

Document 10.

October 2, 1989, Prague – Embassy of the Federal Republic in Prague to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bonn. Summary report on the one-time transfer of citizens of the GDR to the Federal Republic on the night of September 30 – October 1 after intervention by Foreign Minister Genscher, and another wave of refugees on the embassy grounds.

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Translation by Todd Hammond..

*For your information*

1. After the intervention of the federal minister on the evening of September 30, 1989, Germans from the GDR at the embassy seeking asylum left the embassy during the evening and night of October 1, 1989. They departed on six special trains via the territory of the GDR to the Federal Republic of Germany.

The first buses going to the Prague train station left the embassy on September 30 at 19:30. The first train left at 21:00. The last bus left the embassy on October 1, 1989 at 8:00 in the morning. The last of six special trains arrived in Hof on Saturday, October 1, 1989 at 18:30. During the final few hours before the transfer from the embassy there were, within the embassy or in front of it, some 6000 people, who were transported to the Federal Republic of Germany by special trains.

The remaining group of about 75 people left the embassy on October 1 during the early morning hours, and on the basis of the "Vogel option" they have returned to the GDR. On Saturday October 1 as of 8:00, there were no Germans from the GDR at the embassy seeking asylum.

2. Afterwards, embassy personnel and members of the Red Cross began the cleanup of the embassy grounds and building, which had been left in a state of chaos. The grounds were littered with refuse, mattresses, sleeping bags, clothes, remnants of food, and wrappers.

3. During the afternoon of Saturday, October 1, 1989 the number of asylum seekers who got onto the grounds over the embassy fence grew to 16. At the same time by 17:00 the size of the crowd of Germans from the GDR gathering in front of the embassy grew to 250 to 300 persons.

In the sense of my orders I pointed out that a repeat of the large-scale operation of the day before is no longer possible, and people seeking asylum should submit a normal application to emigrate. And in case of need I also offered a temporary bridge loan. At intervals during the morning hours, 2 and sometimes 3 uniformed Czechoslovak policemen stood directly in front the embassy entrance.

4. Around 17:00, in the sense of my orders, I opened the gate to the embassy and told the waiting Germans from the GDR that I will now allow them into the building for temporary lodging. The asylum seekers with a joyful cheer began to flow past me into the inner courtyard.

5. During the day today, with considerable help from the asylum seekers, the grounds of the embassy have been provisionally cleaned up, and where possible, washed down. Other disinfection measures will follow.

6. A separate report has been submitted about the barriers that were placed in the street by the Czechoslovak police.

7. As of 19:20 a total of 1622 Germans from the GDR had found refuge at the embassy. Food and shelter have been arranged.

8. From 20:40 the Czechoslovak police allowed some asylum seekers, whom they had detained in the streets leading to the embassy since around 19:00, to continue to the embassy. Soon another 600 such persons will arrive here.

*Huber*