

Document 1.

August 22, 1989, Bonn – Foreign Ministry of the Federal Republic of Germany to the embassy in Prague. Orders dealing with the temporary closing of the Prague embassy to the public.

PA AA Berlin, Record group B85, Vol. 2346E. *Drahterlass* No. 402.  
Translation (extract) by Todd Hammond.

1. In view of the fact that the limits of capacity have been reached for receiving new people from the GDR seeking asylum, it will be necessary to close the embassy for a temporary period. The embassy will therefore be closed for public business as of August 23, 1989, until further notice.

Personnel will continue to be on duty at the embassy. Visas for CSSR citizens will be handled through travel agencies; for holders of service passports and in necessary cases through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the CSSR.

The most important business of the embassy's other working sections (politics, economics, culture, office for press and the public, etc.) should be insofar as possible conducted outside the embassy.

Consular services to Germans from the Federal Republic of Germany and other legal and consular cases should be, in the sense of the proposal, conducted in a comparable manner during consular office hours in a suitable hotel.

We ask that the necessary measures be carried out.

[...]

*Sudhoff*