

CN 9

GDR -- LEIPZIG TRADE FAIR OPENS

LEIPZIG, EAST GERMANY, SEPT 1, REUTER--THE LEIPZIG AUTUMN TRADE FAIR, A FOCAL POINT FOR EAST-WEST COMMERCIAL EXCHANGE, WAS FORMALLY OPENED LAST NIGHT AT A CEREMONY ATTENDED BY THE EAST GERMAN COMMUNIST LEADER, HERR WALTER ULBRICHT, AND SOVIET FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER NIKOLAI PATOLICHEV.

IN HIS OPENING SPEECH THE EAST GERMAN FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER, HERR HORST SOELLE, SAID THE FAIR WAS A SYMBOL OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION.

ON TRADE BETWEEN EAST AND WEST GERMANY, THE MINISTER SAID EAST GERMANY HAD REPEATEDLY PUT FORWARD CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTIONS BUT THAT THE BONN GOVERNMENT HAD ALWAYS AVOIDED THE ISSUE.

"THE POLICIES OF THE BONN GOVERNMENT, WHICH PERSISTS IN THE ILLEGAL CLAIM TO BE THE SOLE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GERMAN PEOPLE AND IN TRYING TO CHANGE THE STATUS QUO IN EUROPE, CANNOT BE A PLATFORM FOR NORMAL TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO GERMAN STATES."

"THE WEST GERMAN SIDE HAS SO FAR SHOWN NO READINESS TO PUT ASIDE THE OBSTACLES AND TO SOLVE REMAINING PROBLEMS ON THE BASIS OF EQUAL RIGHTS AND WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION.... THEREFORE THE TRADE VOLUME BETWEEN THE TWO GERMAN STATES HAS DECREASED FURTHER," HERR SOLLE SAID.

THERE ARE 6,000 SCHEDULED EXHIBITORS FOR THE FAIR, WITH CONSUMER GOODS FROM EAST AND WEST EUROPE, SOUTH AMERICA, ASIA AND AUSTRALIA ON OFFER.

THIRTEEN COMMUNIST AND 42 NON-COMMUNIST COUNTRIES HAVE PAVILIONS.

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