

Document 2: Memorandum of Conversation between Oskar Fischer and Vyacheslav
Kochemassov
September 7, 1989

Comrade Kochemassov provided information first of all about the activities of the Soviet ambassador to Hungary aimed at influencing the appropriate Hungarian comrades and afterwards preparing a detailed report on the course and results of the discussions conducted between the Soviet ambassador in Bonn, Comrade Kvitsinsky, and the chancellor's Office minister, Seiters. Therefore, Comrade Kvitsinsky expressed on behalf of the Soviet Foreign Ministry their serious apprehensiveness concerning the line being pursued by the West German authorities and mass media in regard to GDR citizens' attempts to illegally emigrate to the FRG. He stated that continuation of the situation could lead to a limitation of contacts between citizens of both German states, especially since the GDR controls these possibilities. [...]

Referring to the repeated statements by Bonn politicians that the days of the GDR are numbered and the reunification of Germany is on the agenda, Comrade Kvitsinsky condemned such a course and called for realism in view of the understanding that the GDR has a place in Europe. If the FRG is endeavoring to limit the influx of refugees and not to bury the GDR, it must recognize GDR state citizenship and put an end to immigration from the GDR through economic aid. It makes martyrs out of these so-called "cross-settlers," however, warriors fighting against socialism. [...]

It was agreed that Comrade Oskar Fischer and Comrade Kochemassov should remain in continual contact, and, so far as necessary, keep one another promptly informed.

[Source: Stiftung Archiv der Parteien und Massenorganisationen der DDR-Bundesarchiv.
Translated by Christiaan Hetzner.]