

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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BY CABLE

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1. The SED Politbuero held a special meeting on 25 September for the following purposes:
 - a. To prepare for a subsequent Volkskammer session on the results of the visit of the East German delegation to Moscow.
 - b. To draw up for the Soviets by 27 September a list of all German prisoners of war released by the Soviets to finish their sentences in East Germany.
 - c. To draw up for the Soviets by 27 September a complete list of all political prisoners in East Germany, arranged by camps and penitentiaries.
2. The SED is attempting to spread the impression that a letter from President Wilhelm Pieck in August 1955 was responsible for the release of German prisoners by the Soviets. No such letter was written. It would have been discussed previously in the Politbuero, and no such discussion took place. Moreover, the functionaries of the Politbuero are congratulating themselves that the attempt to give Pieck credit for the release of the prisoners was an excellent move.
3. During the visit of the East German delegation to Moscow, Walter Ulbricht suggested to the Soviets that all prisoners of war be released to East Germany and that the prisoner-of-war question be designated an inter-German matter in order to force the Federal Republic to negotiate with the East German government. At the close of the Politbuero session, Minister-President Otto Grotewohl commented with malicious joy on the dressing-down that Premier Bulganin gave Ulbricht for making such a suggestion. Bulganin stated that despite Soviet friendship for East Germany, Chancellor Konrad Adenauer had the word of the Soviets in the prisoner-of-war matter and that the Soviets could not afford the loss of prestige that would result if Ulbricht's suggestion were adopted.

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4. During the Politburo discussion of the forthcoming Geneva Conference the following points were made:
 - a. If the division of Germany continues for a long time East Germany will adopt general military service. Also, sector and zonal border controls will be tightened.
 - b. In view of the possibility of the failure of the conference, the functionary responsible for security matters, presumably Willi Stoph, is to prepare to withdraw the police units currently stationed around Berlin and at the sector borders and to replace them with especially selected trustworthy police.
 - c. The Politburo is to appoint a special control commission to discover why the railroad outer ring around Berlin is so far behind schedule despite the allocation of all needed building materials.
5. The Politburo is concerned about the low morale of the East German population after the German conference in Moscow. In order to improve the situation, it was resolved to prepare a plan for Politburo consideration whereby workers would receive retirement pensions equal to two-thirds of their pay.
6. The next Politburo meeting will be attended by Soviet representatives; the discussion will concern preparations for the Geneva Conference. The composition of the East German delegation to Geneva will be determined by the Soviets. It will not play an important role.

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