

2020

Germany: East Germany

2000

000

LN02AN 0463 PTMIAN 3463

RESTRICTED

PP CHOGM

FM FCOLN TO CHOGM

202216Z OCT

GRS 501

RESTRICTED

FM FCO

TO PRIORITY UKDEL KUALA LUMPUR

TELNO 95

OF 202216Z OCTOBER 89

FOR S OF S'S PARTY.

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM NOW REPEATED TO YOU AT REQUEST OF PO
WAS RECEIVED FROM EAST BERLIN TELNO 325 OF 20 OCTOBER.

BEGINS

OF 200340Z OCTOBER 89

INFO PRIORITY BONN, BMG BERLIN

INFO ROUTINE MOSCOW, WASHINGTON, UKDEL NATO, WARSAW, PRAGUE

INFO SAVING EASTERN EUROPEAN POSTS, PEKING, UKREP BRUSSELS

GDR INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

SUMMARY

1. KRENZ DEMONSTRATES NEW STYLE. MEETINGS WITH WORKERS AND CHURCH
LEADERS. PRESS GLASNOST CONTINUES.

DETAIL

2. TRUE TO HIS WORD, KRENZ LOST NO TIME IN GOING ON THE OFFENSIVE
(PARA 3 OF MY TELNO 323). HIS OPENING ENGAGEMENT ON HIS FIRST
FULL DAY IN OFFICE AS GENERAL SECRETARY WAS TO VISIT A FACTORY
IN EAST BERLIN. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY SCHABOWSKI (BERLIN FIRST
SECRETARY) AND A FLOCK OF GDR PRESS WHO RECORDED HIS EXCHANGES
WITH THE WORKERS. GDR TELEVISION RECORDED THEIR FRANK COMMENTS
ON THE FAILINGS OF SUPPLIES, INVESTMENTS, FOREIGN TRAVEL, ETC.
GDR VIEWERS WOULD HAVE BEEN ASTONISHED TO SEE AN ORDINARY WORKER
TELL THE GENERAL SECRETARY THAT UNTIL ALL THESE "BUNGLES"
WERE PUT RIGHT PEOPLE WOULD NOT STOP "SCARPERING".

3. KRENZ WENT ON TO AN UNEXPECTED MEETING WITH THE LEADERS OF THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH UNION, BISHOP LEICH, STOLPE, BISHOP DEHMKE AND OTHERS. LEICH AND KRENZ ANSWERED QUESTIONS AFTERWARDS. LEICH SAID THAT THE CHURCH LEADERS HAD BEEN IMPRESSED BY THE REFERENCE IN KRENZ'S STATEMENT ON 18 OCTOBER WHERE HE SAID THAT MORE UNITED CHRISTIANS AND OTHERS IN THE GDR THAN DIVIDED THEM. LEICH SAID THAT THE DIALOGUE WITH KRENZ WAS VERY OPEN AND WITHOUT RESERVATIONS. THE MORE OPEN AND CLEAR WE ARE WITH EACH OTHER THE GREATER THE TRUST IN THE FUTURE.

4. THE FRONT PAGE OF NEUES DEUTSCHLAND TODAY MAKES CLEAR THE PARTY'S AIMS. PRIDE OF PLACE WAS GIVEN TO KRENZ'S MEETING WITH THE WORKERS. OTHER POLITBURO MEMBERS HAD SIMILAR MEETINGS. THE OTHER HEADLINES REFER TO 2.5 MILLION MORE PAIRS OF JEANS IN THE SHOPS THIS YEAR, THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TAKING MEASURES TO SECURE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES, THE MINISTER FOR INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIRECTED TO PRODUCE A DRAFT LAW ON TRAVEL ABROAD, ETC. (ON TELEVISION LAST NIGHT (19 OCTOBER) REINHOLD (CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER) SAID IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION THAT CONSIDERATION WAS BEING GIVEN TO ENABLING ALL GDR CITIZENS TO HAVE A PASSPORT AS A RIGHT AND TO APPLY FOR VISAS).

COMMENT

5. KRENZ HAS CLEARLY DECIDED TO TRY TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE AND TO ENERGISE HIS POLITBURO COLLEAGUES INTO FOLLOWING HIS EXAMPLE. NOTHING THAT HE HAS SAID IN ANSWER TO THE QUESTIONS PUT TO HIM BY THE WORKERS OR IN WHAT HE SAID AFTER HIS MEETING WITH THE CHURCH BROKE NEW GROUND. AND IT IS CLEARLY IN HIS INTEREST TO ENHANCE THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH AS A PARTNER IN DIALOGUE WITH THE PARTY AS OPPOSED TO THE UNOFFICIAL GROUPS. ON TRAVEL KRENZ HAS PROMISED A NEW LAW BUT HAS ALSO REFERRED TO THE DIFFICULTY OF ALLOWING TRAVEL SO LONG AS THE FRG CONTINUES TO REGARD ALL GERMANS AS ITS CITIZENS. BE THAT AS IT MAY, KRENZ WILL HAVE IMPRESSED MANY WITH HIS ENERGY AND OPENNESS ON HIS FIRST DAY.

BROOMFIELD

ENDS

MAJOR

PTMIAN 846P