

**CONSTRUCTIVE
GDR POLICY
FOR PEACE
AND SECURITY**

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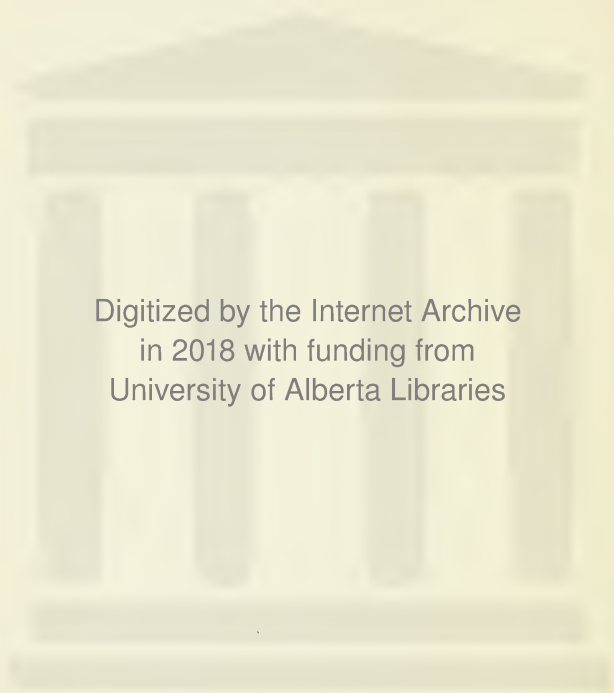
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Constructive GDR Policy for Peace and Security

Speech delivered by Erich Honecker,
First Secretary of the Central Committee
of the SED, to mark the constitution of the
National Festival Committee of the GDR for
the Tenth World Festival of Youth and
Students



VERLAG ZEIT IM BILD DRESDEN

The National Festival Committee of the German Democratic Republic was constituted in Berlin on 18 February 1972. The President of the World Federation of Democratic Youth, Robert Viezzi (Italy), the President of the International Students Federation, Dusan Ulcak (Czechoslovakia) and the Secretary for Coordination of the International Preparatory Committee for the Tenth World Festival, Dominique Vidal (France) were present at this event. The following speech was delivered by Erich Honecker, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the SED and President of the National Festival Committee of the GDR, to mark this occasion:

Dear Friends of the World Federation of Democratic Youth
and the International Students Federation,
Comrades and Friends,

I thank you most deeply for your proposal to entrust me with the honourable task of assuming the presidency of the National Festival Committee of the German Democratic Republic. I shall do my best to do justice to this responsibility.

We were very pleased and happy when we heard a short time ago from Sofia that the International Preparatory Committee had decided to hold the Tenth World Festival of Youth and Students in Berlin. The Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, the Council of Ministers of the German Democratic Republic and of course, above all, our friends in the Free German Youth organization see in this decision of the world's democratic and progressive youth an expression of confidence in our Socialist homeland, a high appreciation of the work and achievements of the first German workers' and peasants' state, of its continuous and constructive policy of peace and security in Europe. Such appreciation is at the same time an obligation—and that is how we see it, too. As internationalists who are deeply linked with the worldwide struggle for peace, democracy and Socialism, we want to be good hosts to the youth of all continents in the summer of 1973.

In these days we have many happy memories brought back to mind

Dear Friends,

When we speak of the world youth festival many happy memories are brought back to our minds. Quite a number of us were delegates of this country's youth at former world festivals of youth and students, whether in Prague, Budapest, Bucharest or Warsaw, whether in Moscow, Vienna,

Helsinki or Sofia. And 21 years ago, in 1951, our Berlin, the capital of the German Democratic Republic, was once before the place where the youth of the world came together in the spirit of the joint struggle against imperialism, for peace, solidarity and friendship.

At that time our republic was still at the beginning of its road into a Socialist future of our people. Rubble and heavily damaged buildings were reminders of the accursed imperialist past. Many wounds resulting from the Second World War had not yet been healed. However, already at that time, the participants of the festival in Berlin experienced, jointly with the youth of the German Democratic Republic, days of friendship, days full of unforgettable impressions, days generating powerful impulses for the just struggle of the young generation in this country and all over the world.

Who of the participants will ever forget that inspiring hour when the more than 20,000 representatives of world youth from 104 countries solemnly vowed at their concluding meeting in Berlin

to direct all their efforts at preventing a new world war;

to unveil the schemes of the enemies of peace and humanity and to wreck them;

to struggle against the arms race and for the improvement of the living conditions of youth;

to strengthen the friendship and peaceful cooperation of the peoples and the youth of all countries and to involve further millions of boys and girls in this active struggle.

Our socialist state is a state of youth

In 1973, dear friends, the youth of the world will come here once more. These young people will come to a Socialist state in the heart of Europe, which has broken off all links with the imperialist and militarist past and has concluded an eternal alliance with the future. It is the alliance with the fraternal Soviet Union which is blazing the trail to Communism for humanity. We consider the firm, irrevocable rooting of our republic in the Socialist community of states to be the basis for our further successful progress. It is the solidarity and alliance with all fighters for a renewal of the world, for freedom, justice and human dignity.

The constitution of the National Festival Committee of the German Democratic Republic is a good occasion to fully remember that our Socialist state is a state of youth in the true sense of the word. The SED and the government have always provided the young generation with

ample opportunities to unfold their abilities and talents, their enthusiasm and revolutionary elan to the full. The young people themselves have been and remain the architects of new Socialist life. They are guided by the invincible ideas of Marxism-Leninism, they are inspired by the love of their Socialist homeland and at the same time by Socialist internationalism.

A manifestation of optimism and a great political event

Dear friends and comrades,

The Tenth World Festival of Youth and Students will be a manifestation of optimism, an event of great political significance. Those meeting in Berlin will include the young builders of Socialism and Communism, the young people from the states who have thrown off the yoke of colonialism, and the boys and girls from the capitalist countries who are leading a courageous struggle for their fundamental rights, for peace, solidarity and friendship. No matter how many languages the young people may speak who are going to come together in our capital, no matter how different their conditions of life and struggle may be, they are all united in their will to get to know each other, to exchange their ideas and experience, to spend happy hours together and to express their will to struggle for their present-day interests and their ideals of the future.

Every day anew the youth of our days gives proof of its militant spirit. The young people of today are living in a world characterized by great conflicts between Socialism and Imperialism, in which great decisions for the safeguarding of peace are being taken. The further change of the constellation of forces in favour of peace and Socialism has been attained by struggle, and new victories of progress over reaction will only be achieved by struggle. Imperialism is the chief enemy of the peoples and in particular of youth. The murderous US aggression in Indochina is proof of this, as are the adventures of the Israeli rulers and the imprisonment of such upright, courageous people as Angela Davis. We send our most sincere greetings from this meeting of our committee, which prepares a great manifestation of international friendship, to the peace-loving youth of the world, we greet all fighters for human progress and invite them to send their representatives to the festival in Berlin.

Constructive policy of the GDR for peace and security

Dear friends,

Due, above all, to the power and strength of the Soviet Union and the whole Socialist community of states it has been possible to preserve peace on the European continent. Relations of peaceful coexistence between the European states are ever more prevailing as a result of the efforts and constructive contribution made by the Warsaw Treaty countries as well as by other states. Chances are that this will exert a favourable influence on the further development of the international situation. The conclusion of internationally binding agreements between the German Democratic Republic and the FRG also corresponds to the policy of peaceful coexistence.

The German Democratic Republic has always taken a constructive stand on the questions of peace and European security. Facts have proven this, notably the contribution made by the GDR to the successful conclusion of the Quadripartite Agreement on West Berlin, the conclusion of the transit agreement between the German Democratic Republic and the FRG and the results of the negotiations conducted by our republic with the West Berlin Senate.

It is a positive sign that the ratification procedure for the treaties concluded by the Soviet Union and the Polish People's Republic with the FRG is now under way. The ratification of these treaties as well as the coming into force of the Quadripartite Agreement on West Berlin will no doubt open up new prospects for a further detente in Europe, and new prospects, too, for the establishment of normal relations between the German Democratic Republic and the FRG which correspond to the standards of international law as they are common practice between two separate and independent sovereign states. As far as we are concerned, we do not only watch the ratification procedure with due interest, but are also prepared to continue promoting suitable steps favouring detente and security in Europe.

In complete conformity with the Prague Declaration adopted by the Political Consultative Committee of the member states of the Warsaw Treaty we feel that a European security conference should be convened before the end of 1972. We underline once more our stolid will to join the United Nations and its specialized agencies in the interest of the peaceful cooperation of the nations as it is the due right of the German Democratic Republic as a sovereign state and corresponds to the interests of the peoples.

Our young people see the problems in a realistic manner. They support the policy pursued by the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party

of Germany and the government of the German Democratic Republic, directed as it is at achieving peace and security. They know very well to distinguish between friend and foe. They firmly defend the positions of Socialism, they are watchful against all imperialist machinations and adventures and make their contribution to the reliable protection of their Socialist homeland.

Dear friends and comrades,

The months preceding the festival will no doubt be marked by outstanding initiatives and efforts of the working class, all working people of our republic and in particular of youth. We concentrate all our efforts on steadily raising the standard of living and the cultural level of the people as decided upon by the Eighth Congress of our party and outlined in the main task of the Five-Year Plan. The festival cannot be prepared in any better way than by new deeds for the all-round strengthening of the German Democratic Republic. This will be to the benefit of all citizens of our republic and last but not least of youth and, at the same time, it will allow us to be good hosts for the youth of the world.

With initiative and deeds for our common cause

It is to be very much welcomed that concrete tasks and targets are mentioned in the appeal of our committee passed at today's meeting and addressed to the citizens of our republic, to all boys and girls, to the members of the Free German Youth and the "Ernst Thaelmann" Pioneer Organization. The working people in town and countryside prove by their initiative in Socialist emulation how the prerequisites are created to achieve the targets we set ourselves in our plans by means of a high tempo of development in Socialist production, an increase in its effectiveness, by scientific and technological progress and a rise in the productivity of labour. In this regard we highly appreciate the achievements of the young generation. The results attained by the campaign of our Free German Youth in support of our supply industry clearly show how today's members of the Free German Youth uphold and continue the outstanding traditions of the Socialist youth federation. They work where the struggle is most difficult, but also most important for Socialism. The Central Committee of our party expresses its thanks to the Free German Youth on this account.

The preparation for the Tenth World Festival will be the occasion to win over still more young workers to participate in Socialist rationalization, in the development of the innovators' movement, the "Young

Innovators' Fairs". Young people will take over into their own responsibility new interesting projects important for the national economy. The number of Socialist youth teams will further increase. Experienced older workers, members and candidate members of the party of the working class, trade unionists and the state-appointed managers will give friendly assistance to youth working on these projects.

The young people working in agriculture will develop new initiatives, above all, in operating and rationally employing modern farm machinery, applying chemistry to the agricultural field and in ensuring soil improvement.

The students at the universities, colleges and technical training colleges will further close their ranks with the working-class youth in the factories and seek to obtain the best possible results in their studies.

The pupils, the Young Pioneers and Thaelmann Pioneers will struggle hard to fulfil the tasks assigned to them at school and in the Young Pioneers' organization. They will learn well and perform good work in the interest of society.

The young members of our armed forces will further intensify their efforts for the reliable protection of our Socialist homeland and the peaceful life of all citizens of our German Democratic Republic.

We are also convinced that our writers and artists, all cultural and art workers will respond to the forthcoming festival of youth by creating new songs, films, theatre plays, books, and works of art. Thus, they will make a substantial contribution to the success of the Tenth Festival.

All social forces are asked to give their support

Dear friends and comrades,

I appeal to all parties and social forces united in the National Front of the German Democratic Republic, to all organizations and institutions to support youth in preparing and carrying through the Tenth World Festival of Youth and Students in the traditional way. We address a special appeal to the citizens of our capital, Berlin. The hospitality of the Berliners is well known and we are convinced that they will prove this again to the young people coming to visit us from all over the world.

Let us jointly undertake all efforts to prepare the Tenth World Festival of Youth and Students!

Long live the unity and cohesion of the youth of the world in its struggle for peace, solidarity and friendship!

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