

Document 5.

September 21, 1989, Berlin – Memorandum of conversation between GDR Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer and director of the fourth territorial department of the Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry Kadnár. With the authorization of the General Secretary of the CPCz Central Committee and the CSSR Government, Kadnár relays the Czechoslovak position on the question of the GDR citizens at the Embassy of Federal Republic in Prague. “The Czechoslovak side asks that the GDR consider the possibility of solving the problem in Prague with a *one-time* measure explicitly described as a great exception.”

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Translation by Todd Hammond.

Memorandum of conversation between Com. Minister Oskar Fischer and special envoy from the CSSR Government Com. Dr. Kadnár, department head at the CSSR Foreign Ministry, September 21, 1989.

Com. Kadnár, entrusted by General Secretary of the CPCz Com. Jakeš and the CSSR Government, declared that the CSSR supports to the fullest extent the domestic and foreign policy of the GDR, and will continue in the future to take defensive measures alongside the GDR against imperialist attacks on the socialist system in Europe. He pointed out the statement released by the Czechoslovak side in this regard.

Com. Kadnár related the following information: on September 19, FRG Ambassador Huber asked for a meeting with Com. Jakeš and CSSR Prime Minister Adamec to take place that same day, and during which Huber was to present Genscher’s personal message. The Czechoslovak Minister of Foreign Affairs was later assigned to receive Huber. In the preparation phase of this meeting the FRG ambassador inquired whether there were differing opinions among the Czechoslovak Party and state leadership on resolving the problem of the GDR citizens presently staying at the FRG embassy in Prague. He added a reminder that the FRG had already expressed its thanks to the Hungarian People’s Republic, and would demonstrate it materially. The same offer for the CSSR stands as well.

Genscher’s message, relayed during the talks with the Czechoslovak foreign minister, contained an emotionally-charged description of the situation at the FRG embassy in Prague, and a proposal for dealing with this problem according to the “Hungarian model”, or in the way Sofia dealt with Romanian citizens who emigrated with documents provided by the International Red Cross.

They don’t want to irritate anyone, they said, and so they will not issue FRG passports to the GDR citizens in question.

Comrade Johannes expressed unlimited support for the GDR, and emphasized that the position of the FRG is in direct contradiction to the Final Act of the CSCE in Helsinki. Later in the conversation the FRG ambassador insisted that a “pragmatic humanitarian solution” must be found.

Com. Kadnár declared that he is authorized to raise a polite request and question whether in solving this problem it would be possible to return to the practice applied in 1984, when some 500 citizens of the GDR were staying at the FRG embassy in Prague.

The Czechoslovak side knows nothing about any guarantees made at that time, only the results. Meanwhile it must be taken into account that the GDR's fortieth anniversary is approaching; a plenary session of the UN is beginning, and the adversary will take advantage of the situation to launch a broad campaign. An epidemic cannot be ruled out, or there could be attempts at suicide, and the Western media would focus on the "human tragedy" in which even women and small children are suffering.

The Czechoslovak side asks that the GDR consider the possibility of solving the problem in Prague with a *one-time* measure explicitly described as a great exception. The Czechoslovak side would provide airtight security around the FRG embassy and erect a higher steel fence around the embassy, which is the property of the CSSR. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has already held appropriate talks with the responsible personnel of the Ministry of the Interior of the CSSR.

Dr. Schwiesau