

'Bonn fears the truth about events in the democratic sector of Berlin' from Pravda (22 June 1953)

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Bonn fears the truth about events in the democratic sector of Berlin and the German Democratic Republic

Berlin, 21 June. (TASS). The ADN news agency reports today from Munich that the police have banned two rallies from being held in Munich at which people could have learned the truth behind the fascist provocations that took place on 17 June in the democratic sector of Berlin and a number of other areas throughout the German Democratic Republic and organised by agents on the payroll of German and American monopolists. The report also stated that the West German authorities prevented rallies from taking place in Heidelberg and Trier, again to prevent the truth from leaking out about the events in the German Democratic Republic and the democratic sector of Berlin.

The newspaper *Neues Deutschland* reports on the immediate political and economic tasks facing the German Democratic Republic

Berlin, 21 June. (TASS). *Neues Deutschland* printed an editorial in which it gave its opinion of the recent fascist provocation in Berlin and a number of other places throughout the German Democratic Republic and reported on the immediate tasks now facing the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SUPG) and the Government of the German Democratic Republic.

There is a deep feeling of indignation amongst democrats across the whole of Germany, the newspaper writes. It is not only the agitators, thieves and murderers that are responsible for the reckless acts by the fascists; the foreigners and Germans behind this crime are no less responsible. Some intelligent people in the West warned against the policy of provocation and resorting to criminal methods. They were opposed by Adenauer, Kaiser, Ollenhauer and Reiter, the men who have systematically been organising this fascist enterprise for a few years. They brought back the fascist militia, brought about the fascist revival and prepared quite openly for 'Day X'. They are now responsible for the bloodshed of recent days.

There can be no doubt that certain conclusions must be drawn from these events.

First, one must clearly distinguish between the fascist agitators and foreign agents who organised the unrest and took part in it, and the mass of the German population, which, for the past eight years, has established the lasting foundations of democracy in the German Democratic Republic. It would be foolish to identify the people of the GDR with the fascist agents of foreign powers and their henchmen among the giant German monopolists.

A distinction also has to be drawn between, on the one hand, those who took part in the unrest, the agitators and organisers, the enemies of democracy, and, on the other, those who were misled, those who fell under the influence of the fascist rabble quite by accident and for only a short time. Now the fascist agitators and their accomplices must be punished harshly according to military law. Of course we must help those who were hoodwinked to find the proper path. Naturally, as always, the fascist wolves will attempt to don sheep's clothing in order to avoid responsibility for their crimes. But the German workers and all honest citizens will join the authorities in separating the wolves from the sheep.

On the forthcoming political challenges, the newspaper writes:

The first political challenge is to improve political activities among the workers in our country's private enterprises in order to bring them closer than they are now to the Socialist Unity Party and to isolate the fascist elements within the working class. But this cannot be done without first organising the daily struggle to improve the workers' material position, to improve their living conditions and safety at work, to improve the operations of the social welfare bodies and all other bodies and organisations whose job it is to serve the interests of the working man ... As representatives of the working class, the main objective of the trade unions is to do all that they can in as honest and conscientious a way possible to improve economic and cultural conditions within every enterprise, every village and town.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic must also ensure that it implements its decision to

improve the situation for the broad mass of private farmers, including those with large holdings. Private farmers play a vital role in the production of agricultural produce and in providing the towns with food. The following practical tasks should be carried out in the villages as soon as possible: improve aid to farmers through loans, fertilizer, equipment and building materials in order to increase production and improve profitability in the farming sector; review existing laws and directives relating to delivery quotas and taxation; improve the network of shops in rural areas; improve the way schools, hospitals, clubs and cinemas operate.

Neues Deutschland writes that the Republic's workers are the ones most interested in the actions of the Government of the German Democratic Republic to develop private initiative in small and medium-sized industry and trade, as such an initiative will improve the production of consumer goods and improve the quality and range of goods available.

The article claims that the decisions of the Government of the German Democratic Republic allow small and medium-sized businesses to obtain raw materials and loans and provide for a review of the current tax regime. This will bring about the development of private initiative, growth in the manufacture of consumer goods and an improvement in the quality of goods.

The newspaper writes about the planned changes to the five-year economic plan aimed at significantly increasing the production of consumer goods and improving the general availability of foodstuffs and manufactured goods, claiming that certain limits must be placed on the growth rate for heavy industry and on the level of industrial construction. The article claims that improving the production of consumer goods is currently a vital economic objective. This will result in a further improvement in living conditions for the people of the German Democratic Republic. The German Democratic Republic will become a magnet for the people of West Germany.

Neues Deutschland emphasises that achieving these goals is indeed of genuine significance and points out that they will not be achieved without hard, daily graft.

In conclusion, the newspaper writes:

The Government of the German Democratic Republic has set a new course with these goals whose objective is an improvement in living conditions. The organisers of the fascist unrest on 17 June hoped to block this new course. They were not successful. Holding unwaveringly to this new course and striving to improve conditions for the people is the primary task of all organisations in all state bodies.