

NOTES IN BRIEF

authors: Notes in Brief

New Public Computer Bulletin Board on GDR Issues

"USA/GDR InfoBank," a new computer bulletin board specializing in political, social and economic change in the GDR and other socialist countries, is now available to the public from Washington, D.C. The board may be used by any university, research institute, organization, church, business or individual whose personal computer is equipped with a modem. USA/GDR InfoBank is sponsored by the Council on USA/GDR Relations, a project of the North American Christian Peace Conference.

Through the USA/GDR InfoBank's file subsystem, subscribers will have access to a growing library of information and analysis on perestroika in the Soviet Union and political change elsewhere in the socialist community, including the GDR. The board's selection of files, which can be transferred quickly from the system to a subscriber's own computer, includes articles and documents on church-state relations, economic reform, human rights and other issues in the politics and society of socialist countries. The file subsystem also provides a choice of software for communications, word processing databases and other applications.

Subscriptions are available at \$15 a year for individuals and \$50 a year for universities, research institutes, libraries, businesses and other institutions. Subscriptions include 60 minutes of daily access to the board. Non-subscribers are unable to download files, but may read bulletins and post electronic mail. First-time callers have 45 minutes of free daily access time to experiment with the system.

The USA/GDR InfoBank operates from 12 midnight to 9 pm EST Monday through Friday at (202) 529-0140. The system accepts calls at 1200 baud and 2400 bps. Parity, data bits and stop bits should be set to N,8,1. The board will expand to 24-hour operations later in 1989. Please call only during the posted hours.

The council on USA/GDR Relations is a non-profit, nonpartisan association of United States citizens who support improved economic, cultural and political relations between the U.S. and the GDR. The Council is

self-supporting and accepts no funds from any government.

For further information or to pay your subscription fee, please write:

Andrew Lang
Council on USA/GDR Relations
1267 Newton Street, NE
Washington, DC 20017-2512

Gewandhausorchester Leipzig Concert Schedule

The Gewandhausorchester Leipzig will visit the U.S. from March 28-May 1. The concert schedule is as follows:

March 30-April 1: Boston, MA
April 2: Montreal, Quebec
April 4: Ottawa, Ontario
April 5: Portland, ME
April 6: New London, CT
April 8-10: New York, NY
April 11: Philadelphia, PA
April 12: Washington, D.C.
April 14-15: New York, NY
April 16: Greenvale, CT
April 17: Hartford, CT
April 18: Amherst, MA
April 20: Wheaton, IL
April 21: Urbana, IL
April 22: Columbus, OH
April 23: Danville, KY
April 24: Indianapolis, IN
April 26-29: Ann Arbor, MI
April 30: Toronto, Ontario

Ford Foundation Fellowships in GDR Studies

Ann Phillips of Smith College has been awarded the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies' first Ford Foundation Fellowship in GDR Studies. The fellowship, funded by the Ford Foundation, is designed to encourage younger American scholars in Soviet, Eastern European and Western European Studies to

devote attention to the German Democratic Republic in their advanced research and study.

Dr. Phillips will analyze the dialogue between the West German SPD and the East German SED that began in Spring 1983, when the SED invited the SPD to send representatives to an international symposium on Karl Marx. Subsequent developments in the dialogue have included the establishment of joint working groups to confer on concrete and specific problems as well as discussions on theoretical and philosophical issues which divide the two parties.

A second Ford Foundation Fellowship was awarded to Professor Joyce Mushaben of the University of Missouri in Saint Louis who will be working on issues of East German identity.

Further information on the Ford Foundation Fellowship can be obtained from the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies:

AICGS
1755 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Suite 750
Washington, D.C. 20036-2102
(202) 332-9312

Notes from the Peace Council of the GDR

On October 24, 1988, a ceremony was held in East Berlin to mark United Nations Day 1988 and the beginning of the international Week for the Promotion of Disarmament. Professor Gerhard Hahn, President of the GDR's League for the UN, welcomed representatives of political parties, public organizations, churches and religious communities, as well as foreign diplomats posted in the East German capital. The meeting was addressed by GDR Deputy Foreign Minister Peter Florin, President of the 42nd UN General Assembly and the 3rd UN Special Disarmament Session.

On November 25 and 26 GDR scientists held their first National Peace Congress in Berlin to discuss disarmament and problems of safeguarding the peace and security in Europe. The 300 scientists reaffirmed their commitment to the fight against war and their support

national cooperation. Together with their guests from Czechoslovakia and the Federal Republic of Germany, they presented important papers on peace research to the Congress and its six working groups. Speakers covering the spectrum of academic disciplines put forward evidence corroborating the urgent need for scaling down forces and conventional armaments for strictly defensive purposes, excluding any possibility of conducting offensive operations and outlined directions for the future of peace research.

Talks between GDR and Sweden

At the invitation of Erich Honecker, General Secretary of the SED Central Committee of the GDR Council of State, the Prime Minister of Sweden, Ingvar Carlsson, paid a visit to the GDR on January 23, 1989. Official discussions between the two leaders centered on topics of bilateral and international importance.

Erich Honecker informed his guest on the schedule of the envisioned unilateral withdrawal of Soviet forces from the territory of the GDR and on the decision taken by the Defense Council to reduce the level of armed forces and conventional armaments of the National Peoples Army of the GDR and to cut expenditures on national defense.

GDR Film Festival at the Smithsonian Institution

On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the founding of the German Democratic Republic, the Resident Associate Program, in cooperation with the Embassy of the German Democratic Republic presented three popular East German Films, which not only exemplify a dynamic, emerging national cinema, but also offer a fascinating inside view of East Germany today.

March 6: Solo Sunny (1979) directed by Konrad Wolf; March 13: So Many Dreams (1986) directed by Heiner Carow; March 20: Interrogation of the Witnesses (1987) directed by Gunther Scholz.