

Document 13.

October 3, 1989, Berlin – CSSR Ambassador to the GDR František Langer to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Prague. Reports on the decision of the SED leadership to temporarily suspend private travel by GDR citizens to Czechoslovakia, and resolve the situation at the Federal Republic embassy in Prague as was done on September 30.

Foreign Ministry Archive, Prague. Telegrams received, 1989, vol. 35.
Translation by Todd Hammond.

In relation to the numerous telephone reports, recommendations, demands, and urgent messages to Comds. Axen, Sieber, and Mahlow of the SED Central Committee in regard to the development of the situation at the FRG embassy in Prague, at 13:25 on October 3, 1989, Com. Sieber reported that after discussions with the SED leadership it was decided:

1. In view of the continuing hostile activity of the imperialistic circles in the FRG, private travel by citizens of the GDR to the CSSR will be temporarily suspended, effective immediately (the exact time could not be given).
2. The situation of citizens of the GDR present within or outside of the FRG embassy building will be handled as on 9.29 and 10.1 of this year. They will be allowed to leave for the FRG.
3. The practical details are to be worked out between chief of State Security Com. Mielke and [Czechoslovak] Minister Kincl.

This information was supposedly given by Com. Axen at 13:15 to Com. Lenárt. When published it will be said that the decision was adopted after consultation with the leadership of the CSSR; therefore he asked Com. Lenárt to promise to give an answer within 30 minutes.

During the subsequent telephone conversation with State Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs Herbert Krolikowski, it was learned that the announcement is to be made in the GDR today at 17:00. (Western radio stations announced the temporary suspension of travel from the GDR to the CSSR already at 14:30.)

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