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The following information was received through German Socialist channels.

- When former Chancellor Dr. Joseph Wirth recently visited Berlin, he was officially the guest of Fritz Ebert, mayor of East Berlin, although the initiative in inviting him came from Karl Schirdevan of the section "West" of SED headquarters. However, the SED is suspicious of Wirth's motives in accepting, and believes that his purpose was not cooperation with the eastern bloc but exploration of Soviet intentions as to Germany. It is pointed out that Wirth put the most emphasis on his conferences with Russian rather than German officials, and that the questions he put to Grotewohl and Semenov indicated that he was chiefly interested in Soviet policy.*
- According to SED sources, the Russians think Wirth is under many illusions as to the independence of German foreign policy. They are said to be well satisfied with the visit, and to believe that, even if Wirth does not adopt the Communist line, the propaganda effect on the West German bourgeoisie made the project worth while.
- Wirth himself was strongly opposed to any publicity concerning his visit. He was able, for a time, to forestall the issuance of an official communiqué.
- During the visit Wirth was under constant guard by the Ministry of State Security, principally to prevent observation by Western agents. The advance security precautions included also the systematic denial of rumors that the visit was in prospect, and multiple reservations at the Adlon and Johannishof Hotels and the government guest house for "a prominent West German guest"; he was actually billeted in a private house on Majakowski-Ring in Berlin-Niederschönhausen.

* Field Comment: Some West German sources now think that Wirth is possibly sincere in an attempt to sponsor a conference of the type of Rapallo (which he helped in preparing when he was chancellor in 1921). It is also suggested that the initiative for the visit may have emanated in part from what is described as "the Taurogen group" in West Germany.

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