

Document 25.

November 4, 1989, Prague – Embassy of the Federal Republic to the Foreign Ministry in Bonn. Direct travel by 4600 GDR citizens from Czechoslovakia to the Federal Republic of Germany, organized by the embassy. “The third mass departure through the Prague embassy organized over the past few weeks is now largely at an end.”

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Translation by Todd Hammond

### **For your information**

1. The third mass departure through the Prague embassy organized over the past few weeks is now largely at an end. As of this moment, on November 4 at 16:00, there are still ten or more GDR Germans remaining at the embassy. These cases will soon be resolved as well (loss of passport, etc.).

2. The embassy was informed of the arrived-at manner of implementing the departure first by telephone on the evening of November 3, 1989. Accompanied by an official for legal and consular matters, on November 11, around 22:00, I visited the GDR embassy here and confirmed the details of the solution that had been arrived at (the possibility to directly and immediately travel to the Federal Republic of Germany, legal emigration, etc.). A separate report on that follows.

3. Transport of people seeking asylum from Prague to Marktredwitz was then organized during the night of November 4 in cooperation with the operations center of German Federal Railways in Mainz, and with the head dispatcher of railroad traffic in Prague. During the night and early morning Federal Railways brought a total of 43 passenger cars to Prague.

The first special train departed Prague at 9:22. The fifth train left at 14:50. A total of some 4600 GDR Germans left town on these five trains. Some 500 to 800 of them went to the Federal Republic in their own cars.

4. By 14:50 the embassy and adjacent streets were completely empty.

5. In the late afternoon and again the evening we expect two more special trains in Prague. Heading towards the embassy at this very moment is an uninterrupted flow of GDR Germans who also want to emigrate. They are loaded straight onto buses and transported to the Prague-Libeň train station.

The embassy will continue to be in operation 24 hours a day, and in direct contact with the emergency service of our foreign ministry, and with the operations center of Federal Railways in Mainz to relay our requests for trains as necessary. Transport from the embassy to the station is organized throughout the night.

6. Clean-up work was begun in the office building and throughout the entire embassy grounds. The building itself as well as the grounds are extremely befouled. The entire state of affairs is little different from the situation that existed here after the second mass departure.

7. The entire operation during the last few days and today has been managed without major complication or incident. Understandably it has had a negative impact on the other operations of the embassy. The vital functions, such as providing visas, were carried on without interruption.

*Hiller*