

Document 27.

November 8, 1989, Prague – GDR Ambassador Helmut Ziebart to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Berlin. Ziebart was asked “to relay the request that departures by citizens of the GDR to the FRG be handled directly, and not through the territory of the CSSR.”

BStU Berlin. MfS, Arbeitsbereich Neiber, 553, Fol. 2  
Translation by Todd Hammond..

1. On November 8 I was invited by Com. [First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs] Sadovský to the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and he told me that the Government of the CSSR and the CPCz Central Committee have been receiving questions and reports from citizens in the North Bohemia and West Bohemia regions in which the writers express amazement that since November 3, emigration by GDR citizens to the FRG is being realized through the territory of the CSSR. In view of pressure from these and other regions of the CSSR, Com. Sadovský, authorized by the government of the CSSR and the department of international politics of the CPCz Central Committee, has asked me to relay the request that departures by citizens of the GDR to the FRG be handled directly, and not through the territory of the CSSR.

I answered Com. Sadovský that the current practice at the moment was a response to the initiative of the general secretary of the CPCz Central Committee for the easing of the situation from last week – this altered the situation at the FRG embassy, and subsequently in Prague as well. I further informed Com. Lenárt that the GDR is considering issuing a set of guidelines for travel to foreign countries before a new law on travel is adopted. Sadovský answered that the comrades were afraid that this would drag on for some time yet, and therefore has made the above request.

2. As authorized by the GDR Government, I submitted to Com. Sadovský a note from the embassy on the temporary suspension of the supplemental protocol for visa-free travel in accordance with telegram CT 118 by Com. Ott. Com. Sadovský accepted the note and promised to pass it along. He asked, however, to consider whether the first sentence could contain the statement “...at the request of the Government of the GDR”. I promised to relay this question. Com. Sadovsky noted that Com. Langer had also received authorization to submit the matter presented in point 1 to Berlin.

Ziebart