

F-73 EE

X/15 CURT -- THE GDR OBSCURES EAST GERMAN-CS TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

MUNICH, 25 January 1972 (Communist Area Analysis Department:  
GDR -- Dorothy Miller).

Whereas the Czechoslovak media has found it necessary to inform their readers that the new tourist and travel regulations between the GDR and the CSOR were valid, at least for the time being, only for the East Germans,\* the East German press still attempts to convey the impression that the new facilities are reciprocal, just as they are in the case of Polish-East German trips.

The best example of such misleading reporting was provided by the January 22 issue of Neues Deutschland, which in a front-paged article headlined "800,000 Citizens from Poland, the CSSR and the GDR Traveled without Visas," gave the following account:

On January 15 and 16, the first two days of the passport and visa-free travel between the GDR and the CSSR, approximately 45,000 citizens of both countries passed the border crossing points....

[Emphasis supplied].

This description is completely false since Czechoslovak citizens still require passports and visas to cross the East German-CS border. The chances are therefore that, with very few exceptions, the 45,000 people crossing the border both ways were East Germans - another invasion, but this time without tanks!

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\* See F-64, 21 January 1972 quoting Vecerni Praha, 17 January 1972.

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