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COMMITTEE OF POLITICAL ADVISORS

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SOVIET-OCCUPIED  
ZONE OF GERMANY IN MARCH AND APRIL 1958

Note by the German Delegation

1. Foreign Politics

During March and April of this year, a number of foreign delegations again visited the Soviet occupied zone. Among the visitors from the West was a group of five Members of the House of Commons consisting of two Conservatives, two Labour Members and one Liberal.

In Leipzig, the MPs had an extended conversation with Walter Ulbricht, Dr. Dieckmann, the President of the People's Chamber, Sepp Schwab, the Deputy Foreign Minister of the Soviet-occupied zone, and Gerhard Weiss, the Deputy Minister for Foreign and Internal German Trade. In the course of the conversation the Labour MP Arthur Lewis is quoted in reports from the Soviet-occupied zone to have said that the "German Democratic Republic" should under no circumstances sacrifice its "socialist achievements" in the case of reunification. Furthermore, he is alleged to have advocated a "confederation of the two German States".

At the invitation of the Berlin Bureau of the "International Conference for a Peaceful Solution of the German Question" the British Labour MPs, Messrs. Bence, Fernyhough, MacMillan and Rankin, visited the Soviet-occupied zone. Furthermore, the Conservative MP, Mr. Drayson, visited East Berlin; among others he discussed with Herr Weiss, the Deputy Minister for Foreign and Internal German Trade, questions of trade between the Soviet-occupied zone and Great Britain.

The rulers of the Soviet-occupied zone paid particular attention to the visit by a Hungarian Party and Government Delegation led by Dr. Ferenc Münnich. The final communiqué confirmed the intention of both sides further to strengthen relations between the two countries, especially in the political, economic and cultural fields.

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Dr. Bolz, the Foreign Minister of the Soviet-occupied zone, received Mr. U. Tin, the Minister of Trade Development of the Union of Burma, and discussed with him questions of the further development of the relations between the Soviet-occupied zone and Burma.

Following his visit to the Federal Republic of Germany, A.I. Mikoyan, the First Deputy of the President of the USSR Ministers' Council, paid a one day visit to East Berlin as guest of the Soviet-occupied zone Government. Inter alia, Mikoyan took part in a "friendship rally" of the "National Front" and attended a reception at the "House of Ministries".

A Bulgarian Party and Government Delegation comprising, among others, Todor Shiwkow, the First Secretary of the Communist Party Central Committee in Bulgaria, and Minister President Jugov, arrived for a six day visit in the Soviet-occupied zone. On that occasion a consular agreement, a cultural agreement and an agreement on co-operation in health problems were concluded.

Dr. Bolz, the Foreign Minister of the Soviet-occupied zone, took part in a three day conference of the Foreign Ministers of the Soviet-occupied zone, Czechoslovakia and Poland in Prague.

The newly appointed USSR Ambassador in the Soviet-occupied zone, N.G. Pervushin, arrived in East Berlin to assume his functions. One of his first official acts was to send a letter of protest to the Ambassadors of the United States, the United Kingdom and France in Bonn against the alleged American veto to allow the jet passenger aircraft TU 104 A of the Soviet Aviation Company to fly across the Federal Republic.

Upon the exchange of the instruments of ratification in Ulan Bator the Friendship and Co-operation Treaty between the Soviet-occupied zone and the Mongolian People's Republic came into force.

In a number of towns and villages friendship demonstrations took place on the occasion of the withdrawal of Soviet troops.

The "Presidium of the Council of Ministers of the German Democratic Republic" discussed at an extraordinary meeting Khrushchev's letter on the cessation of nuclear tests in the USSR and supported the Soviet initiative. In a Note addressed to the Federal Government, which had also received a letter from Khrushchev, it was proposed to send a joint reply. A few days later, the People's Chamber also decided to appeal to the Bundestag to open negotiations with the Government of the Soviet-occupied zone on the drafting of a joint reply to the Soviet Government.

The Foreign Ministry of the Soviet-occupied zone declared in a statement that the remark made by Mr. Lange, the Norwegian Foreign Minister, according to which the Soviet Union had installed missile launching sites in the Soviet-occupied zone, as "entirely unfounded".

The SED Central Committee informed the Central Committee of the Communist Federation of Yugoslavia in a letter that it would not send a delegation to the Party convention of the Communist Federation of Yugoslavia to be held in Laibach.

## 2. Home Politics

Since the 33rd Plenary Session of the SED Central Committee (16th - 19th October 1957), it has again become clear that a harsher policy is being pursued.

A few examples are cited as illustrations:

- Bank notes were withdrawn from circulation and exchanged in October 1957;
- Amended passport regulations and Penal Code;
- A Law on the Perfection and Simplification of the governmental machinery;
- Purge by Ulbricht, early in February 1958;
- Law on the "Promotion of the Crafts";
- Cultural Conference, University Conference, Conference of Machinery and Tractor Stations, and Conference on Legal Questions.

The harsh policy extends from the Party summit, i.e. it is imposed by Ulbricht via the SED Party machine to all fields of home politics. It will be shown in broad outlines on the following pages what the various objectives of this policy are, what development has already taken place, and which trends can be discerned for the future.

### Divergencies within the SED leadership.

The opposition to Ulbricht's tough policy within the SED Politbureau, which could already be detected during the 33rd Plenary Session of the SED Central Committee resulted in the expulsion of Schirdewan, Oelssner and Wellweber. A study of the background of this rapid action taken by the first secretary of the SED reveals that it was by no means divergencies on the fundamental objectives that were at stake, but that only tactical questions were involved concerning the timing and the methods to be employed in carrying out the harsh policy.

However, the February purge did not eliminate the tension existing among the SED leaders. Although Ulbricht managed to strengthen his own position by admitting a number of young functionaries blindly devoted to him to the Politbureau and the Secretariat, resistance to his economic policy in the circles of leading experts can be clearly felt. Selbmann, whose position appeared to be rather compromised at an earlier stage, may be considered the leading representative of this group. Attacks against him, however, were silenced comparatively quickly, a fact which can undoubtedly be explained largely by the Soviet support which Selbmann enjoys.

At some stage, it appeared that the purge had also threatened Grotewohl's position. Obviously, however, the Minister President managed to assure himself sufficiently of Soviet support during his visit to the Soviet Union, so that his position seems to be relatively safe at least until the autumn of 1958, despite his impaired health.

In this connection mention should also be made of the relationship between Ulbricht and Rau; it is marked in matters of substance as well as personally by considerable differences of opinion since Rau - particularly on economic matters - is a sober, realistic politician who voices his objections to Ulbricht's policy behind closed doors without hesitation, but who has always been a loyal supporter of the Party boss in public. On various occasions he has been mentioned as a possible successor of Grotewohl and sometimes even of Ulbricht.

The only other leading functionary to be mentioned here is Leuschner; he expressed himself recently on various occasions quite clearly in favour of the tough policy in connection with economic questions, so that Ulbricht does not need to fear opposition from this side for the time being.

Thus, the Politbureau and the Secretariat have once again become the instruments of leadership controlled by the First Secretary, which accept unreservedly, and without opposition, his directives and pass them on to the State and Party machine.

#### Purge of the SED Party Machine

The aim of the thorough Party purge announced at the 33rd Plenary Session of the SED Central Committee was to eliminate all elements which by their passive attitude or even their oppositional activity had, for a long time, prevented the Party from becoming a pliant tool for the execution of Ulbricht's policy.

In fact, the purge obviously commenced on a large scale only after the February crisis in the Politbureau. The following categories can be distinguished in this connection:

- "Passivists" who did not take part in the Party work or who failed in their tasks or who showed a "reactionary" attitude;
- "Party friends", i.e. bourgeois elements, who "escaped into the Party" for safety reasons after 1945 without identifying themselves seriously with the Party aims;
- "Party enemies", mostly former members or functionaries of the Social Democratic Party, who had been guilty of factionalism".

The percentage of "passivists" is estimated at about 90%, that of the two other groups roughly at 5% each.

A major leading SED functionary stated recently that until 1960, roughly 70% of the present members would have to be eliminated from the Party taking into account a quota of 15-20% of young newcomers since it was the intention to reduce the number of members by that date to approximately 40% of the present number. The development towards a real cadre party is to be stopped up during the period of 1961-65 in such a way as to cut down the number of members once again by nearly fifty per cent.

While the harsh policy in the form of a forced implementation of socialism is being applied to the economically still comparatively independent strata mainly through means of economic pressure, other methods are being used vis-a-vis university circles and the intelligentsia, who work in the cultural fields and who are also more dependent on the régime. This can be clearly seen from a number of meetings organized since last autumn, such as the Cultural Conference, the University Conference and the Conference on Legal Questions. All these meetings were quite obviously meant to eliminate drastically all oppositional trends and to mobilise the activity of each professional group in favour of the harsh policy.

Criticism concerning deviations from the Party line expressed on this occasion made it evident, however, that the readiness among the intelligentsia to co-operate has not yet everywhere reached the desired degree. This opposition is most visible in university circles and the régime is endeavouring to assert itself by the following measures:

- Leading scientists are mostly left alone; they are required only to sign atom and peace declarations.
- The teaching staffs of the universities are being purged, "unreliable" professors are barred from teaching activities and assigned research tasks.
- Young university teachers must practically always be able to produce their SED party card.

- The activity of students' groups organized by the Church and Church parishes are being restricted.
- Scientific contacts with the Federal Republic and with the West in general are being considerably restricted.
- Pressure is brought to bear upon students to do a military or labour service and to join the SED, which counted 8% of the students in 1955, 22% in 1957 and as many as 28% in 1958.

The debate in the Bundestag on the stationing of nuclear weapons in the Federal Republic served as a pretext for extremely violent agitation against the Federal Government. "Minister President" Grotewohl declared, inter alia: "The counter-measures of the countries threatened by the imperialist forces will not be long to come".

The "Council of Ministers" instructed Dr. Bolz, the Foreign Minister of the Soviet-occupied zone to prepare a "white paper on the anti-national and peace endangering policy of the Government of the Federal Republic".

#### The Status of Berlin

Within the overall framework of the harsh policy a special role is assigned to Berlin, since this is the place where the interests of Moscow and the attitude of the Kremlin towards the Western Powers are directly concerned. Pankow's repeated attempts towards the end of last year to seal off West Berlin finally and completely from its own sphere of power were frustrated each time by the veto of the Kremlin, which wanted to avoid a worsening of the situation in Berlin in order to be able to pursue its policy of a summit conference.

Nevertheless, it can be stated that the technical preparations for an efficient sealing-off of West Berlin were completed some time ago. At present, Pankow is also raising the problem of the border commuters.

The sealing-off of West Berlin, while at the same time temporarily adhering to the terms of the Four Power Agreement, represents however nothing but the first phase of the development planned by the East. There are signs that the incorporation of West Berlin into the Pankow sphere of power is to be the final phase of this plan. This is to be brought about one day by a surprise action - perhaps on the occasion of a large-scale "peace propaganda action". An attempt will be made to avoid countermeasures by the Allied security units and the West Berlin policy. It is possible that operations such as the march of the "Free German Youth" on the Berlin City Hall in June 1948, or the recent move of East Berlin students in the Western sectors may serve as models for this attempt.

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In this connection mention must also be made of Pankov's efforts to call into question the legal validity of the Four-Power Agreement by propaganda moves which are sometimes given a pseudo-legalistic aspect and its claims for sovereignty in the field of air traffic. This is Moscow's way to prepare the ground for the further development towards the final phase.

Herr Ebert, East Berlin's Lord Mayor, stated in an interview granted to the "Süddeutsche Zeitung" on the situation in Berlin: "We have to respect the Four-Power status - whether we like it or not. The military leaders and diplomats of the Soviet Union insist on it". Contrary to this statement, Waldemar Schmidt, the East Berlin Deputy Lord Mayor, declared at a later meeting: "In West Berlin it has become very fashionable to talk about the Four Power status of Berlin. It is being overlooked, however, that this status is part of the Potsdam Agreement which was violated by the Western Powers so that the Western Powers, from the point of view of international law, have forfeited the right to maintain troops in Berlin".

### 3. Economic Situation

Reorganization of the Governmental and Economic Machinery. In this field the essential points of the harsh policy have been laid down in the Law on "the Perfection and Simplification of the State Machine". The reorganization is to be carried out on the following fundamental lines:

- Continued development of "democratic centralism".
- Preservation of the right of the working people to creative co-operation.
- It is the task of the central bodies to determine the fundamental political and, in particular, the economic line and to exercise control over it.
- The local authorities are given the powers necessary to carry out their tasks and are exclusively responsible for their execution.
- The "operational" direction in the economic sector is to be moved closer to the "basis".
- Scientific work is to be tied more closely to the practical side of the "socialist build-up".

On the strength of these claims it becomes evident that the reorganization of the cumbersome and inflated machinery of the economic administration already initiated, is fashioned to a large extent on the Soviet pattern. This reorganization is explained by Ulbricht by the necessity to create a more flexible management of the economy by means of far-reaching decentralisation (delegation of economic responsibilities to the district authorities and to the associations of people's enterprises). The dissolution of eight industrial ministries is an outward symptom of this trend.

In view of the difficulties which have already become apparent, the question arises to what extent Ulbricht will be able to enforce his uncompromising policy in the long run without risking an economic catastrophe. Oelssner and Schirdewan, and above all economic functionaries such as Selbmann, have repeatedly cautioned against this policy. That Moscow has recognised this danger is illustrated by Pervoukhin's appointment to Pankow. So far, it cannot be seen clearly where Pervoukhin's compromise between the tough policy of the First Secretary and the facts of the economic situation will lie. In view of his background it appears probable that he will be guided in the first place by objective considerations provided he is given a free hand by Moscow. It is quite possible that Ulbricht will have to accept a certain watering-down of his policy.

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The Spring Fair 1958 took place in Leipzig. According to information furnished by the Ministry for Foreign and Internal Trade, the total turnover of the Soviet-occupied zone amounted to 2,485 million DM, of which 1,920 million DM represented export orders and 565 million DM import orders.

1,376 million DM of the export orders were placed by "Socialist Countries" and 545 million DM by the "Capitalist Economic Area" including the Federal Republic with 212 million DM.

The countries of the Soviet bloc received import orders for 330 million DM and the western countries for 235 million DM, of which 118 million DM are made up by intra-German trade.

During the visit of the Hungarian Party and Government Delegation to central Germany a long-term trade agreement between the Soviet-occupied zone and Hungary for 1958-60 was signed.

In Leipzig an Agreement on Trade and Payments for 1958 between the Soviet-occupied zone and North Vietnam was signed. Under this agreement the Soviet-occupied zone is to export mainly engineering products, electrical appliances and products for precision and optical industries as well as hospital equipment and laboratories. Vietnam furnishes, inter alia, maize, rice, oleaginous fruits, spices, tinned pineapple, railway sleepers, bamboo and handicraft products.

Between the Soviet-occupied zone and North Korea a protocol to the long-term trade agreement for 1958-61 governing the trade and payment between the two countries in 1958 was signed in Phoeng-jang.

The Soviet-occupied zone will deliver equipment for an artificial staple fibre factory and for a metallurgical "combine", textile machinery, products of the precision and optical industries, electrical appliances and chemical products. Korea furnishes among others non-ferrous metals and graphite and agricultural and other products.

A shipping agreement was signed between the Soviet-occupied zone and the United Arab Republic in Cairo providing for the establishment of a regular shipping service between the two countries.

An amendment to the "Agreement on the Exchange of Technical Commodities" was signed in Leipzig between the "German Export and Import Company for the Precision and Optical Industries" and the Czechoslovak Foreign Trade Company "Novo". The total volume provided for in this agreement amounts to 9 million roubles. The Soviet-occupied zone will mainly deliver reflex cameras amounting to 3.3 million roubles while Czechoslovakia will furnish, among others, washing machines, vacuum cleaners and other commodities.

Gerhard Weiss, the Deputy Foreign Trade Minister, received a Yemen Government Delegation visiting the Soviet-occupied zone.

In Leipzig, Herr Nau, Foreign Trade Minister, received a Delegation of the Economic Commission of the French Senate.

Representatives of the airlines of the Soviet Union, Poland, Hungary, Rumania, Albania, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, North Korea, Czechoslovakia, Mongolia and the Soviet-occupied zone met in Leipzig to discuss commercial co-operation and technical aviation questions.

The XVth meeting of the Permanent Commission for Technical and Scientific Co-operation between the Soviet-occupied zone and Poland took place in Berlin. It was agreed to co-operate more closely, in particular, in the fields of the chemical, the building, the engineering and the light industries.

At a meeting in Peking, government representatives of China, Hungary, Poland, the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia and the Soviet-occupied zone decided to carry out joint research work on high-voltage electrical equipment.

The second conference of the heads of the East Bloc customs administrations held its final session in Prague. Co-operation of the customs administration and measures to simplify customs controls were discussed at this conference.

The Permanent Commission on Economic, Scientific and Technical Co-operation within the fuel industries of the Mutual Economic Aid Council met in Prague. Delegates from Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Rumania, the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia and the Soviet-occupied zone attended this meeting.

At a conference in Prague the heads of the Central water supply organizations of the Soviet-occupied zone, Czechoslovakia and Poland discussed a common water administration plan for the collection area of the river Neisse and its tributaries.

Led by Karl Salomon, State Secretary in the Transport Ministry, a delegation of the Soviet-occupied zone left for Cairo to open negotiations with the UAR authorities.

In Lodz a conference on the construction of transformers took place which was attended by representatives of the member States of the Mutual Economic Aid Council, of industry and scientists specialising in this field.

State Secretary Hüttenrauch of the Foreign and Internal German Trade Ministry announced at a press conference in Leipzig that the Soviet-occupied zone had concluded - partly at the governmental level, partly at the level of the Chambers of Commerce - trade agreements with more than 30 countries.

Herr Rau, the Minister for Foreign and Internal German Trade, stated that the zonal government was determined to repeat its action of 13th October 1957 of calling in and exchanging bank notes, should the situation require such a measure.

The Commercial Court at Vienna decreed that the Lufthansa of the Soviet-occupied zone was not allowed to use the name "Deutsche Lufthansa" nor its emblem in its traffic with Austria.

A protocol was signed in Moscow on the mutual trade of the Soviet Union and the Soviet-occupied zone in 1958, the volume of which is said to amount to approx. 6.5 milliard roubles. The Soviet-occupied zone is to export, among others, machine tools, metallurgical and power equipment, transport equipment, railway material, ships, cables, chemical products and products of the light industry, while the Soviet Union will deliver, among others, hard coal, coke, iron ore, ferrous and non-ferrous metals, petroleum, timber, textile raw materials, cereals and foodstuffs.

A trade and payment agreement for 1958 between the Soviet-occupied zone and China was concluded in East Berlin. The Soviet-occupied zone will deliver, among others, complete installations, engineering products and products of the precision and optical, the electrical and the polygraphic industries, and will receive from China, among others, chemical, mining and agricultural products, foodstuffs, textile raw materials and consumer goods.

The Foreign Trade Chamber of the Soviet-occupied zone and the "Services Commerciaux Français en Allemagne" concluded in East Berlin an agreement on the trade between the Soviet-occupied zone and France in 1958 and established commodity lists totalling 20.2 million dollars. The Soviet-occupied zone will export to France, among others, machinery and equipment, products of the precision and optical and the electrical industries, polygraphical machines, chemicals and products of the light industries and will import rolling-mill products, machinery, products of the precision and optical and the electrical industries, chemicals, foodstuffs, textiles and timber.

In Belgrade, a general sales agency agreement was signed between the Yugoslav airline company "JAT" and the "Lufthansa" of the Soviet-occupied zone.

In addition, an inter-line agreement was concluded between the "Lufthansa" of the Soviet-occupied zone and the "Finnair".

In East Berlin representatives of the "DIA Elektrotechnik" and the Belgian firm "ACEC" signed a co-operation contract on the execution of a Soviet order for the electrification of the Soviet State railways. The contract provides for the delivery of transformers worth 67.5 million B.fr. to the Soviet-occupied zone by the ACEC.

Herr Rau, the Minister for Foreign and Internal German Trade, paid a three day visit to Belgrade.

A Soviet-occupied zone delegation led by the Deputy Minister for Foreign and Internal German Trade, Herr Merkel, visited the Cotton Exhibition in Cairo at the invitation of the government of the UAR. Merkel talked, among others, with the Minister for Trade and Economics, Kaissouny, the Minister for Industry, Sidky, the Minister for Agriculture, Marci, and the Minister for Town and Rural Affairs, Nosseir.

The "Permanent Commission of the Mutual Economic Aid Council for the Exchange of Electrical Energy" discussed at its meeting in Bucharest, among others, a working plan on projects and research work for the complete utilisation of the Danube hydropower reserves.

The "Permanent Commission of the Mutual Economic Aid Council for Timber and Cellulose" held its third meeting in Budapest.

The "Committee for Co-operation of the Socialist Countries in the field of Railway Transport" met in Sofia.

The "Working Group on Ferrous Metallurgy" of the "Permanent Commission of the Mutual Economic Aid Council", comprising a number of well-known metallurgical specialists from the Soviet Union, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria and the Soviet-occupied zone, met for three days in Stalinstadt.

The nuclear physicist, Professor von Ardenne, announced that the first nuclear power station in the Soviet-occupied zone will probably start production in 1963.

The Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry announced that 675 new agricultural production co-operatives had been opened in the first quarter of 1958. Thus, 7366 agricultural production co-operatives are already in charge of 27.7% of the arable land.

C/119-WP/74/44. Refugees

After a mass exodus of peasants from the Soviet-occupied zone had already taken place in the spring of 1955, a great number of scientists can be found among the refugees of the last few months. The former had been driven from their farms by the obstinately pursued collectivisation of agriculture, it is now the "socialist reorganization of the universities" decided by the SED, which forces many scientists to flee to the Federal Republic. According to information, which is far from complete, more than 60 scientists have fled to western Germany since the beginning of the year, including 9 professors, 13 lecturers and 33 senior and junior assistants. In addition, approx. 2500 - i.e. roughly 25% of all secondary school graduates - fled to western Germany.

5. Cultural Affairs

On the occasion of the visit by the Bulgarian Party and Government Delegation to East Berlin a cultural agreement between the Soviet-occupied zone and Bulgaria was concluded.

In Phoengjang an agreement on cultural and scientific cooperation between the Soviet-occupied zone and North Korea was concluded.

The working plan for 1958 under the agreement between China and the Soviet-occupied zone was signed in East Berlin. The working plan provides, inter alia, for an increased exchange of professors and students of both countries.

6. Church Affairs

The implementation of the harsh policy vis-a-vis the Christian Churches - and in particular vis-a-vis the Protestant Church - was marked in the early stages by the trials of Schmutzler and Maerker, and to a certain degree of Grünbaum, which were given wide publicity. In addition to the widely acclaimed demand that the Protestant Church of Germany annul the "Agreement on Religious Care of the Army", which it concluded with the Bonn authorities, this pressure is mainly directed towards:

- A stepping up of the youth consecration, and in this field the Church has undoubtedly lost some ground. It is quite obvious that the figures for 1957, according to which 20 to 40% of eligible **young persons** took part in youth consecrations, while 70 to 90% of the young in the same districts were confirmed in Church, and 5 to 25% took part in both ceremonies, will be less favourable for the Christian confessions this year.
- The barring of secondary schools to members of the "Young Parish" and to young people who will be, or were, confirmed in Church.

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- SED members who still belong to a Church community so that they leave it; furthermore to:
- the atheist propaganda which for quite some time had been kept comparatively in the background and which is once more being stepped up.

The tough policy is directed against the Catholic Church in the same way as against the Protestant Church except that the development is less apparent owing to the comparatively small field of action.

According to a statement by the Secretary of the "Central Committee for Youth Consecration", Allendorf, roughly 90,000 young people will be consecrated this year in the Soviet-occupied zone. He explained the ever-increasing number of participants by the "growing socialist influence of the school, the parents and the sponsoring enterprises".

The Catholic Bishop of Berlin, Doepfner, told members of the "Foreign Press Association" in Berlin that the pressure being brought to bear on the Catholic Church in the Soviet-occupied zone was growing continuously. He quoted, in particular, the influence exercised on the young to take part in the Communist youth consecration.

The Synod of the Protestant Church of Germany opened in both parts of Berlin. A number of press and other attacks against a Synod - particularly in connection with the "Agreement on Religious Care of the Army" between the Protestant Church and the Federal Government - have increased the tension between the Protestant Church and the Soviet-occupied zone régime.

#### 7. Miscellaneous

On the basis of the amendment to the passport regulations in the Soviet-occupied zone a number of people were convicted for unauthorised journeys to the Federal Republic. A 22 year old resident of the Soviet-occupied zone, who visited his parents in the Federal Republic without an official authorisation, was sentenced to three months in prison. Another resident of the Soviet-occupied zone of 24 years who wanted to find employment in the Ruhr mines was arrested when crossing the border of the Berlin sectors and sentenced by an East Berlin Court to 6 months in prison.

During the trial of the alleged agents of an American intelligence service in which the former district delegate of the "Free Democratic Party" Albrecht Höher, was given a life sentence in prison for espionage, the president of the Court stated in his explanation of the sentence: "The passport regulations are in the interest of all our citizens. They were created in order to prevent them from falling into the hands of head hunters, i.e. MID agents."

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