

Document 21.

October 24, 1989, Berlin – Resolution of the Politburo of the SED CC, concerning the rescinding of the temporary suspension of travel to the CSSR without a passport or visa, effective November 1, 1989.

SAPMO-BAr Berlin, DY 30, 5195, Fols. 251-253.

Translation by Todd Hammond.

[...]

Resolution

1. It is recommended to the Council of Ministers that effective 1 November 1989 the order on the temporary suspension of the no-passport and no-visa regime with the CSSR is rescinded for GDR citizens.
2. The Minister of Foreign Affairs has been charged with informing the CSSR Government.
3. Authorizes the text of the press release (attached). Release 28 October 1989.

Responsible: director of agitation department

Attachment

Travel to the CSSR, again without passport or visa
Statement by the GDR Ministry of the Interior

Berlin (ADN). According to a press release by the Ministry of the Interior, the Council of Ministers of the German Democratic Republic has resolved that as of November 1, 1989 the temporary suspension of the no-passport and no-visa border regime with the CSSR for GDR citizens will be rescinded.

Citizens of the GDR may cross the border to the neighboring CSSR with valid personal identification card, as before 3 October 1989.

The Council of Ministers of the German Democratic Republic notes that the citizens of the GDR who are still thinking about leaving our country, at a time when every hand is needed, may submit an application for a permanent exit at the department for internal affairs within the GDR. These applications will be decided within a short period and generously. To force one's own emigration through an FRG embassy abroad is unnecessary, and will bring citizens more disadvantages than advantages.