

Document 14.

October 4, 1989, Berlin – First Deputy Foreign Minister Herbert Krolikowski to General Secretary of the SED Central Committee and Chairman of the GDR State Council Erich Honecker. Relays information from Ambassador Helmut Ziebart with urgent inquiries and messages from CSSR officials. “Comrade Jakeš asks that Comrade Honecker himself be told that the situation in Prague is highly critical.”

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Translation (extract) by Todd Hammond.

[...]

The GDR Ambassador to the CSSR, Comrade Ziebart, was invited by Comrade Lenárt, who with the authorization of General Secretary of the CPCz Central Committee Jakeš, requested answers to the following questions:

1. Why were preparations for the resolution of the Prague problem, promised on October 3, halted?
2. When does the GDR plan on solving this problem? When will the urgently needed measures begin?
3. Comrade Jakeš asks that Comrade Honecker himself be told that the situation in Prague is highly critical.

CSSR Minister of Transportation Comrade František Podlena with the authorization of Premier Adamec reported that an emergency meeting was held this morning at which it was quite unanimously declared that the situation in Prague is extremely critical. The state railroads and other institutions of the CSSR have taken all measures to be able to start dealing with the problem during the night.

Comrade Adamec declared that the CSSR has a great interest that this problem from the technical transportation standpoint be solved in cooperation with the GDR. If a decision is not made soon, however, the government of the CSSR will be forced to initiate its own solution.