twice Sportswoman of the Year in the GDR

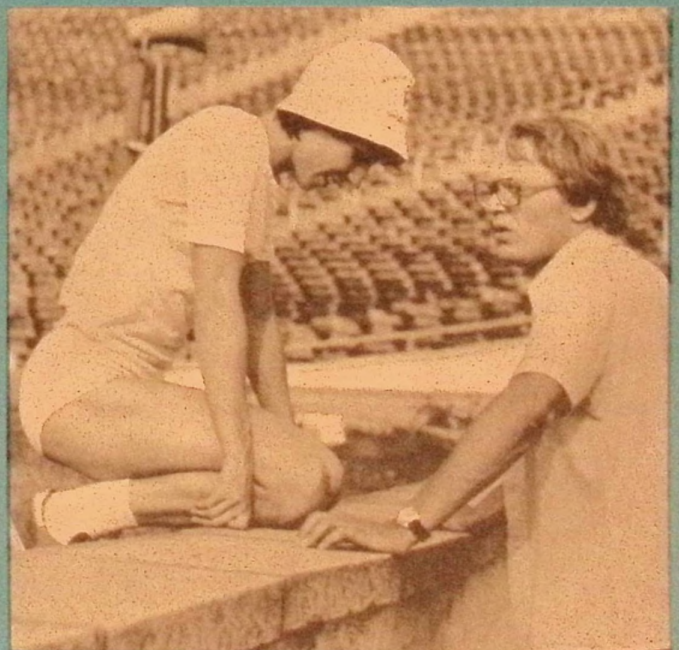
In 1978 and 1979 she improved the world records over 200 and 400 metres eight times altogether, which now stand at 21.71 and 48.60 seconds respectively.

She was a member of the GDR's 4 × 100 metre relay team which set a world record time of 42.09 seconds

She was twice European champion in 1978 in Prague

Who is the young woman with such an impressive sporting record?

They have an excellent understanding—Marita Koch and her coach Wolfgang Meier.



A FEW months after the Olympic Games in Melbourne, Marita Koch was born in the port of Wismar on February 18, 1957. She led a normal family life without anyone suspecting that she was anything out of the ordinary. Certainly, on looking back her mother, Gisela Koch, recalls: "Marita was more courageous and more of a daredevil than her elder brother Wolfgang. Like a whirlwind she would whizz across Wismar Market on her roller skates. Sport and biology were her favourite subjects at school..." Her father Hans Koch, an instructor of apprentices, still remembers how, at the age of five or six, she put on ice skates for the first time and then dashed off as if she had been practising all winter.

Sport, especially walking, swimming and ball games, was a part of the Koch family's everyday life. At school Marita liked gymnastics, she was nimble and not afraid. School competitions awakened her love for athletics.

A friend took her along to TSG Wismar sports club. But as the smallest and thinnest Marita did not really enjoy running seriously for a long time. Things did not change until, at the age of fourteen, trainer Wolfgang Meier arrived on the scene. In the meantime she had also grown ten centimetres taller. She had her first successes and in 1972 was actually fifth over 200 metres at the GDR's children's and youth spartakiad.

"Trainers aren't praised enough for successful performances," Marita Koch says today. "If Wolfgang Meier hadn't been here... He supervised my training and what a coach he was! To the sports ground every day after work. He knew how to breathe enthusiasm into all the girls and boys, including me, even though I was a little afraid of his strict look and didn't think much at first of regular training. He was jolly, showed understanding and romped around with us. But he knew when to say stop and get down to serious business. Wolfgang Meier laid a firm basis in Wismar and guided me on from there to my present performance. I would like to stress that he had great patience with me during this time. I have often wondered how he coped with me."

By profession Wolfgang Meier is a fully qualified marine engineer. But when Marita Koch was delegated to the Empor Rostock sports club in 1975 he also decided to move to Rostock with his family in order to be able to continue to coach Marita—an expression of how closely bound he felt to the further development of his promising protégée.

Marita had completed her university entrance qualification in Wismar. Her love for biology determined her choice of study:

Marita loves extended shopping sprees.

Consultations with Dr. Wiechner, the future doctor's tutor at Rostock University (bottom photo).

Photos: Stana (4), Wlocka, Sandrudek, Friedrich

The world record holder and her trainer just cannot resist an ice-cream.



Continued on page 64

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Meeting friends at Richmond

YOUNG workers and students from Suhl, the GDR's southernmost county, had set off to discover a part of England. Their journey had been arranged by *Jugend-tourist*, the GDR's youth travel agency.

Time was much too short for them to acquaint themselves thoroughly with the British capital, the city of architectural sights, parks and countless memorials, which is rich in history. However, the changing of the guard at Buckingham Palace, their visit to the Tower, the photographic excursion around the Houses of Parliament and their evening stroll across Piccadilly Circus will remain in their memory for a long time to come.

A visit to Highgate Cemetery where Karl Marx, the great German philosopher and founder of scientific communism, lies buried ended their visit to London.

The second station for the boys and girls from Suhl was Richmond where they were cordially received by their hosts and the Mayor who showed them round the church on the market place which now houses a museum. Lyz and Paul, their constant companions on their excursions, introduced the tourists from the GDR to the austere beauty of the English landscape. Here I must not forget to mention Mike and Roger, two teachers who do much for the children and young people of their town. They showed us the youth centre that has been financed from municipal funds and private donations and which offers plenty of opportunities for leisure activities, and the large playground at the foot of the old castle.

The talks they had with young people from Richmond helped the visitors from the GDR form their picture of this attractive old English town and its inhabitants.

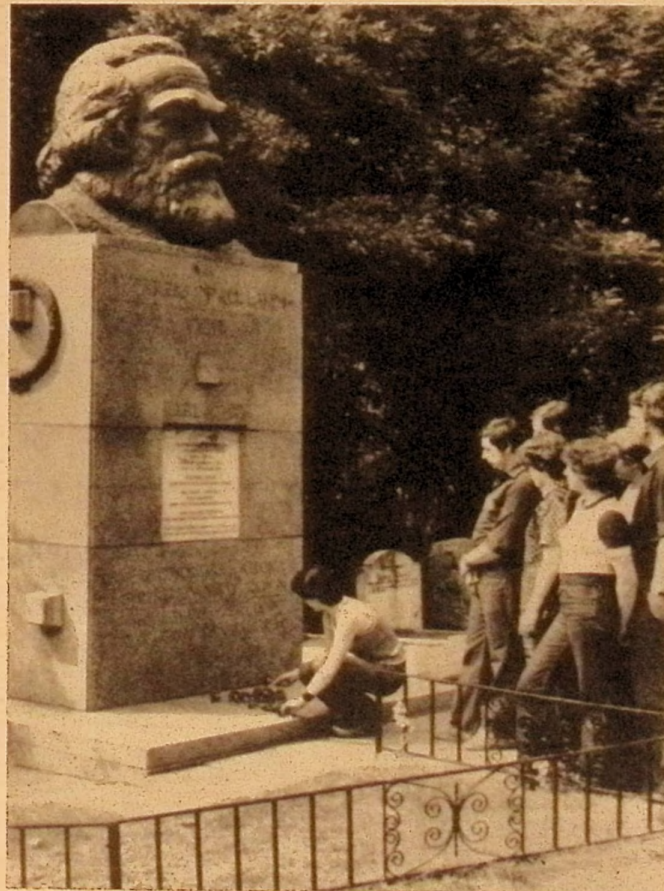
*

It only remains to be mentioned that, in the meantime, a group of young people from Richmond have visited the GDR and made themselves acquainted with the sights of our country.

Text and photos: Christel Manigk



This photo was taken near the Houses of Parliament in London.



Homage to Karl Marx.



I'd like to return to the GDR

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

with Monsieur Bernard de Chalvron, first ambassador of France to the German Democratic Republic and vice-president of the France-GDR Society

Question: *Monsieur, you were in West Berlin for seven years, later diplomatic adviser of the French government, ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva and then France's first ambassador to the GDR. You are also the vice-president of the France-GDR Society. The fact that you were incarcerated in Buchenwald concentration camp during the reign of German fascism is less known. Would you, please, tell us how this came about?*

Answer: I had been a member of the Résistance and head of its "MAP" group for a long time. This led to my arrest in April 1944. As was customary I "passed through many hands", and was later brought to an assembly camp at Compiègne and from there to Buchenwald.

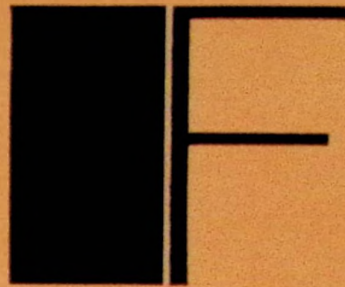
Have you visited the memorial at Buchenwald?

Yes, I have. While I was ambassador to the GDR I accompanied various groups there. There is little need to say much about Buchenwald; its notorious past is too widely known.

How do you estimate life in the GDR?

It is not difficult for me to answer this question. From my post-war activities in West Berlin I knew the initial conditions in the GDR and I must admit that they were a poor starting position. Many years later when I left my post in the GDR good progress was being made. During the first few years, though, progress had been slow. I am speaking of the outward progress since I am not in a position to give an in-depth estimate, this also holds true for the individual organisations. But in terms of day-to-day life rapid progress was made during the years I spent in the GDR.

When I came to the GDR I thought I



would not be able to buy anything I wanted there, so I went over to West Berlin to buy food and other things. One day the personnel told me that it was unnecessary to make all these journeys because I could buy all I wanted in the GDR. And from that time I didn't go shopping in the other part of Berlin any more. And right they were, there were not even queues in front of the shops. The progress made in your country was noteworthy.

You are certainly referring to the nineteen-seventies?

Well, I can only evaluate the time before 1960 when I was in West Berlin and the years between 1974 and 1977 when I was ambassador to the GDR. During this period enormous progress was made both in the material and intellectual spheres. Many new ideas emerged, for example, in literature, at the theatre and in TV. Of course, the start was slow but there were enormous difficulties which had to be overcome. But after the first successes things developed very rapidly. Although I have not been to the GDR for some time now I believe that further progress has been made in Berlin and the other cities and towns.

What do you think about the fact that whereas fascism has been eradicated in the GDR neo-fascism is experiencing an upsurge in the FRG?

That there is no sign of fascism in the GDR is clear. With regard to the FRG it is not so easy for me to answer this question as I have not been there for a very long time. However, I have read in the papers that there are, in actual fact, Nazi movements in that country.

The first government of the GDR which constituted itself in 1949 included many anti-fascists. Do you think that this might be one reason for the different developments of the two German states?

It is true that all leading politicians—at least at the time when I was there—for example, Honecker, Dahlem, Sindermann, had actively participated in the anti-fascist resistance struggle. Since they had personally suffered under fascism it is clear that they did everything to prevent a revival of the past. I am convinced that his chapter of German history is closed once and for all in the GDR. I am disturbed at the fact that in the FRG former war criminals still hold high-ranking posts until they reach pensionable age. How is this possible? Is it because they are good actors or is it just because nobody ever really searched for them?

But, to revert to the GDR to which, by the way, I would like to return, I should like to say that I consider your educational system to be your greatest achievement.

We certainly agree that this is a particularly important achievement because it is the young people who hold the future in their hands.

You are quite right. However, the beginning must have been very difficult. First of all methods had to be found; you had to rebuild from the scratch. Today the success achieved by the GDR's educational system is complete. Not only the general schools but also the colleges and universities have thoroughly changed.

Have you noted improvements in the social-welfare sphere as well?

Great progress has been made in housing construction although here, too, the begin-

ning was a slow one. Then there was the particularly difficult task of reconstructing and modernising old housing.

My grandchildren visited me often during my years in the GDR: and it is wonderful that there are so many parks where one can go with the children. A walk to the next park never takes you long. And there are many events arranged for the children, too.

It is said that in countries with communist regimes people do not like to talk. This is utter nonsense. I do not mean to say that I exchanged familiarities with my neighbours all day long. But whenever I met one we always had a short talk. My grandchildren and the local children were good friends.

What were your relations to the leading public figures of the GDR like?

They were of a very sincere nature. The fact that we had all suffered under the Nazi-fascists united us. I had very good contacts with Erich Honecker with whom I spent many a pleasant hour. On the eve of my departure he gave me a very cordial farewell reception. I still recall that evening with great pleasure.

Do you still have contact with people in the GDR?

Yes, I have and I would like to return to that country once again if possible; perhaps through the good offices of the France-GDR Society.

The interviewer in Paris was Joachim Neumann.

Photo: Neumann

FRIENDSHIP MOSAIC



The Austria-GDR Society took stock of its activities during the Annual General Meeting in Vienna late in March. Among other things it was noted that its membership has considerably increased.

Professor Friedrich Epstein said that for the Society, whose president he is, it was now a question of making an active contribution towards thwarting the plans for a nuclear arms build-up by the opponents of detente. All peace-loving forces, he stressed, must jointly safeguard the achievements gained in the struggle for detente. Horst Brasch, vice-president and general secretary of the GDR's International Friendship League, also participated in the meeting.

*
At a meeting the Sardinian regional committee of the Italy-GDR Society decided to intensify its efforts for the inclusion of broader sections of the population in the struggle against the arms race and for peaceful coexistence between all peoples.

The committee also elected its president, the presidium and secretariate and accepted the president's report about the Society's Third National Congress in Modena. (From information by Costantino Ruggiu, president of the regional committee.)

*
A GDR friendship week was held at Aubervilliers, a Parisian working-class suburb that is rich in tradition. The municipal administration, the youth welfare office and the France-GDR Society arranged a variety of events which included an exhibition at the town hall of graphic works done by 65 GDR artists. Discussions, among others with writer Jan Koplowitz, as well as exhibitions about literary works, about sports and music life and a show of theatre and film posters provided an insight into the development of art and culture in the GDR. Representative GDR films were shown at Aubervilliers' studio cinema.

*

Local government officials from the French town of La Queue-en-Brie paid a visit to Beeskow (Frankfurt/Oder County) last March. They had been invited by the Frankfurt County Committee of the GDR's International Friendship League and the Beeskow Town Council to acquaint themselves with the development of this town on the River Spree. The French guests had talks with deputies and working people and visited a chipboard factory, kindergartens, educational and sport establishments.

*
Thousands of people, among them a great number of school children, visited a photo exhibition on the subject "The children of the world" in the foyer of Enna's (Sicily) civic centre. This show was arranged by the Sicilian union for cultural relations with Czechoslovakia, the GDR and the USSR.

The union had also initiated an event to mark the International Year of the Child during which Onorevole Mario Mazzaglia, president of the Sicilian Committee of the Italy-GDR Society, addressed the audience. (From information by Onofrio Costanzo of the Sicilian Committee of the Italy-GDR Society.)

*
Our photo shows a stall of the Italy-GDR Society at the *Unita* press festival in Pordenone and San Vito Al Tagliamento in 1979. It attracted numerous visitors who showed interest in the GDR's development. (Photo and information: Antonio-Mario Mucignat, Azzano-Decimo)



FRIENDSHIP MOSAIC



FRIENDSHIP MOSAIC



The third Annual General Meeting of the Ireland-GDR Friendship Society, held in Dublin in January, was well attended by a large number of members from the Dublin area, as well as from other centres such as Belfast and Galway. The meeting reviewed the work of the Society in the past year and adopted a programme of activities for the coming months. The Society is sponsoring an essay competition on the topic "The Politics of Peace in the 1980s". (Taken from the *NEWS* information bulletin of the Ireland-GDR Friendship Society.)

*
A Japanese documentary film had its GDR première in front of the workforce of the leather-working factory in Schwerin. The film has been made with the help of the "Panorama GDR" press agency on behalf of the Liaison Conference of the Japan-GDR Friendship Society. Producer Takaiwa depicts impressions from the everyday life of a Schwerin working-class family living in social stability. The film has already been shown in various Japanese towns.

*
Representatives of the Turku (Finland) town assembly paid a visit to its partner town Rostock. The programme of the Finnish local government officials included, among other things, visits to health and educational establishments as well as to cultural events.

*
The members of the All India Indo-GDR Friendship Association organised numerous activities in preparation of their Sixth National Congress. Elections took place and delegate conferences were held. In several cities the branches of the Association arranged meetings and seminars.

During the delegate conference in Kalkat (Kerala) a photo exhibition about the GDR was mounted. Many young members of the Association delivered proof of their knowledge about our friendly state in a speaker's competition. The winners accepted their prizes at a public meeting that was attended by more than 2,000 people.



A NAME
THAT OBLIGATES

At the "Frédéric Joliot- Curie" Extended Polytechnical School

MANY schools in this country bear the names of statesmen, working-class leaders, artists, scientific workers and scholars, anti-fascists and other progressives. Their countries of origin are many and their deeds reflect their humanist outlook.

The aim of such name-giving is clear: the young generation who are preparing themselves for the future are to be guided by the progressive attitude of the person whose name their school bears.

To find out the manner in which this is done we went to the "Frédéric Joliot-Curie" Extended Polytechnical School in Görlitz (Dresden Country) where 500 girls and boys are studying in forms nine to twelve for their university entrance examination.

How did the school acquire its name?

In the early nineteen-fifties the deputy headmaster proposed that they ask the world-famous physicist to be their patron. Frédéric Joliot-Curie not only did outstand-



ing work in the field of nuclear research but also within the World Peace Council—he was elected its first president on April 20, 1948. The school asked Professor Joliot-Curie for his permission which was granted by return of post. However, he did not live to see the naming since the ceremony was not held until July 4, 1959.

When we asked the school students about the man whose name their school bears they proudly ushered us into their Joliot-Curie Room where everything worth knowing about this outstanding scientific worker has been neatly arranged in show cases and on picture plates.

"A revolutionising scientist, a courageous campaigner for a just society,

initiator and leader of a world movement, a critical and creative genius, a kind-hearted and inspiring cheerful friend, a man of the people—that was Frédéric Joliot-Curie."

These appropriate sentences are illustrated by a great variety of photos and documents.

The new school students who arrive every year in September are introduced to this room in order that they may acquaint themselves with the life and work of the famous French scientist and internationally-renowned peace champion. From the very beginning they shall comprehend that their school bears a name that obligates. And they are recommended to emulate Frédéric Joliot-Curie who was always a model, in both his scientific work as well as his political activities.

In the course of the years two traditions have developed at the school: the best forms are honoured with the title of "Frédéric Joliot-Curie Form", and every year in March a commemoration week is arranged to mark the month of Professor Joliot-Curie's birth. During this week, for example, scientific lectures and roll-calls by the members of the Free German Youth organisation are held.

Does the school have any contacts with France? Yes, it has. The school is a member of the GDR-France Friendship Society and the GDR's Peace Council and, apart from this, maintains various links with France within the framework of the Görlitz (GDR)-Amiens (France) partnership agreement. The majority of French visitors to Görlitz also call at the school where they are impressed by the way the friendship between our two peoples is cultivated. The entries in the visitors' book reveal their appreciation. One of these, made by representatives of the Amiens-Görlitz friendship committee, reads as follows:

"For us the name of Frédéric Joliot-Curie symbolises an honest desire for mutual understanding between our two peoples.

We are deeply moved by the fact that in the GDR Frédéric Joliot-Curie is better understood and more honoured than in France. We sincerely hope that people in France will soon be able to bring up their children in the same spirit. In this way we can jointly pursue Joliot-Curie's aims."

*Text: Brigitte Thal
Photos: Carla Arnold*

Commemoration meeting to mark Frédéric Joliot-Curie's 80th birthday

Fulfilling his testament means championing peace

ON March 13, 1980 Frédéric Joliot-Curie would have celebrated his 80th birthday. On this day leading figures from scientific and public life commemorated in Berlin the outstanding scientist and first president of the World Peace Council and the World Federation of Scientific Workers. The festive function had been arranged by the GDR's Peace Council, the Academy of Sciences, the Scientific Workers' Union and the Physical Society of our country.

Professor Claus Grote, general secretary of the Academy, welcomed the numerous guests, among them Gabriel Duc, general secretary of the France-GDR Society.

In his review of the life and work of Joliot-Curie who was the first to sign the Stockholm Appeal for a ban of the atom bomb on March 19, 1950, Professor Günter Drefahl, president of the GDR's Peace Council, said: "Guided by the ideals of Frédéric Joliot-Curie the world peace movement has developed a militant tradition on all continents and has become an influential force in international affairs... We are implementing Joliot-Curie's testament through the consistent continuation of the struggle for detente, the cessation of the arms race, the ban of all weapons of mass destruction and for disarmament. We are prepared to join forces with all peace-loving people striving for these goals, irrespective of their social position and political attitude and despite different philosophies, for the very existence of mankind is at stake."

*Dr. Ernst Scholz, president of the
GDR-France Friendship Society, talking
with Gabriel Duc, general secretary of the
France-GDR Society.*

Photos: Günter Ackermann

The most urgent task of today, he stressed, is to prevent the implementation of the fateful Brussels NATO missiles decision which endangers peace and detente and to work for its revocation with the help of public opinion. The people of the GDR identify themselves with the ideals of this French peace fighter. This, Professor Drefahl pointed out, is, among other things, revealed by the fact that almost 100 work brigades and institutions, streets and squares in our republic bear the name of Frédéric Joliot-Curie.

In his address Professor Klaus Fuchs, full member of the GDR's Academy of Sciences, outlined the career of the scientist and humanist who was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1935 for his pioneering research work.

A message of greeting from the French peace movement that was read out to the audience said that Joliot-Curie's example will give a strong impetus to all people to stand up for peace and disarmament and prevent the deployment of new NATO missiles.



MEETINGS · EVENTS

A delegation from the GDR People's Chamber headed by its president, Horst Sindermann, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the SED, paid a visit to Japan in April. It followed an invitation by the president of the Japanese Upper House, Ken Yasui.

During the visit the delegation had talks with the Japanese prime minister Masayoshi Ohira, foreign minister Saburo Okita, the president of the Upper House Ken Yasui, the speaker of the Lower House Hirokichi Nadao, politicians from all parties represented in parliament and with representatives of leading concerns. At the meetings both sides stressed that the intensification of mutual cooperation between the GDR and Japan was at the same time an important contribution to the maintenance and consolidation of world peace.

The meeting with members of the Japan-GDR parliamentary friendship group gave the deputies from both countries the opportunity for a lively exchange of ideas.

*

A delegation from the executive of the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions (FDGB) headed by its chairman, Harry Tisch, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the SED, spent several days in Austria at the invitation of the president of the Austrian Trade Union Confederation (ÖGB), Anton Benya. At the end of their talks the two sides issued a joint communiqué stating that the trade union organisations of the GDR and Austria would strengthen their commitment to the struggle for the safeguarding of peace and for effective measures for the limitation of arms and disarmament.

During their visit the guests had talks with Austrian foreign minister Dr. Willibald Pahr, and also had cordial meetings with employees of the Donawitz/Steiermark steel works.

*

"Book Illustrations from France—Hommage à Têrlade" was the title of a representative exhibition which took place in spring in the rooms of the GDR Academy of Arts in the *Berliner Marstall*. It comprised 1,100

original works by 14 twentieth century artists including Corbusier, Chagall, Léger, Matisse and Picasso. This remarkable exhibition was arranged with the help of the French embassy in the GDR and aroused a great deal of interest. The organisers were the Ministry of Culture and the Centre for Art Exhibitions of the GDR Academy of Arts.

The exhibition was also to be seen later in Erfurt, Karl Marx Stadt and Rostock.

*

An exhibition of works from the years 1927 to 1940 by GDR artist Professor Klaus Wittkugel was on display at the "Phot'oeuil" gallery in Paris.

*

The Swedish public had the opportunity of getting to know Carl von Ossietzky and his fight against fascism and war in a documentary exhibition mounted in the GDR cultural centre in Stockholm. Historical information and pause for thought on today's world was provided by contemporary documents, manuscripts, letters, photos, books and certificates, among them the award of the 1935 Nobel Peace Prize as well as other contemporary documents on the broad solidarity campaigns in Scandinavia for the democrats persecuted by Hitlerite fascism.

*

Works by the Leipzig painter and graphic artist Wolfgang Mattheuer were presented to an interested public in the university town of Lund in southern Sweden. Among the exhibits on display were 75 paintings, 50 prints and 112 drawings.

*

Berlin's German State Opera Company made a tour of four Japanese cities in March. In Tokyo, Yokohama, Osaka and Nagoya the public were able to see performances of a high artistic standard, among them Mozart's "Magic Flute" and Rossini's "Barber of Seville". Special interest was evoked by the first performance in Japan of Georg Friedrich Handel's "Julius Caesar".

*

At the beginning of this year the Leipzig Gewandhaus Quartett went on a three-week tour which took them to Tokyo and eight other Japanese cities. The musicians delighted their audiences with works by Beethoven, Haydn, Mozart and Schubert. In various towns and cities they organised workshop evenings with amateur orchestras.

*

With a concert in London's Queen Elizabeth Hall the Bach Orchestra from the Leipzig Gewandhaus ended a two-week tour of Great Britain last February. In thirteen towns and cities of England, Scotland and Wales over 15,000 people came to hear performances of works by Johann Sebastian Bach.

*

GDR actors Gisela May and Alfred Müller performed at the art festivals in Adelaide and Perth. It was their first tour of Australia which included a performance in the concert hall of Sydney's opera house which was received with great enthusiasm by an audience numbering 2,000.

*

The dance theatre of the Comic Opera in Berlin made a six-week tour of Australia in spring. Their programme included performances at the International Ballet Festival in Adelaide.

*

In March the well-known tenor Peter Schreier performed in the Vienna music association's production of Franz Schmidt's oratorio "The Book with Seven Seals" along with the Vienna Symphony Orchestra and the choir of the music association.

*

GDR singer Sonja Kehler together with her musical accompanist, composer Werner Pauli, gave concerts in Salzburg and Vienna which turned out to be an immediate success. Sonja Kehler performed her new programme called *Extravagantenbrevier* with songs by Eisler, Dessau, Weill and Jara and texts by Brecht, Neruda and Becher.

MEETINGS · EVENTS



A Palace for Children



1

GIVING presents on a birthday is a good tradition and on the German Democratic Republic's thirtieth anniversary its youngest generation was presented with a whole building, in actual fact with a palace.

Berlin's beautiful new Central Pioneer Palace, which has been ingeniously designed to generous proportions, is situated in Wuhlheide, that piece of heathland where, in 1950, Wilhelm Pieck, the first

German workers' president, handed over the "Ernst Thälmann" Pioneer Park to the children of the GDR.

The boys and girls who have daily visited this building, which is 213 metres long and 120 wide, since it was opened last autumn have discovered something new, inspiring, exiting and Informative at every visit...

Each one of the 3,500 Pioneers and



2

1 The curving staircase gives the foyer an inviting and spacious appearance.

2 Only practice makes perfect: the Palace orchestra during a rehearsal.

3 The swimming baths with eight fifty-metre lanes is a paradise for young swimmers.

4 Special attraction at a pioneers' festival—a make-up man demonstrating his skills.

5 Patience and gentle hands are necessary for the members of the ceramics circle.

6 The playroom offers lots of toys and games.

members of the Free German Youth organisation who attended the inauguration ceremony would, no doubt, have liked to express their personal gratitude to the workers from about 110 factories and institutions from all counties of the GDR, in brief, to all who lent a hand in the construction of the Palace, last but not least to the architects who incorporated many ideas into the design. Chief architect,



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Dr. Günther Stahn, has shown much understanding for children's needs and desires in his first big project. Both his words and the Palace itself mirror this fact. Günther Stahn said: "Everything has been arranged and furnished in such a way that the boys and girls like coming here, that they are encouraged to treat everything with care but also to make use of it without hesitation. In its form, the selection of materials,

colour design and lighting the "Ernst Thälmann" Pioneer Palace is to radiate a love of nature and warmth. That is why many children think that their Palace is the most beautiful."

Let us make a tour of the building which is divided into three sections. The foyer, with an Ernst Thälmann Memorial by sculptor Gerhard Thieme, belongs to the ceremonial section where, in future, child-

ren will be admitted to the Young Pioneers' and the Free German Youth organisations. There is a permanent exhibition about the children's organisation and a friendship post office as well as three halls: the auditorium seating 600, the small hall 250 and a lecture room accommodating 150 boys and girls.

The working groups section comprises sixty rooms, including laboratories and



1 The beauty of the earth as seen from space—mural by Peter Sylvester.

2 The road safety instruction circle is one of the many hobby and work groups at the Palace.

3 Future microbiologists?

4 Plenty of scope for play and games.

5 Who would not like to be a cosmonaut?

Photos: Carla Arnold (11), ZB/Kamper (1)

2

A Palace for Children

hobby rooms which daily cater for 2,000 children and offer them interesting leisure activities. The 300 members of the Palace's educational and technical staff see to it that the boys and girls can spend pleasant and instructive hours here.

Just what can the children do here? There is a young naturalists circle, there are physics, chemistry and electronics laboratories, one can study history or explore outer space with the help of the numerous simulators in the cosmonauts' centre. The children can also learn how to cook, draw and paint, print and work with textiles. Young aero modellers, photographers and exotic fish breeders find sufficient scope

for their activities and in addition to a pantomime and a dance group the boys and girls can take part in various courses of instruction, for instance, in road safety, first aid as well as in fire prevention and fire-fighting.

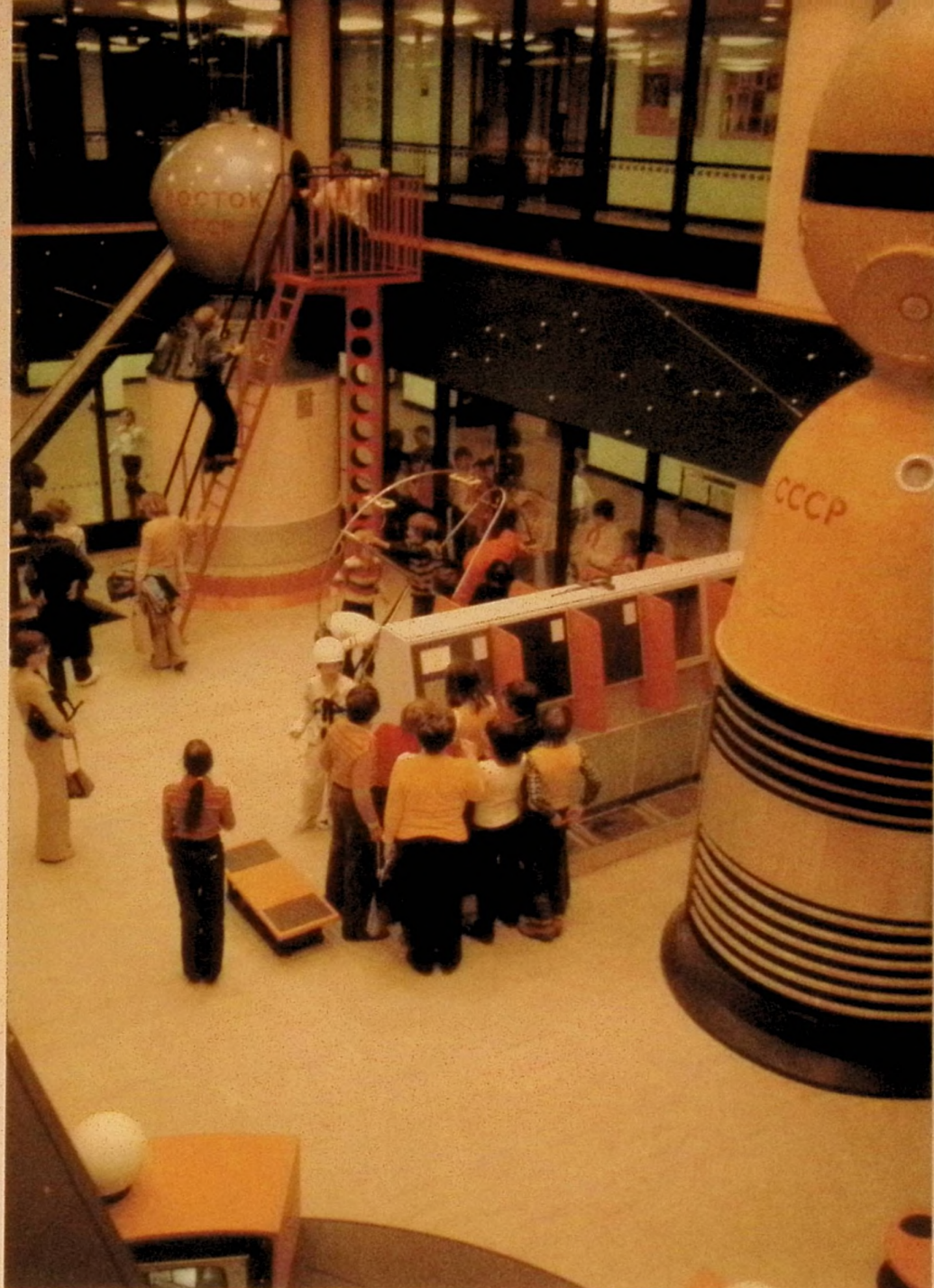
The sports section, which is full of children's voices, includes a gymnasium and swimming pools with eight fifty-metre lanes, a high-diving board and a non-



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swimmers' pool. Around the building is a playground with a hut settlement surrounded by a palisade, mini sports fields for golf and other games, a biology station with demonstration room and greenhouse, an arboretum and school garden, a festival and parade ground with fountain and a demonstration and competition pool for the model shipbuilding.

Who can attend the Palace? It was built

in the first place for the boys and girls of Berlin but, of course, children from all over the republic can also take part in the programme of events, to which well-known scientific workers, artists and athletes are often welcomed. As a rule, the Palace is open between two and five in the afternoon. On Sundays and during school holidays it is open for the whole of the day.

Many visitors have already signed the

thick visitor's book. After his visit Erich Honecker made the following entry: "You have our love, hold our hopes and are our future." The children express their thanks in their own way by making use of the Palace and the many opportunities it provides every day.

Brigitte Thal

Leipzig Spring Fair confirmed
its reputation

Attractive and open to the world



HERE the factual data: a round 9,000 exhibitors from 66 countries—2,100 of them from 25 capitalist countries—put their products up for sale. Seventy of the largest West European companies, 40 of which were represented by their presidents or general-directors, were present. Impressive, as well as informative, was the participation of 28 newly-emergent and developing countries and, of course, all the countries of the CMEA which provided vigorous testimony to their growing economic strength and the high level of socialist economic integration. The GDR itself put 5,200 new developments and improved versions of established items, many of them world-class, on show.

This year's Leipzig Spring Fair showed once again that this is the place where one can do business with the socialist coun-

tries, the world's most stable and dynamic economic region. It also explains why the men of commerce from the capitalist countries are unanimous in directing their energies towards a continuation and expansion of trade with the socialist countries and why they turned away from the hysterical boycott plans voiced by a number of politicians from the West.

Leipzig reflected the true wishes and needs of the peoples for comprehensive economic cooperation and international relations on the basis of peaceful coexistence serving peace, international understanding and detente.

Our article is intended to give readers a very short survey of the items offered by GDR industry at the 1980 Leipzig Spring Fair.

◁ All over the world efforts are being made to economise in the use of motor fuels and more and more motors are being fitted with injection pumps to guarantee a rational use of fuel.

To meet this trend VEB Microsa in Leipzig and VEB "7th October" Machine Engineering Combine in Berlin have developed a new machine system. This system, which was on show for the first time, allows the production of nozzles from the blank to the finished product whereby only two operators are needed. Using conventional methods of nozzle production ten workers would have been necessary to produce the same number of nozzles in the same time. The system consists of five machines linked with each other by means of a flexible pneumatic work-piece transport system. This means that the individual machines can be mounted to suit the particular room in which they are to work.

From the large exhibition of items produced by the GDR's internationally-famed porcelain manufactories we are showing here the coffee, tea and mocha services and other tableware of the "Saskia" range from the VEB "Weimar Porcelain" Manufactory at Blankenburg. This new range attracted great attention on the International market.



Thanks to its wide range of multi-purpose agricultural machinery the "Fortschritt" combine has regular customers in many European countries as well as numerous developing countries particularly those in Asia and Africa. Among the many references and letters of thanks which the combine has received from purchasers throughout the whole world is the following:

"In 1977 I bought an E 682 from Messrs Ets Le Roy. With this machine I have harvested all the potatoes on my farm. I have achieved a performance of 0.6 hectares an

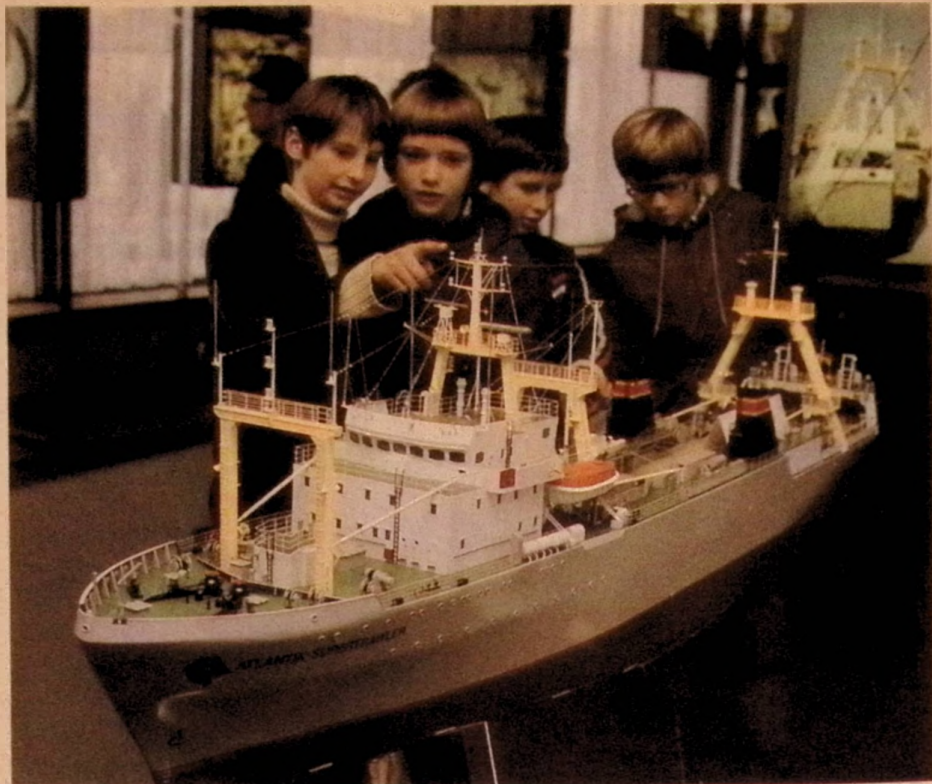
hour and would like to underscore the functional reliability of the individual components. I can recommend the machine unconditionally, as it is fully adapted to meet our harvesting conditions. Dominique Rigaux, farmer, Misery, France."

For their E 682 - S 01 Potato Lifter "Fortschritt" has now developed two additional appliances for harvesting onions and carrots, see our photo. This complex implement which can be used for many different purposes was awarded a gold medal at the Spring Fair.



The Atlantic Supertrawler Class 464 produced in long-run series at the Volkswerft Shipyard in Stralsund is absolute world top class. The ship is fitted out for catching, processing and deepfreezing fish. It mainly operates together with refrigerator and supply ships. As the trawler is self-reliant for a period of seventy days it can also work on its own. On the semi-automated factory ship the catch can be processed to filets, ready-for-sale fish, pieces for the cannery or as deep-frozen whole fish. It is also possible to manufacture tinned liver products on board. A high-performance fish-meal plant has been installed to process fish waste and the otherwise non-usable catch.

The crew of 91 is accommodated in comfortable cabins and the mess-decks, welfare and sanitary installations meet the highest demands. The ship has a length of 101.6 metres, is 15.2 metres in the beam and has a maximum draught of 5.7 metres; it develops a top speed of 14.6 knots. It was awarded a gold medal at the Spring Fair.



Long-distance passenger coaches, RIC coaches, refrigerator trucks, and double-decker railway coaches from the GDR have already proven their worth in many countries. Customers of long-standing are not only the CMEA countries but also Sweden, Switzerland, Austria, Greece, Iraq, Syria, Egypt, Tunisia, Iran and Algeria.

Among the newest economic propositions offered by the GDR rail vehicle industry is the 26.4-metre-long sleeping car put on show at Leipzig by the nationally-owned Görlitz Coach Works. As the prototype of a new generation of sleeping cars it takes into consideration the current trend of operating long coaches on European railways. It travels on 200-km/h bogies (the GP 200) jointly developed by the GDR and Czechoslovakia. The coach has 11 compartments each with three beds, a guard's compartment, a shower, toilets, a supplies cabin, a vestibule and a corridor. Through the use of movable dividing walls eight neighbouring compartments can be turned into four large compartments. Colouring and design as well as the materials used in its manufacture underscore the modernity of the coach.





**Hans Mostertman, Managing Director,
Danieli & Co, Italy**

"Danieli has been building up its commercial relations with GDR partners particularly since 1976. The decisive project for our cooperation was the construction of a steel works at Brandenburg. The works was handed over to our partner on March 14, 1980. It was an extremely large-scale project and the steel works will produce 500,000 tonnes of steel a year. During the course of the work up to 1,100 Italians worked in the GDR. Cooperation with the people from the GDR was very good, this applies to all spheres including social contacts. The organisational abilities of our GDR partners complemented the flexibility of the Italians very well. The first trial castings were made two months ahead of schedule and the whole plant was handed over exactly on the day agreed on. At the moment discussions are under way on other interesting commercial opportunities.

We are looking forward to a long-term, stable expansion of our economic relations with the GDR.

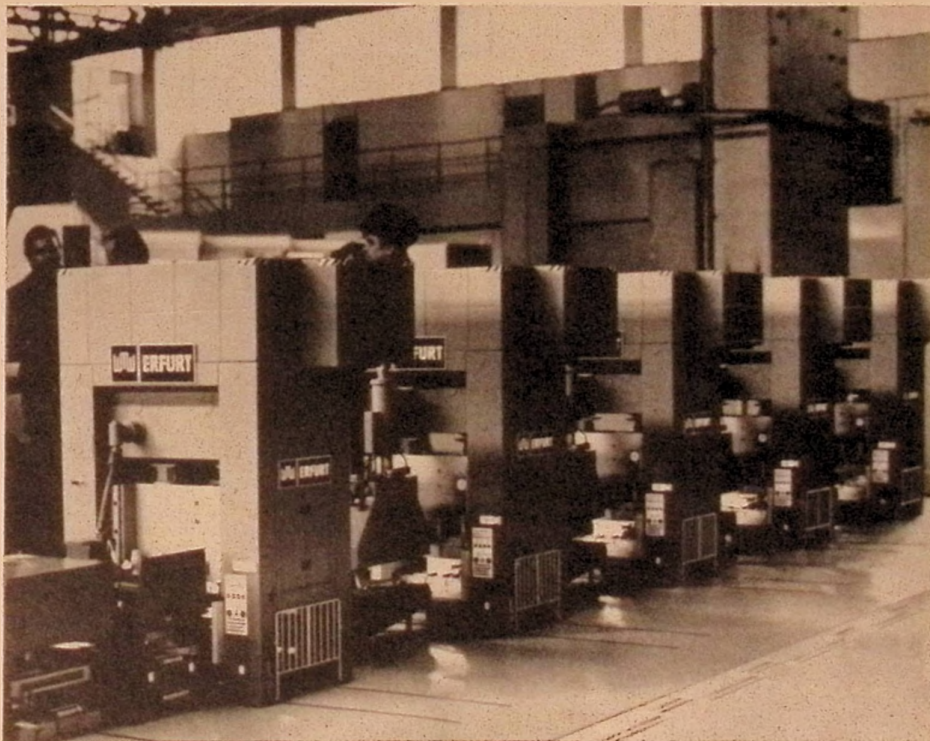
It is not in the interests of either of our peoples to let economic relations stagnate or be reduced. The considerations of the government of the USA are, of course, their own affair. But that, in my opinion, has nothing to do with the cooperation between Danieli and the GDR, particularly as the Italian government does not fully subscribe to these views. With regard to trade between Italy and the GDR it is a question of bilateral relations. When one has been able to establish good relations one must keep them up, for even problems can be cleared up much better on the basis of good relations. When one worsens or even breaks off relations one limits instead of improving the opportunities of finding acceptable solutions."



**Kenji Kosugi, Senior Manager, Toshiba
Corporation, Japan**

"As an enterprise that is both known and active all over the world Toshiba is extremely interested in establishing and further developing good relations with the GDR. That is an important foundation for agreements on concrete projects. During the course of the last year we were able to sign a contract for the construction of a works for the manufacture of fluorescent lamps. For the future we can see opportunities in the field of electric kitchen appliances, for example, and also in electronics.

Toshiba is interested in long-term and stable commercial relations. I personally think nothing of embargos. They bring no benefit, only detriment. I think that such ideas should not influence our trade and they will in no way change our practical attitude to our economic relations. We are interested in developing trade with the GDR and not in reducing it."



Four exhibits from the nationally-owned "Herbert Wamke" Combine in Erfurt were awarded gold medals. One of them was an infinitely adjustable mechanised complex press operating with single-action, double-column high-performance presses. With this machine the Erfurt combine not only presents single presses with high-performance parameters but has also de-

veloped the necessary mechanisation and automation technology for complete production lines. The complex press on show is capable of producing 900 work-pieces an hour which represents a 60-per-cent increase in productivity.

Photos: Gerhard Hammer (6), Karl-Heinz Böhle

LAST month it was 35 years since the defeat of Hitlerite fascism by the Soviet Army and its allies. This defeat confronted all Germans with the necessity of drawing conclusions from the dismal chapter of their recent history which ended on May 8, 1945. A major indication of the character of the two German states is, therefore, how they present history to their youth and, particularly, whether and to what extent history lessons help the young people to adopt an anti-fascist awareness and a militant attitude with regard to the defence of hard-won peace.

The presentation of history in the two German states shows all the difference between two opposing class positions and irreconcilable social systems in this field of education. While for progressives the most important lesson of the Second World War was the realisation that a peaceful future is unattainable without the elimination of the power base of fascism and militarism, as was done in the socialist GDR, the historians serving the German big bourgeoisie are still drawing completely different conclusions from the outcome of that war, conclusions suitable to help restore and maintain the badly shaken positions of imperialism.

Dangerous falsification

History textbooks in the FRG reflect the numerous attempts by official historians to look for possibilities that could have prevented the "unprecedented defeat" in recent German history. In doing so these historians run into a contradiction. Since the memory of other peoples associates the fascist aggression and occupation with the loss of national sovereignty, freedom and democracy, with large-scale misery and genocide, the authors of FRG history textbooks are compelled to dissociate themselves from war crimes, acts of aggression and plans for world domination. Yet at the same time they falsify the aims and nature of the Second World War in line with the state doctrine of anti-communism, claiming that the war was waged to save the West from "the pressure of Slav and Asian peoples", that it was a racial and ideological struggle aimed at preserving the western way of life from communism. Thus the aggression of German imperialism is portrayed as the first big fight for a capitalist, anti-communist "united Europe".

History lessons in FRG schools are also burdened with another problem. Analyses by progressive educationalists and teachers of history show that fascism and the Second World War are often treated very superficially. Instruction in history frequently ends with the First World War or, if it covers the Nazi era, deals with Nazi institutions only. Thus the presentation of historical developments is incomplete, distorted and incompatible with the truth, giving prominence

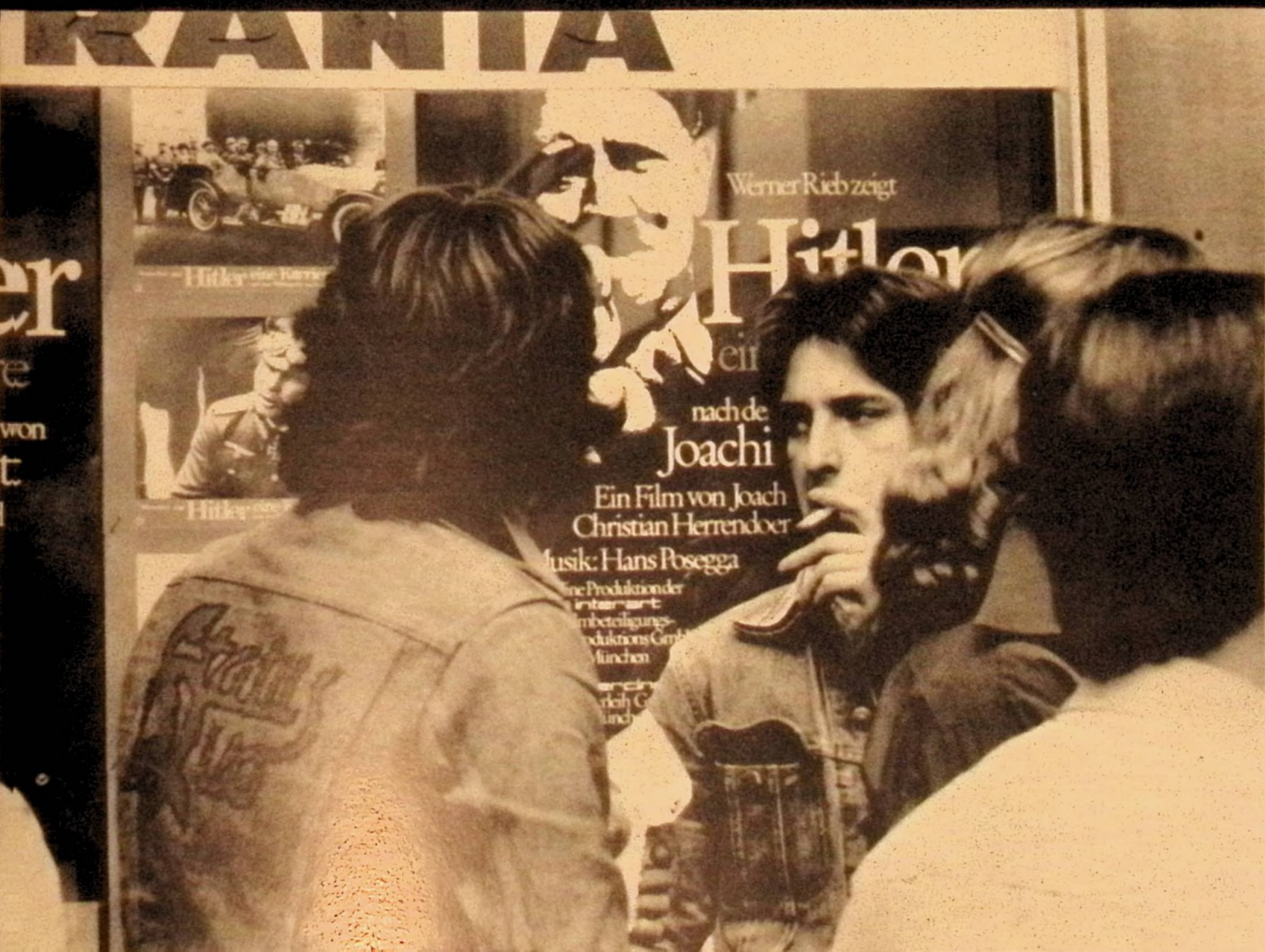
School Books From Two Worlds

Two Worlds Mirrored in School Books

By Dr. Ruth Sareik



Pleasure at being accepted as a member of the "Ernst Thälmann" Pioneers organisation. Children in the GDR are educated in the spirit of anti-fascism, international understanding and peace.



A past that has not been overcome in the FRG: Joachim Fest's Hitler film gives young people in particular a completely wrong picture of fascism and its causes.

Photos: ZB,
Panorama DDR

to personalities and psychological factors. For example, Hitler's personality is seen out of the historical context. There is too much emphasis on his role as a dictator who took all decisions himself and was thus the only one to blame for the disaster. This approach furthers an uncritical acceptance of the existing realities and leads either to political apathy or to an undemocratic and authoritarian attitude.

Alarming consequences

A 17-year-old vocational schoolgirl has the following opinion of her history teacher: "He was and remains a Hitler fan." This is no exception in the FRG; nor is the result of an analysis of 3,042 compositions written in 110 schools on the topic "What I have heard about Adolf Hitler". Although the publisher of the analysis D. Bossmann belittles the result as "sheer disaster" attributable to "students' error", it manifests complete ignorance of the course of history, the most elemental historical background and the monstrous crimes of German imperialism.

It might be an error to describe Hitler as "a deputy of Bismarck" who "recently tried to commit suicide in a GDR prison". But it is by no means just a slip to define Hitler (as the majority of students did) as "a factor for law and order", under whose regime there were no crimes and, due to the extermination of Jews and foreigners, no unemployment.

It must be particularly ominous for one to know that members of the young generation in the FRG write about fascism thus: "He (i.e. Hitler) did away with the Communists. The world was then free from bank robbers and rapists. We still had a free democracy. If Hitler were to come to power today, the world would be clean again."

The historical truth

History lessons in the secondary schools of our socialist country convey a completely different picture of the Nazi era. Fascism and the Second World War are dealt with in the ninth form. For all their conciseness, the relevant lessons give the schoolchildren a comprehensive, scientifically substantiated picture of these major historical phenomena. The students learn about the social roots of fascism and war, hear exact

analyses of the war aims of Hitlerite fascism and come to understand who benefitted from the Nazis' annexation and plunder of foreign territory, whose interests were behind it.

The schoolchildren learn about the forces that served the true interests of the German people by fighting against fascism and war. And last but not least, the history textbooks in the GDR teach unequivocal acceptance, i.e. without invoking revanchist feelings, of the results of the Second World War sealed by the allies in the Potsdam Declaration of 1945. This is of paramount importance for the current peaceful co-existence of the peoples in Europe.

From their history books the ninth form students in the GDR learn that as early as 1936 to 1939 the Nazis' domestic and foreign policy was geared to one aim—the preparation for a war of conquest. The cause of the war is explained thus: "German imperialism and militarism was bent on dominating Europe and the whole world. Therefore, it did not accept the results of the First World War and demanded a revision of frontiers. In the war against the Soviet Union, the German imperialists intended to attain their main goal—the destruction of the first socialist state on earth—and also to carry out their planned conquest."

In most of the history textbooks published in the FRG (about 3,800 appeared between 1951 and 1975) the armaments companies, big business and the top brass hats were cleared of any responsibility for the war. The general tendency in all these books is to present Hitler and his closest comrades as the only ones who wanted to go to war out of "an insatiable lust for power", and who disregarded the rational arguments of industrialists, big landholders and diplomats. The war was a product of the "uncontrolled hatred" for other peoples.

More serious, however, are the implications of the authors' claim that the main cause of the war is to be found in the attitude of the Soviet Union, insinuating that the USSR had an interest in the war. In the view of these historians, a war between Hitler's Germany and the western powers was bound "to bring Russia the greatest advantages... possibly triggering off a communist world revolution." Hitler is blamed only for having acted too rashly in attacking the Soviet Union in the summer of 1941 and thus forcing it "to side with the western powers." The strong resistance to fascism and war put up by the most steadfast Germans, including representatives of all classes and strata of the population, with the Communists being in the forefront and suffering the heaviest losses, saved the honour of the German people and refutes the claim in FRG school books that the whole German people maintained an "uncritical", passive and faithful attitude towards the Nazis. The history textbooks in

the GDR give appropriate, ample coverage to the anti-fascist resistance struggle. Our schoolchildren learn about the heroic struggle of the organised working class and its allies, a major aspect of which were the efforts of the Communist Party of Germany to set up a united, anti-fascist front of the whole people. The majority of FRG school books, however, conceal, belittle or even defame the resistance struggle of the working class.

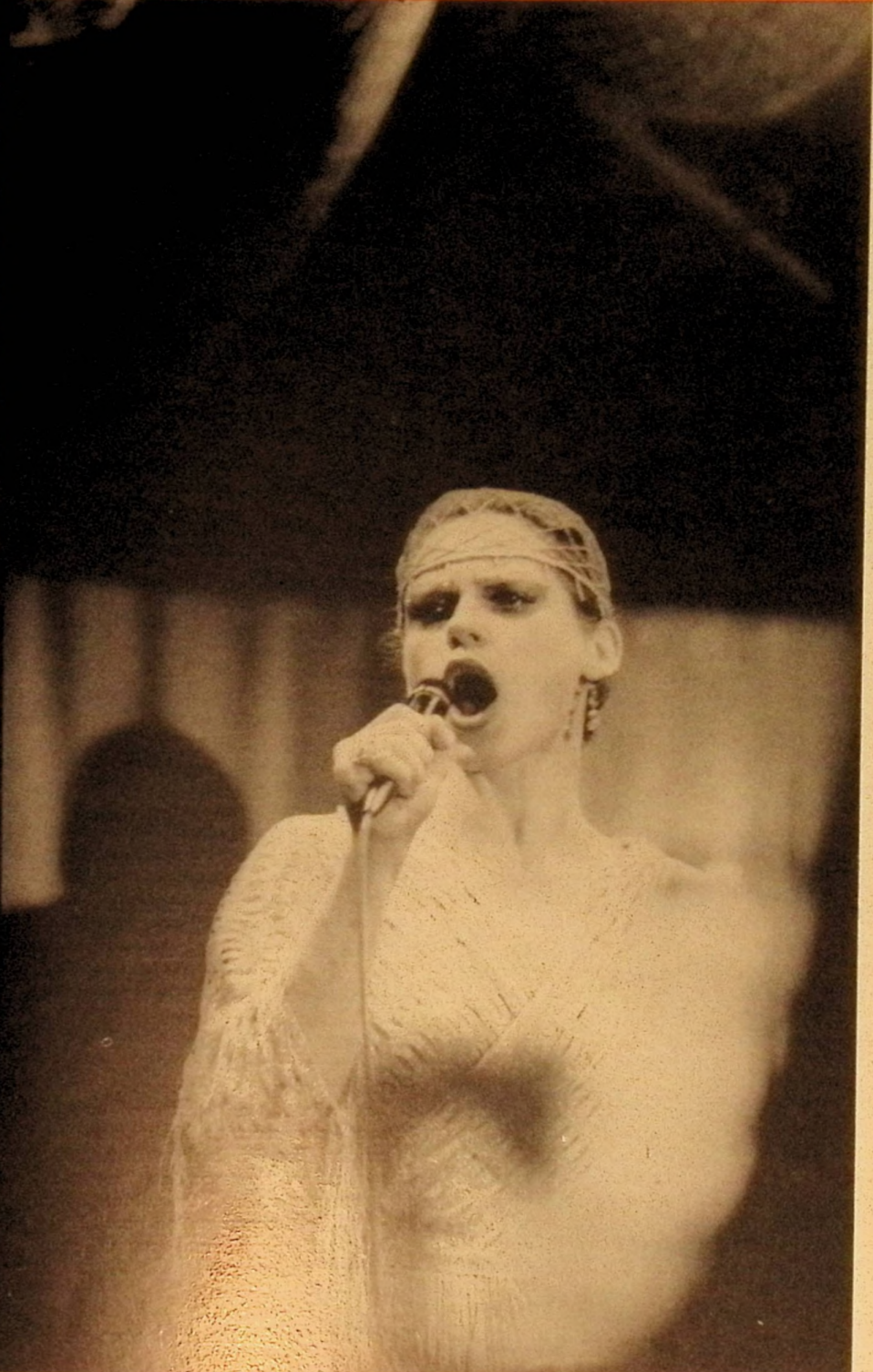
Liberation or downfall?

The unconditional capitulation of the German army to the victorious powers of the Anti-Hitler Coalition on May 8, 1945 signalled the total defeat of fascist Germany. This defeat was logical because German imperialism and militarism most obviously embodied those forces which had outlived their day, and because in attacking the USSR the Nazis had taken on socialism, the historically new system. Their rapacious war aims and inhuman conduct of military operations aroused the peoples' resistance in all the invaded or threatened countries. The history textbooks in the GDR make this clear to the schoolchildren. For example, they contain the following passage: "The Second World War was the most devastating in the history of mankind... This war made it evident again that owing to its inherent laws, the rule of imperialism invariably leads to wars and to infinite misery for the mass of the people."

In FRG school books, however, references to the outcome of the last world war read differently, too. The triumph of humanity, the liberation from fascism is solely referred to as "the end", "the collapse" or "the downfall" of Germany, i.e. as something disastrous that is bound to evoke the students' resentment rather than joy and satisfaction. The schoolchildren are not told the truth about the persons, interests and aims behind the tragedy that befell their homeland. Bourgeois critics claim that history lessons in a socialist school are "biased" and nothing but "Marxist indoctrination". We do not deny the ideological foundation of the approach to our teaching of history. With regard to philosophy and methodology, our school books are based on Marxism-Leninism in its entirety, which means that they convey the historical truth.

DEFA 80

Comments
on the latest GDR
feature films



"Cinema is a sensorium of feelings. It can capture them, make them productive and bring people out of their loneliness. It can make suggestions—not so much in the sense of teaching, but more in the sense of self-examination." Words with which script-writer Wolfgang Kohlhaase—well-known in the GDR through numerous successful DEFA films—recently characterised the special responsibility of film-makers in our society. Artists and publicists met for the "DEFA Film Show 1980" to exchange opinions on the latest offerings from the feature film studios. Each year PROGRESS film distributors organise this useful opportunity for previewing the films to be released in the course of the year, at the same time giving an insight into the workshops of scriptwriters, producers and scenario editors. This critical examination is of interest to both sides—the public and the film studio—for both want to increase the number of high-quality films.

Eighty million people visited GDR cinemas last year, and twenty-four million alone saw films produced in our own country. This was a considerable increase over the previous year. The trend is pleasing since it reflects the thorough consideration which goes into subject and form in our film art, even if full houses alone are no proof of quality. What are the reasons for this upswing? Greater attention to the contemporary scene must be mentioned first and foremost: films today portray a much greater "nearness to life", an increase in reality and credibility of the conflicts. The heroes are often ordinary people. Working-class figures are presented as "bearers of power" with much more naturalness in comparison with the superficiality and clichés of earlier years. The heroes master their lives in a sparkling and original way. They are, normally speaking, not "perfect" personifications but people who challenge the onlooker to take up a point of view.

Opinions on new films are often diverse, leading to lively discussion. This is a positive development because the onlooker no longer plays a passive part when viewing a film but is forced to become an active partner in the process. The tendency, too, to centre on the ethical and moral issues of

"Solo Sunny"—scene with Renate Krössner, who plays the main part.

Scene from "All My Girls".

Renate Geissler and Uwe Zerbe in "Love
Affair".



communal life in many films is a further factor in the growing interest. This latter trend is also clearly marked in 1980.

*

A few words on the international repercussions. It is well-known that, after the "cold war" and the contempt by capitalist states for cultural exchanges with socialist countries, it took many years before there were signs of an easing in the situation. This affected literature and visual art as well as theatre and film. In 1979 DEFA took part in fifty-two international festivals with feature films and documentaries. GDR "film weeks" took place in thirty-nine countries. Many of these events were arranged in connection with the thirtieth anniversary of our country, but even so, interest abroad continues to grow. Planned for 1980 are GDR "film weeks" in the USA, Spain, Austria, Switzerland and many other countries, including a retrospective of GDR films in Sweden. Taking place in our own country are festivals of Spanish films, children's films from Finland, and Korean films. But even more must be done, for internationally respected directors are setting ever higher standards with important works in the world of film. Appearing on our cinema screens this year, for example, are films by, among others, Damiano Damiani, Ingmar Bergman, Martin Ritt, André Cayatte, Luis Bu-

nuel, Petr Schulhoff, Krzysztof Zanussi and Boris Grigoryev. To stand up to this phalanx demands productions from GDR filmmakers which deal with highly topical problems in an emotional and vivid manner. (This was also debated at the First National Feature Film Festival in Karl-Marx-Stadt in April.) In addition there is the constant "competition" with television here, too. Cinema films must therefore be especially appealing if they are to attract as wide an audience as possible.

Let us now take a look at some of the films being released by DEFA in 1980.

*

All My Girls, directed by Iris Gusner, takes an honest and humorous look at the life of a brigade of young women workers at Berlin's electric light bulb factory. It marks the refreshing and impressive début of talented scriptwriter, Gabriele Kotte. Ralf, studying to be a producer, has to make a documentary on an outstanding work brigade as part of his studies at college. He really looks forward to this project. However, his first meeting with the strict supervisor and the attractive, sensuous and extremely self-assured young women in overalls surprises him. He discovers that the daily life of this "outstanding" brigade is by no means without its problems and he even experiences a serious breakdown in trust between the

supervisor and her "girls". His film project takes a back seat and Ralf actively participates in clearing up the ill feeling. He helps to set things right and as a result almost becomes a member of the brigade himself and naturally comes a lot nearer to the pretty girls as well. Two levels are successfully combined in the film: the unadorned presentation of the everyday life of a workers' brigade and the responsibility of a documentary film-maker for the subject of his art. *All My Girls* is a film which refreshingly captures the beauty of work and the beauty of human relations, such as respect, trust, love and help for others.

Authoress Regina Weicker and producer Evelyn Schmidt made their début on the film scene with *Love Affair*. It is the story of a "normal" marriage upon which "disaster" descends: the husband's lover dies and their daughter wants to join her father. For his wife family life was once a firmly knit, self-contained, indestructible world, but how will she react to this unexpected turn of events? The film is devoted above all to this question. However, the "normality" of the presentation and the minute attention to detail in the production possibly do not stimulate the audience enough to participate or to disagree.

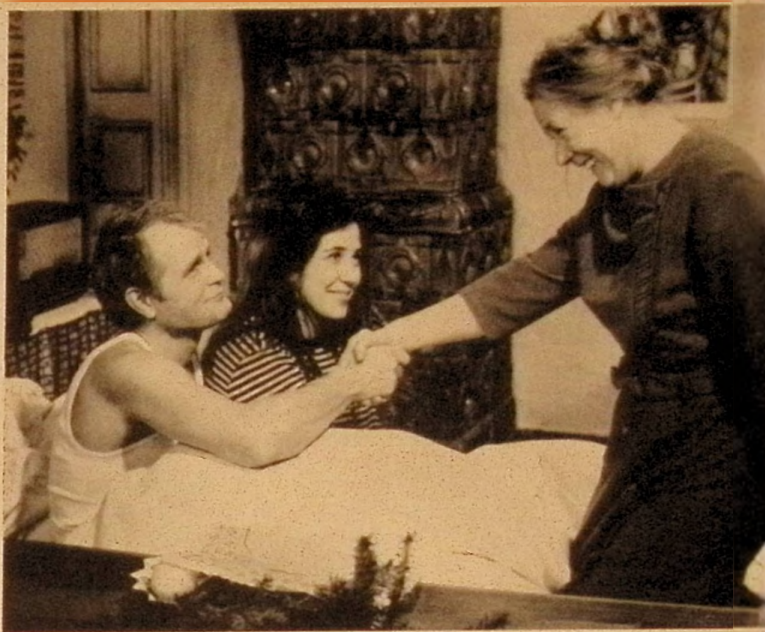
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Solo Sunny is the GDR joint production by



A scene from "Levin's Mill" by Johannes Bobrowski with Inka Iliewa and Christian Grashof.

Dieter Mann, Ute Lubosch and Käthe Reichel (from left to right) in a scene from "Backstreet Happiness".



two experienced film artists—author Wolfgang Kohlhaase and director Konrad Wolf (also known to our readers as President of the GDR Academy of Arts). Both are well-known to GDR audiences through numerous films over past years. Their latest production deals with the demands, struggles, disappointments, dreams and hopes of a young woman who yearns for fulfilment in her career and in human relationships. Under the stage name of "Sunny", Ingrid Sommer, a former production worker, seeks her individuality—both on the stage and in real life. Trained as a pop singer, young and talented, she performs with a band, travels from place to place with the "boys", rejects musical mediocrity, indifference of character, a routine which is solely based on gaining money and resists becoming a "plaything" of the men. Those "boys" who approach her are rejected. Then she gets to know a philosopher called Ralph living in a withdrawn backstreet milieu and he fascinates her with his old Indian music and tractates on death. She falls madly in love and spends many happy hours together with him. However, her deep affection, her demands, her "wanting to give herself completely" is met with a lack of understanding on his part. They separate. The man has to give way to a young singer in a band who is prepared to put in everything for the success of her career. A solo appearance at a

night-club, upon which she placed so much hope, is a failure. Sunny gets into a situation of personal crisis and attempts to commit suicide. A friend from her former works' collective helps her back on her feet and gives her the courage to live once more. She comes into contact with young musicians and gains the strength to make a new start.

During a conversation Wolfgang Kohlhaase explained: "Our film doesn't bring all the problems into harmony, but hope is its principle. Nevertheless, each individual has to do something for this hope. Nobody hands you anything on a plate. We were mainly interested in how important it is for a young person to have confidence in himself and his own individuality. We want people to take more time to look at themselves more closely. And we don't want to leave out anybody or anything—no feeling, no question and also no failure..."

Director Konrad Wolf said: "A singer is shown who has no highbrow ambitions. She doesn't want to be an object; she wants her work to be respected, accepted and put into use by people." In the discussion about the demands and hardships which figure in this film, the concept of "rebellion" cropped up. Konrad Wolf said about this: "It would not be disagreeable to me if the audience infers a little bit of rebellion from our film. *Solo Sunny* can be understood as a call for

rebellion against mediocrity, against 'taking it lying down', against an 'existence without ideals' and against the fact that many contemporaries pay too much attention to material things. I see one, if not the task of art, as being to contribute to the mobilisation of the moral and ethical forces of the individual as well as of society."

Renate Krössner plays the main role, portraying with great sensitivity her versatility as an actress from the radiant glamour of being in the limelight to the scenes of tragedy, crisis and disappointment. The film marks the debut of the young Eberhard Geick, whose imaginative camera work is also worthy of mention. The "beauty and ugliness" of Berlin with its backstreet "romance" is realistically and poetically captured, with a certain amount of nostalgia but also with necessary detachment, and always with understanding for the psychic condition of the heroine. At the West Berlin International Film Festival last February *Solo Sunny* was awarded the prize of the international film press association; the jury named Renate Krössner as the "best actress".

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I would like to mention three films based on books. They are completely different in

Continued on page 64

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theme and genre, but nevertheless demonstrate the conscious intention of the DEFA studios to continue the tradition that has developed of adapting prose works from both the past and the present.

Backstreet Happiness, directed by Hermann Zschache, has already been released. The scenario was written by Ulrich Plenzdorf, equally well-known as both a playwright and a film scriptwriter. The film is based on the novel *Buridan's Mule* by Günther de Bruyn. The library director Karl Erp, a married man in his mid-forties and father of two children, wants to break out of his comfortable daily routine but lacks the courage to do so. In spite of happy hours spent together within the close confines of a small room in Berlin's backstreets, his affection for twenty-year-old student trainee, Fräulein Broder, remains only a limited "jaunt".

Levin's Mill, directed by Horst Seemann, is being put out on general release in September. The film is based on the novel of the same name, written in 1964 by Johannes Bobrowski (1917-1965). The setting is Poland around 1875 and tells of life among Germans, Jews and Poles on the river Vistula—a life full of conflict.

A film by Günther Rucker (scenario and co-director) and Günter Reisch (director) receives its première next November. *The Fiancée* is freely adapted from the trilogy by Eva Lippold called *House of the Heavy Gates*. Communist Hella Lindau's strong love for her fiancé, Hermann, gives her the superhuman strength to weather the tortures in a fascist prison. It is an emotionally moving, anti-fascist film, continuing a long line of DEFA productions on this topic (*GDR Review* will be reporting on this film in a forthcoming issue). *Norbert Landsberg*

Continued from page 30

Rational planning of new capacity

The Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED) has always actively supported the trade unions in the development of their holiday service. This is particularly evident in Oberhof, the most popular holiday resort in Thuringia, the face of which has been transformed by architecturally striking new developments. The most eye-catching new buildings are the trade union holiday homes. Also in Oberhof is the Interhotel "Panorama", which is one of seven hotels which have, since 1972, made available between fifty and eighty per cent of their capacity for recreational use by trade union members who pay low rates; this development stems from a decision made by the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the SED.

Other methods have also been adopted in order to create new holiday places whilst avoiding excessive expenditure. Schnett provides a fine example.

At an altitude of 700 metres, this small upland settlement is picturesquely located on the southern flank of the Thuringian Forest. The village's remote location contributed to the misery and hardship suffered during the capitalist period and most of the male population had to find

work elsewhere. Since 1953 Schnett has developed as a recreational centre, the impetus for which emanated from measures taken by the workers' and farmers' state. The trade union home "Kaluga" was opened in October 1977 and, like others, is a product of joint cooperation with particular enterprises. Cooperation of this kind generates many benefits. In the past many nationally-owned enterprises built their own small holiday homes independently of the central trade union holiday service. This resulted in uneconomic investment, increased running costs and over-complicated organisation. In order to rectify this situation, the FDGB now merges its material and financial resources with those of the enterprises. Operating on a contractual basis, groups of partners jointly erect large recreational homes; this ensures both more effective use of resources and higher accommodation and catering standards. The places in these homes are distributed proportionately among the participating partners.

Further thought and effort will be needed to ensure that future holiday requirements are catered for even more successfully. The annually increasing number of holiday places clearly demonstrates that everything is being done to this end.

Annegret Winkler

Continued from page 40

she wanted to be a doctor, "because in this profession one can do so much for people..." However, a course in medicine is not only protracted but demands a lot of time, concentration and energy. The professors and lecturers at the university are full of understanding for Marita, but the only dispensation is that her studies and examinations are arranged according to competitive events and her training programme. Marita therefore uses every minute of the day and textbooks are always a part of her luggage.

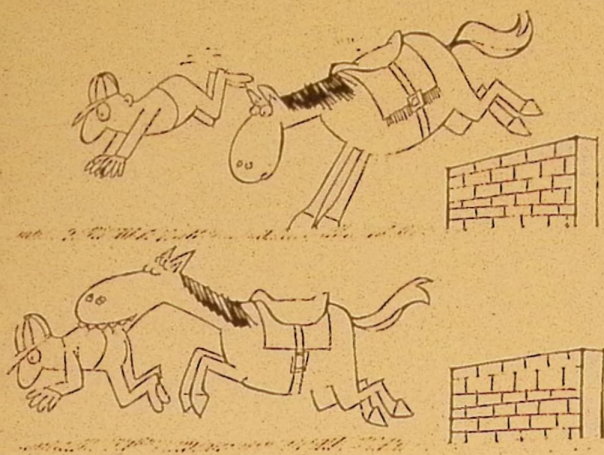
In the case of athletes as successful as Marita Koch it would be interesting to know how this comes about, whether they have a "secret recipe" and why they assume such strenuous burdens. There is no secret recipe, she says. "One must just know exactly what one wants to attain. I originally went to Rostock with the firm intention of reaching world class level. My attitude towards competitive sport was moulded by my school, my home life and my coach. I knew that absolute commitment was essential and I tend to be rather

ambitious. In any case Wolfgang Meier and I saw there was a possibility of achieving something and we have dedicated ourselves utterly to this task. I find that in such matters sport is no different to other social spheres."

All the victories, records and international awards have not gone to Marita's head. It is often said that she is "quiet and reserved". But Marita does not think of herself as such at all: "I can be quite high-spirited, cheerful and even loud—just like others. Moreover, I express my opinions openly and directly. By 'reserved' they certainly mean something else. For example, that we don't make a great fuss if I happen to have run a very good time. And I don't see any reason for it either, because I know that tomorrow someone else can run faster and I must perform still better if I want to win again."

Marita's opinion shows a healthy attitude; and this will be a great benefit to her, although she—or perhaps just because she—will be one of the biggest favourites at the Olympic Games in Moscow.

A. G.



Willy Moese
and
Wolfgang Schubert
went to
The Derby



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Our Front Cover

Members of the Folk Dance Ensemble of the Fibreboard Works at Ribnitz-Damgarten in Rostock County in the costume of the Mönchsgut fishermen. See also our article "Amateur Artists at the Baltic Coast" on pages 1 to 5.

Photo: Carla Arnold

Our Back Cover

Philatelists' Page

Collectors of stamps devoted to space research will be pleased with the new special block issued by the GDR's Ministry of Post and Communications to mark the joint manned space flights made within the Intercosmos programme of the socialist countries. The special stamp with a denomination of one Mark features a symbolic depiction of people in space and was designed by the Soviet artist Konstantinovich Levandovsky. The block with the flags of those countries that have participated to date and the also the Intercosmos symbol was designed by Detlev Glinski from the GDR.

*

A special block and four values were issued to mark the 1980 Olympic Winter Games. The individual stamps bear reproductions of works created by GDR artists. "Bob start" (10 Pf.) by Günter Rechn, "Ice Skater" (20) by Johanna Starke, "Ski jumper" (25 + 10) by Günter Schütz and "Preparing for the Start" (35) by Axel Wunsch. The one Mark value of the block, which we cannot show here for reasons of space, bears a reproduction of Professor Lothar Zitzmann's "Girl Skiers".

*

During the course of the year two specials devoted to the work of the GDR's Postal Service were emitted: Communication by cable and radio - cable laying and the "Intersputnik" satellite (10) and USW and Television (20). The 1980 Leipzig Spring Fair became two specials this year - we have reproduced the 10-Pfennig value which shows the tower building of Leipzig's Karl Marx University.

*

Finally a set of specials entitled "Baroque Gardens in GDR". The stamps show-starting with the lowest denomination-the "Quiet Music" in Gross-Sedlitz Park, Belvedere Park with Orangery in Weimar, the Baroque Garden at Dornburg, and the Rheinsberg Palace Park.



GEMEINSAME BEMANNTE WELTRAUMFLÜGE

