

Document 15.

October 4, 1989, Berlin – Resolution by the SED Politburo on measures to be taken in regard to the emigration of GDR citizens gathering at the embassy of the Federal Republic in Prague, further limitations on the visa- and passport-free travel regime with the CSSR, and increased patrolling of the GRD's border with Poland.

SAPMO-BArch. Berlin. DY 30, 5195, Fol. 14 f. Also SAPMO-BArch. Berlin. DY 30, J IV/2/2, 2530, Fols. 1–3.

Translation by Todd Hammond.

Current issues

Reporting E. Honecker

1. In the sense of the Politburo meeting of October 4, 1989, transport operation of the former citizens of the GDR from Prague by *Deutsche Reichsbahn* will begin on October 4, 1989 at 17:00.

Responsible for these measures are:

- Comrade E. Krenz
- Comrade E. Mielke
- Comrade O. Arndt
- Comrade F. Dickel
- Comrade H. Krolikowski

2. Inform Comrade Jakeš, General Secretary of the CPCz Central Committee of the decision by letter from the General Secretary of the SED Central Committee Comrade E. Honecker. At the same time thank him for his message, and say that the promised preparations to address the problem could be decided only after the appropriate resolution was adopted by the Politburo of the SED Central Committee. Inform him that for quick resolving of organizational issues, a state secretary of transportation will be sent to Prague immediately, and that the Bonn government will be informed later during the day.

Responsible: Comrade H. Krolikowski.

3. Comrade H. Neubauer is assigned to inform Director Seiters of the Federal Chancellor's Office, on October 4, 1989 at 15:00, that the operation will start today.

Responsible: Comrade H. Krolikowski.

4. Publish a commentary on the operation in the media.

Responsible: Comrade E. Honecker; Comrade J. Herrmann

First report on the beginning of the operation will be published at 17:00.

5. The first secretaries of the regional committee of the SED in Dresden and Karl-Marx-Stadt will be informed by encrypted teletext of the passage of the trains through to the Federal Republic.

Responsible: Comrade E. Honecker.

6. The decision on suspension of the visa-free and passport-free border regime with the CSSR will be immediately expanded to cover the transit of GDR citizens to Bulgaria and Romania. This covers cross-border travel by road, by railroad, and – in the case of Hungary – by air as well.

7. Begin to patrol the entire unfenced border with the CSSR and the Polish People's Republic.

Responsible: Comrade H. Keßler, Comrade E. Mielke, Comrade F. Dickel