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## Twenty-five Years of Diplomatic Relations with the Soviet Union

*Telegrams were exchanged between GDR Foreign Minister Otto Winzer and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.*

*Foreign Minister Winzer addressed the following telegram to his Soviet colleague:*

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the German Democratic Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, I convey cordial and fraternal greetings to you and the whole staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

The Soviet Government's historic decision of 15 October 1949 to establish diplomatic relations with the

German Democratic Republic was a great act of confidence by the Soviet Union in the just founded first German workers' and farmers' state.

After the period of the rule of German imperialism and fascism, which was disastrous for the relations between our peoples, this step marks the irreversible revolutionary turn to relations of a completely new type between our peoples and states whose imperturbable foundation is the loyalty to the principles of Marxism-Leninism and of proletarian internationalism.

The events that marked the 25th anniversary of the foundation of the German Democratic Republic demonstrated once again that the history of our Republic is at the same time the history of the ever closer friendship, cooperation and fighting alliance between the Socialist Unity

Party of Germany and the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, between the German Democratic Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. It is the history of unselfish assistance and support rendered by the Soviet Union to the GDR in all fields.

This assistance and the firm establishment of the German Democratic Republic in the dynamically developing community of socialist states under the leadership of the Soviet Union constitute the decisive guarantee for all successes of our Republic.

On the occasion of today's anniversary, esteemed Comrade Gromyko, it is my heart-felt wish to cordially thank you personally and the staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for the great efforts which enabled us to solve such important foreign political tasks as running the imperialist diplomatic blockade, and the admission of the German Democratic Republic to the United Na-

*A Party and Government delegation headed by Erich Honecker, First Secretary of the SED Central Committee, visited Czechoslovakia from 14 to 17 October. Photo shows Erich Honecker and Gustav Husak signing the Declaration on the Consolidation of Friendship and the Deepening of Fraternal Cooperation. Looking on are Horst Sindermann (l.) and Lubomir Strougal (r.). The documents will be printed in our next issue.*



tions. Let me assure you that the German Democratic Republic, in close alliance with the Soviet Union and the other states of the socialist community, will continue to stand up with all its might for the implementation of the coordinated foreign political line in the interest of the further consolidation of world socialism and peace.

*The telegram from Andrei Gromyko reads:*

Please accept cordial congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic. Since the very first day of the existence of the GDR, our countries have been linked by relations of fraternal friendship, of confidence and mutual understanding comprising all spheres of cooperation between the Soviet Union and the GDR. The visit to Berlin of the Soviet Party and Government delegation headed by the General Secretary of the CC of the CPSU, L. I. Brezhnev, on the occasion of the ceremonies marking the 25th anniversary of the German Democratic Republic, was an eloquent and convincing demonstration of the unshakeable alliance and of the cohesion of our peoples, parties and states. In the past 25 years the GDR scored great successes in all fields. Its positions in the international arena, the positions of a steadfast member of the community of socialist states, are now more stable than ever before. Loyal to their international duty, the USSR and the GDR, in close alliance with the fraternal socialist states, wage a consistent struggle for the consolidation of peace and international détente, for guaranteeing favourable external conditions for communist and socialist construction.

I am convinced that the friendship and the close ties between the USSR and the GDR will be permanently consolidated and developed for the well-being of our countries and in the interest of the cause of peace all over the world.

### Best Wishes for Egyptian Premier

GDR Prime Minister Horst Sindermann has sent cordial congratulations to Dr. Abdel Aziz Hegazy, newly-appointed Prime Minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

## Brotherly Meeting with Soviet Delegation

A Soviet Party and Government delegation led by L. I. Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU, had a meeting with the leadership of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany which was headed by Erich Honecker, First Secretary of the SED Central Committee, on 8 October 1974.

L. I. Brezhnev congratulated the German Comrades cordially again on the 25th anniversary of the Republic and underlined that the jubilee festivities had impressively shown the great enthusiasm in political affairs and at work of the GDR people who is building the developed socialist society under the leadership of the SED and participating actively in the fraternal countries' common struggle for the consolidation of peace and universal security.

Erich Honecker thanked Comrade L. I. Brezhnev and the other Soviet Comrades profoundly on behalf of the Central Committee and the Politbureau of the CC of the SED for attending the festivities that marked the 25th anniversary of the Republic. He emphasized that the Communists, the working people, the whole of the GDR population look on the brotherly alliance with the USSR as the underlying security of new successes on the road to socialism and peace.

He asked that heartiest greetings and best wishes be conveyed to the Central Committee and the Politbureau of the CC of the CPSU, to the Soviet working people and the whole of the Soviet population.

The participants in the meeting exchanged information on the political and economic situation in their countries, on the stage reached in fulfilling the tasks of communist and socialist construction determined in the directives of the XXIVth CPSU Congress and the VIIIth SED Congress. They expressed their deep satisfaction at the successful development of all-round cooperation between the USSR and the GDR and affirmed their readiness further to consolidate and broaden this cooperation in all fields of our Parties' and states' activity and to aim at the peoples of our countries drawing nearer and nearer to each other. Together with the other fraternal

states, the Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic will consolidate every aspect of the political unity of the countries of socialism, deepen the process of the CMEA member-countries' socialist economic integration in the interest of peace, further develop all-round cooperation within the framework of the Warsaw Treaty Organization and strengthen the defence readiness of the socialist community.

There was an exchange of views on a wide range of international questions. The participants in the meeting devoted special attention to the problems of the consolidation of security on the European continent. They stressed the prime significance of the early conclusion of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the holding of its final phase at the highest level.

They voiced their satisfaction at the development, on the basis of the principles of peaceful coexistence, of the relations of the USSR, the GDR and the other countries in the socialist community with states with different socio-economic systems. They declared their firm intention of continuing to steer the socialist countries' conjointly agreed course toward the further widening and deepening of international détente.

L. I. Brezhnev affirmed on behalf of the Central Committee of the CPSU, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and the USSR Council of Ministers the invitation for an official Party and Government delegation from the German Democratic Republic to visit the Soviet Union. The invitation was accepted with thanks by the Party and state leadership of the GDR.

It was agreed that the visit would take place in the spring of 1975.

The meeting, which took place in an atmosphere of a complete identity of views and cordial friendship, was also attended by:

On the part of the Soviet Union: the members of the Politbureau of the CC of the CPSU Andrei Grechko, Minister of Defence, and Andrei Gromyko, Minister of Foreign Affairs; the candidate member of the Politbureau of the CC of the CPSU Pyotr Masharov, First Secretary of



*Cordial understanding between Erich Honecker and L. I. Brezhnev in Berlin.*

Nguyen Huu Tho informed on the journey of the delegation of the Republic of South Vietnam to a number of countries. He thanked once again for the hearty welcome extended to the delegation during the friendship visit to the GDR in early September. He reported on the growing actions of the progressive forces in the regions controlled by the Saigon administration, against the corrupt dictatorial Thieu regime and for the implementation of all stipulations of the Paris Agreement on Vietnam. In a statement made on 8 October, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam had demanded the cessation of US military engagement and the overthrow of Thieu and expressed its readiness to conduct negotiations with a new government which will stand up for peace and national concord, he said.

Willi Stoph declared the sympathy and support of the GDR for the struggle of the population of the Republic of South Vietnam and for the just demands raised in the statement of 8 October.

Both interlocutors corroborated their determination to deepen and consolidate the friendly relations and the cooperation between the two countries as well as the mutual solidary support.

The friendly talk with Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho, who was accompanied by the Ambassador of the Republic of South Vietnam, Dao Hai Long, was also attended by the Secretary of the Council of State, Heinz Eichler, and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Horst Grunert.

In honour of Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho and the delegation accompanying him, the Deputy Chairman of the Council of State Gerald Götting gave a dinner which took place in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

*Press date: 18 October*

the CC of the CP of Byelorussia; the secretary of the CC of the CPSU Constantine Katushev; the Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR Ivan Arkhipov; the First Secretary of the CC of the CP of Lithuania Piatras Griskivicius; the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the USSR to the GDR Mikhail Yefremov, member of the CC of the CPSU, as well as advisers of the General Secretary of the CC of the CPSU Constantine Russakov, member of the CC of the CPSU, and Andrei Alexandrov, member of the Central Auditing Commission of the CPSU;

on the part of the GDR: the members of the Politbureau of the CC

of the SED Willi Stoph, Chairman of the State Council; Horst Sindermann, Chairman of the Council of Ministers; Hermann Axen, Friedrich Ebert, Gerhard Grüneberg, Kurt Hager, Heinz Hoffmann, Werner Krolkowski, Werner Lamberz, Günter Mittag, Erich Mückenberger, Alfred Neumann, Albert Norden, Paul Verner, Herbert Warnke; the candidate members of the Politbureau Werner Felfe, Joachim Herrmann, Werner Jarowinsky, Günther Kleiber, Inge Lange, Erich Mielke, Margarete Müller, Konrad Naumann, Gerhard Schürer, Harry Tisch; the member of the CC of the SED Paul Markowski, head of the International Relations Department.

## Sympathy and Support Reaffirmed for the Just Struggle of the RSV

State Council Chairman Willi Stoph had a friendly talk on 15 October with the Chairman of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam, Chairman of the Consultative Council of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam, Nguyen Huu Tho, who was in the GDR capital for a stop-over. During the meeting which took place in a

cordial atmosphere, Willi Stoph informed on the festivities on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the GDR. In this connection, he expressed his high appreciation of the fact that also in the liberated regions of South Vietnam various events were held in honour of the GDR jubilee, and judged this as evidence of the ever more deepening friendly relations between the two peoples.

## Statement in Support of the Law amending the Constitution

*As already reported, the People's Chamber at its 13th session adopted a law on the amendment of the Constitution which came into effect on 7 October. Erich Honecker, First Secretary of the SED Central Committee, substantiated the bill. He made the following statement:*

Mr. President,

Honourable Members,

I have been given the honourable task of making a statement in support of the Law amending the Constitution of the GDR as jointly proposed by all parliamentary groups before the supreme representative body of the German Democratic Republic.

It has become necessary to amend the present Constitution. The 25th anniversary of the founding of our socialist workers' and farmers' state makes us especially aware of the great extent to which the life of our people has changed in this historically crucial epoch of transition from capitalism to socialism. The German Democratic Republic has made great strides along the road mapped out by the 8th Congress of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany.

Being the basic law of our society and our state, the Constitution must reflect the qualitatively new advances made in the construction of an advanced socialist society in this country and, at the same time, take account of the German Democratic Republic's law-governed progress towards a communist society. It is imperative carefully to review and modify certain parts of our Constitution which are no longer in tune with reality.

We are faced with the responsible task of bringing the Constitution into harmony with real life, with the political and socio-economic level of development of our socialist workers' and farmers' state, with the fundamental ideological stance of our people. This is what we want to achieve by submitting the present draft of the Law amending the Con-

stitution of the GDR which is being put before the People's Chamber for adoption in line with Articles 63 and 108 of the Constitution, which regulate constitutional amendments.

Honourable Members,

After its liberation from fascism by the glorious Soviet Union our people has, in continuing and leading to victory the revolutionary traditions of the German working class, realized its basic rights to socio-economic, political and national self-determination. It is profoundly imbued with the will to continue unswervingly along the road of socialism and communism, of peace, democracy and international friendship in freely determining its own affairs and its history.

The objective laws and the practice of social development led the 8th Congress of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany to develop the German Democratic Republic still further as a socialist state and to establish it firmly in the community of the fraternal socialist countries. Our socialist workers' and farmers' state is developing and reaching a higher level in accordance with the historical processes of our time. The realities of our country, the sense of civic responsibility among the people of the German Democratic Republic are marked by the power of the working class which has built and is perfecting socialism under the leadership of its Marxist-Leninist party and in alliance with the cooperative farmers, the members of the intelligentsia and the other working people. The ideology of the working class is increasingly pervading all spheres of social life.

The victory of the socialist system

in the German Democratic Republic is irrevocable and final in terms of both internal and external conditions and positions. The German Democratic Republic as it exists today is an internationally recognized and sovereign socialist state whose present and future is inseparably linked for ever with the land of Lenin and the other states of the socialist community.

The present draft therefore contains the proposal that the preamble of the Constitution be replaced by a new one that fully corresponds to these historic facts and changes. In this context it is expedient to bring out the nature of our state more clearly and to underline in Article 1 of the Constitution that the German Democratic Republic is a socialist state of workers and farmers. The new version also lays more emphasis on the idea that the welfare of man is central to all efforts of socialist society and the state because all political power is exercised here by the working people in town and countryside.

Honourable Members,

The unequivocal definition of the class character and socialist nature of state power in the German Democratic Republic makes it necessary for our basic foreign policy aims to be formulated more clearly. Article 6 of the bill before you mirrors the basic foreign policy line adopted by the 8th Congress of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and the far-reaching results achieved in implementing it. The amended version not only reflects the consolidation of our fraternal alliance with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics but also expresses the qualitatively new features of this indestructible alliance and of the great historic process of convergence between the socialist nations.

The same article fixes the basic idea that the German Democratic Republic is an inseparable part of the community of socialist states. It is a generalization under constitutional law of the important results achiev-

ed in socialist economic integration and in the reliable protection of socialism and the safeguarding of peace by pooling the resources of the socialist family of nations, and it shows what magnificent prospects are being opened up for cooperation between the states of the liberated socialist world.

The solemn pledge that the German Democratic Republic will always do everything in its power to contribute to the strengthening of the whole community true to the principles of socialist internationalism is now laid down in our Constitution. Article 6 reaffirms the constitutional tenet of solidarity with the peoples fighting against imperialist aggression and oppression.

Honourable Members,

Examining our Constitution against the background of the results and insights of recent years we cannot, of course, overlook the fact that the domestic policy line of the 8th Congress of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany as summarized in the primary task has become the central theme of the collective creative action of the working class, the cooperative farmers, the members of the intelligentsia and all working people. We consider it an important amendment to the Constitution that both the characterization of the new stage of development—the building of an advanced socialist society—and the primary task are included in Article 2.

The proposed amendments to the Constitution also take account of the further perfection and consolidation of the socialist relations of production. Since the 8th Congress of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany the former semi-private businesses, private industrial and building enterprises and craft producer cooperatives operated on industrial lines have been transformed into nationally-owned enterprises. The whole industry of the German Democratic Republic is now owned by the people. It is proposed that this progress in the economic and class structure of our society be enshrined in Article 12. This makes it necessary for Article 14 to be reworded. It now says that the small craft establishments and other commercial under-

takings largely depending on the personal work of their owners retain their firm place in our society and are promoted by the state in the discharge of their responsibilities vis-à-vis socialist society.

A revised version of the Constitution must, last but not least, take into account the experience gathered since the 8th Congress of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany in strengthening socialist state power and developing socialist democracy. The Council of Ministers Act and the Local Government Act adopted by the People's Chamber provide our people with a substantial basis for the development of governmental activity on which we can rely in amending the Constitution. The proposals submitted are chiefly directed at strengthening the role of the People's Chamber as the supreme organ of government in our Republic. For this purpose the responsibilities and powers of the People's Chamber, i.e. of its Presidium, the Council of State and the Council of Ministers, are to be defined and harmonized more accurately.

To guarantee the continuous activity of the People's Chamber the functions of its Presidium are to be expanded. The rewording of Article 55 makes it clear that the Presidium is not only in charge of the business of plenary sessions but also responsible for the conduct of all the activities of the supreme representative body.

The duties and responsibilities of the Council of State as the collective head of state of the German Democratic Republic are defined more clearly. This concerns, in the first place, the representation of our Republic under international law. Article 70 newly stipulates the responsibility of the Council of State to support the local representative bodies, to promote their democratic activity and to bring its influence to bear on the consolidation of socialist state power.

Substantial amendments to the Constitution are being proposed to enhance the status, duties and powers of the Council of Ministers in line with the conditions of social development. Chapter 3 in Part III of the Constitution has therefore been reworded. It contains the unequivocal provision that the Government,

acting directly on behalf of the People's Chamber, has to ensure the uniform execution of government policy at all levels and that it is directly responsible and accountable to the People's Chamber for carrying out this task. The duties and rights of the Council of Ministers in supervising the whole of public affairs are formulated more clearly in the draft before you. The new version of these provisions expresses the great responsibilities incumbent on the Council of Ministers in fulfilling the tasks before the supreme representative body.

Provision is also being made for extending the legislative period of the People's Chamber and its organs from 4 to 5 years. Thus, the legislative period will be brought into agreement with the period of a Five-Year Plan.

The development of the advanced socialist society is attended by growing political and moral maturity of young people in the German Democratic Republic and a significant upswing in the revolutionary spirit of their creative activity. This characteristic advantage of socialism finds its expression in the new Youth Act and now also in the present draft Law amending the Constitution which envisages that everyone 18 years old should have both the right to vote and to stand for office in elections for the supreme representative body.

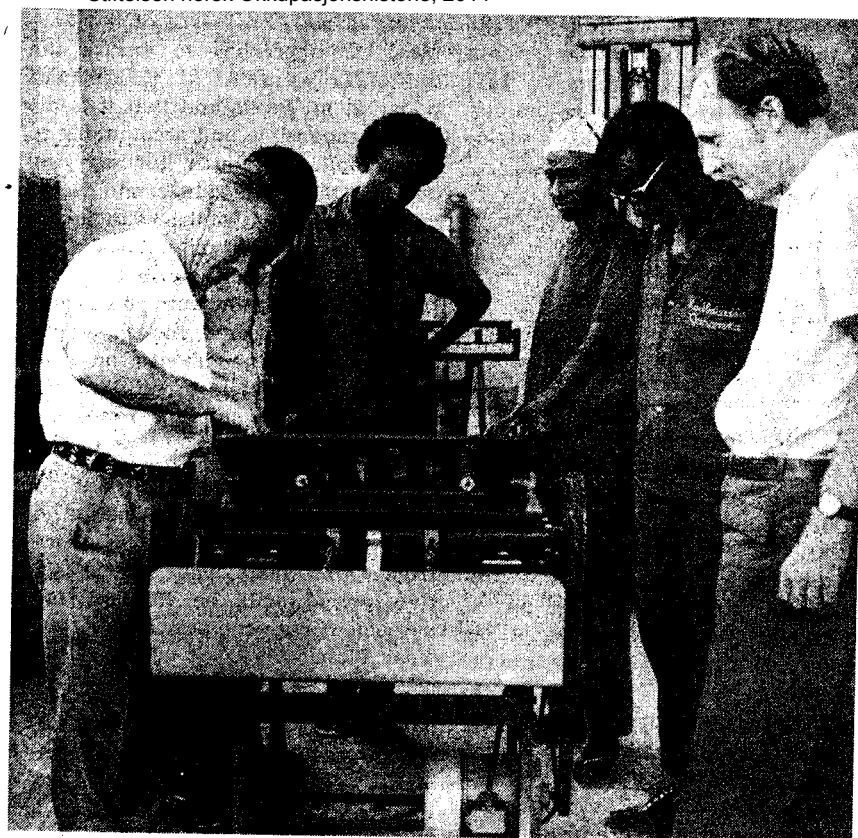
Honourable Members,

In connection with the draft jointly submitted to you by all parliamentary groups I would recommend that after its adoption by the supreme representative body the Law amending the Constitution of the GDR should come into force on 7 October 1974.

We are convinced that our socialist Constitution will promote the revolutionary creative vigour of our people and strengthen its confidence that the great cause of socialism and communism will be triumphant.

Thank you for your attention.

*(The new text of the Constitution will be published as supplement to Foreign Affairs Bulletin at a later date.)*



*Vassili Savoskin from the Soviet Union and Günter Volke from the GDR are advisers at the Government Press of the Somali Democratic Republic in Mogadishu. The socialist countries are supporting the country in building factories, training experts and in education.*

## Long-term Trade Agreement with Nigeria

The GDR and Nigeria concluded a long-term trade agreement in Lagos on 15 October. GDR Minister of Foreign Trade Horst Sölle heading a Government delegation to Nigeria, and Minister of Trade of the Federal Military Government of Nigeria, Wenike Briggs, signed this first Government agreement between the two states.

In this long-term agreement, which is based on equality and mutual advantage, both Governments agreed to promote and substantially develop trade relations. It was agreed to grant each other most-favoured nation treatment. To promote trade and intensify business contacts between the commercial partners, the GDR and Nigeria will grant all possible facilities for the participation of exhibitors and visitors in the international fairs of both countries.

Under the agreement, the GDR and Nigeria have decided to set up a Joint Commission which will ensure the envisaged development of trade relations and work out measures for the extension of economic cooperation. Furthermore, an exchange of

information on the possibilities of supplying goods and services was agreed upon. After the signing of the agreement, Minister Sölle stressed the GDR's intention to export to Nigeria more machines and equipment thus contributing to the further industrialization.

According to Minister Sölle, the GDR is prepared to import from Nigeria traditional inland produce, including cocoa-beans, palm kernels, cotton and seeds, coffee, timber, rubber, pea-nuts as well as crude oil and various ores.

### Talk with the Head of State

Immediately after signing the long-term trade agreement, Minister of Foreign Trade Horst Sölle was received by the Nigerian Head of State General Yakubu Gowon. During their talk, issues of mutual interest related to the development of relations between the GDR and Nigeria were discussed.

During his stay in Nigeria Minister Sölle had several talks with Wenike Briggs, the acting Foreign Minister

J. T. F. Iyalla, and the Director General of the national export association for agricultural products, J. F. George. The discussions centred around the development of GDR exports of machines and equipment to Nigeria and the direct purchase of Nigerian inland produce on the basis of long-term contracts.

## Freedom Demanded for Anti-apartheid Fighters

The Solidarity Committee of the German Democratic Republic has manifested fraternal solidarity with all fighters against apartheid.

A statement issued on the recent Day of Solidarity with the Political Prisoners in South Africa recalls that thousands of people are languishing in concentration camps, penitentiaries and prisons for their fearless struggle against national suppression, colonial exploitation, and the anti-human apartheid policy.

"People of different colours of skin and social origin, among them such outstanding personalities as Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu, Govan Mbeki, Ahmed Kathrada, Billy Nair and Bram Fisher, have been imprisoned for many years and exposed to brutal torturing.

"We demand the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners in South Africa and assure all fighters against the apartheid policy of our unqualified solidarity."

The Solidarity Committee strongly condemns the NATO states for complicity with the Vorster regime. They were pursuing the aim, it is said, of stopping the advance of the national liberation movement in southern Africa.

The statement points out that the Government and the people of the GDR have always been supporting the struggle of the suppressed people of South Africa and stand behind the United Nations resolutions which denounce apartheid and demand the consistent boycott of South Africa.



## Instruments of Accession Deposited

On 4 October 1974 the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Permanent Representative of the German Democratic Republic at the United Nations, Ambassador Peter Florin, deposited the instruments of accession of the German Democratic Republic to the

- Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations of 13 February 1946;

- Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies of 21 November 1947;

- Customs Convention on Containers, 1972, and to the

- Agreement Concerning the Adoption of Uniform Conditions of Approval and Reciprocal Recognition of Approval for Motor Vehicle Equipment and Parts of 20 March 1958, as Amended on 10 November 1967

with the Secretary General of the United Nations. In addition, notes were transmitted to the Secretary General in which the German Democratic Republic declares the re-application of the

- Convention for the Suppression of the Circulation of and Traffic in Obscene Publications of 4 May 1910 and the

- Convention on the International Regime of Railways of 9 December 1923.

## Talk with SAR Representative

Horst Sindermann, Chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers, received Shtewi Seifo, Minister for Industries of the Syrian Arab Republic, for a talk on further deepening economic and scientific-technical cooperation between the two countries. Central point of the talk was GDR participation in important projects of the SAR's national economy in the following years and the development of foreign trade.

Horst Sindermann explained the GDR's attitude of solidarity with the struggle of the Syrian people for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. Minister Seifo expressed his country's high estimation in connection with this attitude.

Other participants in the talk were

Horst Soelle, GDR Minister of Foreign Trade, and Dr. Youssef Chakra, SAR Ambassador to the GDR.

## Protocol on Cultural Cooperation with Japan

A protocol on the outcome of the sojourn in Japan of a GDR Government delegation headed by Minister of Culture Hans-Joachim Hoffmann was signed at the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Part of the document states:

"The two delegations were agreed that both Governments ought to intensify endeavours to strengthen cultural relations in various sectors in order to contribute toward a better understanding of the achievements the two countries have in the cultural sphere, and their cultural traditions. Both delegations were agreed that these endeavours will contribute toward a better mutual understanding between the two countries."

Minister Hoffmann opened a representative exhibition of European paintings in Tokyo which found a lively interest with the Japanese public. The pictures had been loaned by the Dresden Gallery of Old Masters.

## Credentials Presented

### Nepal:

The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the GDR to the Kingdom of Nepal, Wolfgang Schüssler, presented his letter of credence to King Birendra Bir Birkram Shah Dev. The Ambassador delivered most cordial greetings from State Council Chairman Willi Stoph. The King thanked him for the greetings and wishes and asked the Ambassador to convey to the GDR State Council Chairman his compliments and sincere wishes for his personal well-being and for that of the GDR people. Mutual understanding and friendship characterize relations between the two countries, he said.

### Turkey:

Norbert Jäschke, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the GDR to the Republic of Turkey, was received by President Fahri Korutürk on 3 October for the presentation of his credentials. The President said in the talk that followed that the accrediting of the first GDR ambassador to Turkey was an historic event in the relations between the two states. Ambassador Norbert Jäschke laid a wreath at the mausoleum of Kemal Atatürk.



*The Berliner Ensemble recently celebrated its 25th anniversary. Among its outstanding productions is Bertolt Brecht's Life of Galilei featuring Wolfgang Heinz.*

## First Calls

Horst Sindermann, Chairman of the Council of Ministers, received Andras Gyenes, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the *Hungarian People's Republic* to the GDR, for his first visit.

During the talk held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere they appreciated the fraternal friendship and the successful development of relations between the two states and peoples, which since the visit of a GDR Party and Government delegation to the *Hungarian People's Republic* in February 1972 have reached a new and higher stage and embrace all spheres of social life. The GDR and the *Hungarian People's Republic* devote special attention to the further dynamic development of bilateral economic and scientific-technical cooperation according to the decisions adopted by CMEA.



*Indian artists Pakrash Maharaj (tabla) and Subroto Roy Chowdhury (sitar) enjoy international renown. Their excellent performances were enthusiastically applauded when they starred at this year's Berlin Festival.*

Horst Sindermann received the newly appointed Ambassador of the *Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia* for his first official call. The talk which took place in a friendly and cordial atmosphere centred round the successful development of relations between the two countries.

Prime Minister Horst Sindermann paid tribute to the results achieved in long-term and plan-wise cooperation in the economic and scientific-technical fields, stating that there are favourable conditions for further deepening relations between the two friendly states.

Ambassador Melovski, too, was convinced that the close cooperation existing between the two peoples would continue to deepen to the benefit of socialism. He conveyed most cordial greetings and wishes from Dzemal Bijedic, Chairman of the Federal Executive Council of the SFRY, which were cordially reciprocated.

Prime Minister Horst Sindermann received Puntsagin Shagdarsuren, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the *Mongolian People's Republic* to the GDR, for his first official call. The talk centred around problems concerning international developments and the further deepening of fraternal GDR-MPR relations. Horst Sindermann and Ambassador Shagdarsuren stressed

the good and continuous development of the close brotherly relations that obtain between the two states and peoples and affirmed their Governments' wish to go on contributing actively toward the further consolidation of these friendly relations.

Horst Sindermann received Mahmoud Abdulla Oshaish, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the *People's Democratic Republic of Yemen* to the GDR, for his first official call. The Premier and the Ambassador had a cordial talk where they appreciated the high level of the friendly relations that obtain between the two states. In this context they emphasized the significance of the recent visit to the GDR by the Chairman of the PDRY Presidential Council, Salem Robaya Ali, for the further deepening of trustful cooperation.

Prime Minister Horst Sindermann received Hoang Tu, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the *Democratic Republic of Vietnam* to the GDR, for his first official call. Horst Sindermann stressed that both

countries are making an active contribution toward the consolidation of the unity and cohesion of the socialist states, toward the struggle against imperialism and aggression and toward the maintenance of world peace through their all-round cooperation.

The parties to the talk appreciated the successful development of relations between the SED and the *Vietnam Workers' Party*, the two states and peoples, and affirmed their Governments' wish to go on standing up actively for the further consolidation and deepening of these relations. Horst Sindermann assured the Ambassador that, at the side of the Soviet Union and the other socialist states, the people of the GDR would continue to make solidary help and assistance available to the Vietnamese people in the fight for the consistent observance and full implementation of the Paris Agreement on Vietnam, in overcoming the consequences of the war and in the construction of socialism.

Ambassador Hoang Tu appreciated the GDR population's continuous solidarity and material assistance in the reconstruction of the DRV.