

Document 26.

November 5, 1989, Prague – GDR Ambassador Helmut Ziebart to the foreign ministry in Berlin. Reports on the numbers of GDR citizens who departed from Prague to the Federal Republic on November 3–5 with only GDR personal identification card, and problems that the new arrangement is causing on the Czechoslovak side. “The Czechoslovak comrades are asking more and more often when citizens of the GDR will be permitted to use the border crossings between the GDR and FRG under the same conditions they can do right now through the territory of the CSSR.”

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Translation by Todd Hammond.

**On the current situation:**

1. Since the agreement of November 3 between the GDR and the CSSR on direct travel by citizens of the GDR to the FRG, as of November 5 at 09:00 some 11 500 GDR citizens have emigrated to the FRG on their personal identification (by regular or special trains or by their own personal car).

The influx of people from the GDR continues. According to current information, on November 11 the FRG embassy in Prague intends to dispatch three more special trains with a total capacity of 3500 thousand seats.

2. The Czechoslovak comrades warned that the current arrangement causes problems as well. Among other things they pointed out that the effective blockage of both highway and railroad at the closest border crossing Rozvadov-Weidhaus causes major problems for the intended shipment of goods between the CSSR and FRG. The Czechoslovak comrades are asking more and more often when GDR citizens will be able to / permitted to use the border crossings between the GDR and FRG under the same conditions they can now through the territory of the CSSR. The question is also asked how the GDR would react if the CSSR closed their border crossings to GDR citizens.

3. The GDR embassy in Prague has received isolated telephone calls by GDR citizens who have traveled within the last few hours on their personal identification card to the FRG, and report that the border authorities of the CSSR do not accept their wishes to travel back through the CSSR to the GDR. The emergency services of the GDR embassy in Prague have been instructed to recommend these citizens to the Embassy of the GDR in Bonn, where the matter of immediate return to the GDR will be handled without any problems.

*Ziebart*