

## 'Sabotage attempts in Berlin are foiled (1)' from Pravda (18 June 1953)

**Source:** Pravda. 18.06.1953. Moskva. "Proval avantiury inostrannykh naimitov v Berline (1)".

**Copyright:** (c) Translation CVCE.EU by UNI.LU

All rights of reproduction, of public communication, of adaptation, of distribution or of dissemination via Internet, internal network or any other means are strictly reserved in all countries.

Consult the legal notice and the terms and conditions of use regarding this site.

**URL:**

[http://www.cvce.eu/obj/sabotage\\_attempts\\_in\\_berlin\\_are\\_foiled\\_1\\_from\\_pravda\\_18\\_june\\_1953-en-62e34f76-5390-4992-a0dc-46boac79ebfa.html](http://www.cvce.eu/obj/sabotage_attempts_in_berlin_are_foiled_1_from_pravda_18_june_1953-en-62e34f76-5390-4992-a0dc-46boac79ebfa.html)



**Last updated:** 05/07/2016

## Sabotage attempts in Berlin are foiled

Berlin, 17 June. (TASS). Some workplaces came to a halt in the democratic sector of Berlin yesterday, particularly in the construction industry. This was due to the 10 % increase in production quotas implemented by certain companies over the last few days, although they had been abolished by the Government of the German Democratic Republic on 16 June. However the quota increase was just a pretext for the *agents provocateurs* amongst the foreign agents in West Berlin to organise strikes in the factories and demonstrations on the streets of Berlin.

This led the Government of the German Democratic Republic to issue a statement on 17 June which read:

‘Fascists and other reactionaries in West Berlin have responded to the attempts by the Government of the German Democratic Republic to improve living conditions by causing severe disruptions in Berlin’s democratic sector.

‘These disruptions will make the process of reunifying Germany much more difficult. Any possible justification for the stoppage by building workers in Berlin was removed when the quota issue was resolved yesterday.

‘The disruptions were incited by foreign saboteurs and the Fascist agents of foreign powers and their accomplices from the German capitalistic monopolies. These forces are not happy with democratic government in the German Democratic Republic which is improving people’s living conditions. The Government calls upon the people:

‘1. To support efforts to restore order to the city immediately and to resume normal and peaceful work in the factories.

‘2. Those guilty of causing disruptions will be brought to book and severely punished. Workers and all honest citizens are called upon to detain the agitators and hand them over to the state authorities.

‘3. Workers and technical specialists must cooperate with the authorities to restore normal working conditions.’

This statement to the people by the Government of the German Democratic Republic was signed by the Prime Minister of the German Democratic Republic, Otto Grotewohl.

On the evening of the same day, the Government also published an announcement on the foreign agitators’ failed attempts to cause disruption in Berlin. The announcement read as follows:

‘While the Government of the German Democratic Republic is directing its efforts towards implementing measures to improve living standards — especially those of workers — corrupt elements, foreign government agents and their accomplices from German Capitalist groups are attempting to undermine the Government’s efforts.

‘It has been established that yesterday’s strikes at several workplaces and the unrest organised by Fascist agents on the streets of Berlin’s democratic sector were all part of a synchronised plan devised in West Berlin. These exploits ended in complete failure as they met strong resistance from a large part of the population and the authorities.

‘Working conditions have been restored to normal in the factories. Order has been restored to the streets. No unrest by *agents provocateurs* or criminals will be tolerated.

‘Foreign agents employed underhand tactics to try and disrupt the Government’s efforts to improve living standards. They also tried to sow seeds of discontent in order to place another obstacle in the way of unifying Germany. The Government of the German Democratic Republic took decisive action to ensure that

those guilty of disruption were severely punished. The agitators will be shown no mercy.'