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23 Oct  
III/F.G.No. 196EAST GERMANYGROTEWOHL's Office Is Not Pleased.

SOURCE BERLIN: Observer of the office of Minister President Otto GROTEWOHL in East BERLIN.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: 1 October 1953

EVAL. COMMENT: This reads like remote speculation and should be taken with the greatest caution, even though the Source Description (which has been altered for security reasons) seemed to give it a degree of authenticity. Although we do not believe the implication that the Soviets are willing to give the Western powers a free hand in regard to Germany in exchange for a free hand for themselves in the Far East, we shall have been forewarned if the Soviets were suddenly to spring such a remarkable offer on the amazed West.

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The latest note which the Soviet Union sent to the governments of the Western Allies has unofficially been strongly disapproved by Minister President Otto GROTEWOHL.

According to information received from the office of the Minister President, GROTEWOHL is anxious to talk to Soviet High Commissioner and Ambassador SEMIONOV in order to clear up some points of the note concerning the future developments of Germany.

It is reported that GROTEWOHL fears that the Soviets are ready to give the Western Powers free hand in the territory of the four German occupation zones in exchange for a free Soviet hand in the Far East.

"GROTEWOHL fears that the Soviets will finally agree to having free elections in East Germany on the terms wanted by the West if the Western Allies are ready to admit China to the UN organization," the functionary said specifically. "This would be a 'Kuhhandel' (shady business) and the Minister President does not like such things, of course," the functionary added.

GROTEWOHL also feels, according to the functionary, that ever since STALIN died there was no clear Soviet policy on East Germany. "The Minister President said the other day that he knew that MALENKOV is much more interested in the Far East than in European Affairs," he said.

The functionary was under the impression that since 17 June 1953, GROTEWOHL and not ULBRICHT has been playing the first fiddle with the Soviets. "The Minister President has extended his influence considerably: not only in the Government but also in the Party."