

Document 17.

October 5, 1989, Berlin – Summary of information by the GDR Ministry of State Security about the transport to the Federal Republic of East German citizens taking refuge at West German embassy, and related events, occurring on the territory of the GDR, especially in Dresden.

BStU Berlin, MfS, Arbeitsbereich Neiber, 613, Fols. 22-27.

Translation (extract) by Todd Hammond.

Information on measures realized on October 4—5, 1989, for the expulsion of persons illegally present at the Embassy of the FRG in Prague

According to central decisions on October 4–5 complex measures were taken in close cooperation with the security organs of the CSSR to end the illegal presence of citizens of the GDR at the embassy of the FRG.

As of October 5, 1989, at 1:00, 8270 persons had left the territory of the embassy of the FRG in Prague. In this context it is possible to state that reports of numbers reaching 12 000, originally spread especially by the Western media, did not correspond to reality.

The 8270 persons are exclusively those who have previously been staying directly on the grounds of the FRG embassy in Prague.

After leaving the territory of the embassy, these persons were transported by Ministry of State Security buses directly to the Prague-Libeň Station, from which 8 special trains from *Deutsche Reichsbahn* took them via the territory of the GDR over the border crossing at Gutenfürst into the FRG.

The departure of 8 special trains from the Prague-Libeň Station was realized during the period from October 4, 1989, at 18:24, to October 5, 1989, 1:35. These 8 special trains were accompanied by personnel of the Embassy of the FRG in Prague or officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bonn, who were flown to Prague for this purpose on October 3.

At the embassy of the FRG a total of 90 GDR citizens remain for the time being; on October 5, 1989 they will return by their own request to their home communities, as negotiated by the lawyer Prof. Dr. Vogel, and will turn with their application to the responsible organs for internal affairs.

In the context of realizing these complex measures, close collegial cooperation was secured with the competent state and security organs of the CSSR. In all areas concerned the security organs of the GDR ensured a high degree of public order.

Contrary to what was agreed upon, which was that all 8 of the special trains were to go to the FRG along the route Bad Schandau – Dresden – Plauen – Gutenfürst, as a result of the critical situation that arose at Dresden – Main Station five of the trains had to be diverted at the last minute during its route in the CSSR and redirected into the FRG along the route Vojtanov – Bad Brambach – Plauen – Gutenfürst.

The three trains that went through Bad Schandau at the border crossing in Gutenfürst were therefore forced to make an unplanned stop (the first train stood in Bad Schandau from 21:02 to 1:30). The last train left Gutenfürst for the FRG October 5, 1989 at 9:56 h.

In regard to the movement of the *Deutsche Reichsbahn* trains through the territory of the GDR, after the announcement in the Western media of departure times for the special *Deutsche Reichsbahn* trains and their expected route, up to 20 000 persons assembled at the main station in Dresden and the area in front of it all the way to Prager Strasse; afterward disorderly excesses took place that led to the disruption of public order and security, and to major physical damage to the technical equipment and facilities of the *Deutsche Reichsbahn*.

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