

Measures to safeguard the Soviet Zone (June 1948)

Caption: In June 1948, the Soviet authorities announce a raft of measures seeking to block the supply of provisions to the Western zones of Berlin in reaction to the monetary reform introduced in Germany by the Western Allies.

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In order to protect the interests of the population and the economy of the Soviet zone and prevent disorganisation of currency circulation, the Soviet Military Administration has been obliged to carry out the following measures in view of the separate currency reform in the Western occupation zones in Germany :

1. To suspend passenger train traffic between the Soviet occupation zone in Germany and the Western zones.

2. To bar entry into the Soviet occupation zone to all automobile and horse transport from all zones, including traffic along the Helmstedt Berlin motor road. Exit from Berlin to the Western zone along the Berlin-Helmstedt motor road will continue in accordance with previous rules.

3. All means of transport, proceeding along the waterways from the Soviet zone to the Western zones and vice versa, must obtain a licence from the chief of the transport department of the Soviet Military Administration and will be allowed passage only after thorough preliminary inspection of cargoes and ships and personal luggage of ship crews.

4. The passage through control points of demarcation lines of persons proceeding on foot from the Western zones to the Soviet occupation zone in Germany with interzonal passes issued in the Western zones is discontinued. Persons proceeding from the Soviet zone to the Western occupation zones in Germany pass through the control points in accordance with previous rules.

5. Freight train traffic will continue unhindered, but on condition of thorough inspection of all cargoes as well as of personal belongings of train crews and train guards.

6. All these instructions come into force as from midnight of June 18.