

Notes from the CC CPSU Politburo Session, November 3, 1989.

About Krenz (who replaced Honecker in the GDR)

Kryuchkov. Tomorrow 500,000 [people] will come out to the streets in Berlin and in other cities ...

Gorbachev. You hope that Krenz will hold on? If we lose the GDR, we will not be able to report back to our people. But without help from the FRG, we will not be able to keep [the GDR] afloat.

Shevardnadze. It would be better if we take down the “wall” ourselves.

Kryuchkov. If [we] take it down, it would be hard for them [the East Germans].

Gorbachev. They will be bought up lock, stock and barrel ... And when they go to world [market] prices, their living standard will fall instantly.

The West does not want unification of Germany, but it wants to prevent it with our hands, to push us against the FRG, in order to then exclude [a possibility] of conspiracy between the USSR and Germany.

I told Krenz: when selecting personnel, draw not only from the CC but from the society also. Otherwise it will impose unacceptable [candidates] on you.

We will deal with the FRG in the “triangle,” i.e. with the participation of the GDR, and openly, by the way.

[Source: Archive of the Gorbachev Foundation, Moscow. Fond 2, opis 1.
Translated by Svetlana Savranskaya for the National Security Archive.]