

AH
30 Oct
III/F.G. No 227

EAST GERMANY

New Course To Last Until 1956 ?

SOURCE BERLIN: Past BERLIN Communist functionary, observer of former East German Minister for State Security, Wilhelm ZAISSER.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: 21 October 1953

EVAL. COMMENT: The statements of paragraph two sound reasonable enough and may well be the present intention of the Soviet rulers. Nevertheless, these rulers have always been expert at changing their tactics to meet current needs, and in view of the apparent indecisiveness of the "New Course," those intentions may well change before 1956 draws near. At any rate, this Evaluator believes that these statements deserve careful analysis and consideration. Very interesting is the indication that ZAISSER expects to be vindicated.

* * *

Confiding in a trusted friend, Wilhelm ZAISSER, former East German Minister for State Security, recently told one of his associates that the "New Course" is to last until late in 1955 or early in 1956.

"This is only a period of rest intended to broaden the basis for the final construction of Socialism," ZAISSER is quoted as having said. "In the GDR, in the Soviet Union as well as in the People's Democracies this period will be over by 1956," ZAISSER added.

ZAISSER is said to pin high hopes on the fact that the Revision Commission of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union is now considering his case. The source said that ZAISSER had put his case before the Commission because he is a Soviet citizen and because he declined to be judged by the SED exclusively.

ZAISSER's successor, SSD chief Ernst WOLLWEBER, was in MOSCOW all during the 11 to 17 October 1953. According to ZAISSER, WOLLWEBER had to appear before the Committee, like Walter ULBRICHT who was questioned on several points prior to his travelling on to the Crimea peninsula. Source vigorously denied unconfirmed reports according to which ZAISSER's daughter has been arrested by the SSD.

End.