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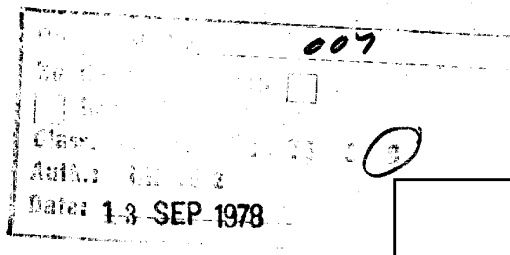
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1. The handling of foreign assets in the DDR continues to be the responsibility of the "Auslandsvermogensstelle" in the Ministry of Finance. This office of the Ministry manages the property and participating ownership of all foreign interests existing in the DDR through government-appointed trustees. There appear to be no planned changes in this method of controlling foreign assets. It is well known that some of the more ardent SED personalities have had a strong influence in persuading factions in the DDR government simply to expropriate any foreign properties where it seemed opportune and to incorporate them into the domestic economy. This was attempted in the case of the Opel factories in Brandenburg, for example, but the matter miscarried. It is alleged that the Soviet Control Commission has opposed any change in policy on the ground that no such new problems should be permitted to disturb the international scene and that this questions remains, as it is, a significant bargaining point.
2. The DDR Deutsche Notenbank was agreeably surprised over the recent violent fluctuation of the East Mark on the Berlin exchanges. As a result, its cash position was considerably improved at a moment when this was most desired. The so-called "free trade" stores in Berlin profited enormously because the cheap East Mark enabled West Berliners to purchase at a great advantage in East Berlin. East Berliners, on the other hand, suffered another blow, since the fallen value of their currency practically excluded them from West Berlin markets.



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