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e GDR  
5 and 26 June 1981

ments on the policy of the German Democratic Republic

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A successful policy geared to the needs of the people  
and the preservation of peace

Documents of the policy of the  
German Democratic Republic.

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Declarations  
of the People's Chamber  
of the GDR  
on 20 and 24 June 1981



A successful policy geared to the needs of the people and the preservation of peace

*[Faint handwritten notes in German]*

# A successful policy geared to the needs of the people and the preservation of peace

The People's Chamber of the GDR, in its 25th session on 25 June 1981, adopted a resolution endorsing the policy of the Council of Ministers of the GDR, which had been formulated at the National Front...

## Deliberations of the People's Chamber of the GDR on 25 and 26 June 1981

The deliberations of the People's Chamber of the GDR on 25 and 26 June 1981 were devoted to the discussion of the report of the Council of Ministers of the GDR on the economic and social development of the GDR in 1980 and the tasks for 1981. The Chamber heard the declaration of intent given by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers, Willi Stoph, after several hours of deliberations in which speakers from all parliamentary groups of the House unanimously passed a resolution endorsing the declaration of intent.

The People's Chamber elected the 44 members of the GDR Council of Ministers proposed by Willi Stoph. Subsequently, following the customary judicial business of the GDR, at the end of its deliberations the supreme representative body confirmed the accounts and the financial report for 1980. The following is a summary of the deliberations of the two session days.



A successful policy  
geared to the needs  
of the people  
and the preservation  
of peace

Deliberations  
at the People's Chamber  
of the GDR  
on 25 and 26 June 1981

Declaration of the People's Chamber  
of the German Democratic Republic

The People's Chamber, elected by the citizens of the GDR on 14 June 1981, assembled for its constituent meeting in Berlin, capital of the GDR, on 25 June.

The 500 members of the country's supreme law-making body adopted important decisions designed to continue the tried and tested policy of promoting the welfare of the people which had been formulated at the 10th Congress of the SED and reaffirmed in the election manifesto of the National Front. The People's Chamber elected the General Secretary of the SED Central Committee, Erich Honecker, as Chairman of the Council of State of the German Democratic Republic and as Chairman of the National Defence Council. Willi Stoph, member of the Politbureau of the SED Central Committee, was elected as Chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers, and Horst Sindermann, member of the Politbureau of the SED Central Committee, as President of the People's Chamber. The house unanimously adopted a declaration pledging full support to the Appeal of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR to the Parliaments and Peoples of the World. During its second meeting on 26 June the People's Chamber heard the declaration of intent given by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers, Willi Stoph. After several hours of deliberations in which spokesmen for all parliamentary groups took the floor, the house unanimously passed a resolution endorsing the declaration of intent.

The People's Chamber elected the 44 members of the GDR Council of Ministers proposed by Willi Stoph. Subsequently, it elected the supreme judicial bodies of the GDR. At the end of its deliberations the supreme representative body confirmed the accounts and the financial report for 1980. The following is a summary of the deliberations of the two meetings.



## Declaration of the People's Chamber of the German Democratic Republic

The People's Chamber of the German Democratic Republic notes with profound interest the Appeal addressed by the Supreme Soviet of the USSR to the parliaments and peoples of the world.

The supreme representative body of the socialist German state solemnly declares: This new powerful call for peace has been made by the supreme authority of a people which performed the decisive act at the decisive front of the Anti-Hitler Coalition for ending the most dreadful war in the history of mankind. As we observe the fortieth anniversary of the perfidious invasion of the socialist Soviet Union by the Nazi regime, a clear and unmistakable call for peace has gone up from the country which 36 years ago liberated the peoples from Nazism and which since then has safeguarded the longest period of peace so far in this century.

The Supreme Soviet of the USSR has launched its appeal for peace at a time when world peace is once again seriously endangered. The resort by aggressive military circles to a policy of confrontation, excessive arms buildup, interference and fomenting of conflicts not only threatens to destroy the fruits of détente won by the nations in fierce struggles but also to plunge mankind into the abyss of a nuclear inferno!

The purpose behind the sabotaging of the agreements on the limitation of strategic arms is to clear the way for the all-out production of new, more dreadful weapons of mass annihilation. It is precisely in Europe, whose nations bore the fullest brunt of two bloody world wars, and on whose soil vast quantities of weapons of mass destruction are currently stockpiled, that the deployment of new US-made deadly missiles is proceeding apace.

The lie of the century of the threat from the East is designed to deceive



the peoples and to shift the existing military equilibrium in favour of the arms-hungry imperialist circles. Although this policy is doomed to failure, it is nevertheless highly dangerous, and it is no accident that particularly at such a time as this of a hotting up of the arms race that the embers of conflict are being fanned in various regions of the world, such as in the Middle East!

It is imperative that a prompt and immediate halt be called to this headlong rush to a new, all-destroying war. We owe it to the 20 million heroic Soviet dead and the dead of other nations, and we owe it to the present and future generations. We owe it to our humanity, our common sense and our consciences.

The plans of the warmongers come to nothing if the peoples of the world put a stop to them *now!*

Peace shall prevail if all peoples fight for it. Peace shall prevail if the arms drive is replaced immediately by negotiations! The Soviet Union, the socialist countries have submitted realistic and constructive proposals for sober negotiations. We must not allow a situation where the arms-first policy is speeded up and negotiations are delayed.

We must not allow a situation where valuable time for negotiations on disarmament is lost by the constant raising of new conditions, and time thereby gained for an insane arms race.

Heedful of their great national and international responsibility and of the chief mandate on which they were elected, the supreme representative body of the people of the German Democratic Republic lends its voice in support of the appeal for peace of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

In turn, the People's Chamber of the German Democratic Republic addresses itself to the parliaments and peoples of all countries:

Let us lose no time, not a single hour so vital for the lives of our nations!

Let us spare no efforts!

Let us act and cooperate immediately in order to avert the dangers of war and to safeguard the most prized possession of mankind, peace.

#### **People's Chamber of the German Democratic Republic**

Berlin, 25 June 1981

## **We shall faithfully adhere to our proven course into the eighties**

**Statement by Erich Honecker, General Secretary of the SED Central Committee and Chairman of the Council of State**

Mr President,  
Honourable Members,  
Dear Friends and Comrades,

It behoves me to express my most heartfelt thanks for the trust you have placed in me by electing me Chairman of the Council of State of the German Democratic Republic. As in the past I shall continue to endeavour to perform the functions of this responsible office in the interests of our people and at all times to live up to my duties.

In the general election to the People's Chamber on 14 June 1981, the citizens of the German Democratic Republic have come out in their overwhelming majority in favour of peace and socialism. The domestic and foreign policies of the GDR mapped out at the 10th Congress of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, upon which the election manifesto issued to the public by the National Front was based, have been fully endorsed by this election result, and we thus have clear guidelines and an unambiguous mandate for the future. At home we shall continue to build an advanced socialist society, and stand up for peace abroad.

At the present time there is no more important task than to safeguard peace. Peace is the foundation for the welfare of our own and other peoples. We shall, therefore, strive with all our might and spare no efforts to ensure a normalization of the international situation. Europe must not be delivered up to the devastation of a new war. It should be a continent of lasting peace and security. Peace has to be fought for, and this is what we are firmly resolved to do.

The appeal of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the parliaments and peoples of the world submitted by the great pioneer of peace, our friend and comrade Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev, is an expression of the profoundest longing and vital interest of mankind.



It represents a clarion call for action to all who want peace. In the face of the serious dangers emanating from the imperialist policy of arms-first and confrontation. We endorse with all our hearts the appeal of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and will make our own contribution to the implementation of its objectives. In this endeavour we are aware of the tremendous responsibility resting upon all peace-loving countries and peoples to thwart the reckless plans of the bellicose circles of imperialism.

Honourable Members,

We shall faithfully adhere hour proven course into the eighties. Our goal is to preserve and augment what we have achieved so far maintaining in the process the synthesis of our economic and social policies. The further improvement of the working and living conditions of the working people to which we are committed, requires more than ever before major efforts at every place of work. Whilst the fact remains that success does not come of its own accord is nevertheless quite confident. Convincing proof of the trust the people place in us are their deeds designed to further strengthen our socialist state of workers and farmers within the community of our fraternal countries.

By pursuing a policy which has proved correct in everyday life we are taking advantage of the unsurpassed opportunities offered by socialism for the good of the people. This great achievement is taking place through the equal participation of all citizens, irrespective of age and sex, ideology and religion. It is for the benefit of everybody.

Let me express my firm conviction that the supreme representative body of the people of the GDR and all elected representatives will do their utmost to implement the election programme of the National Front thus fully justifying the confidence the citizens of this country have put in them.

Thank you.

## Declaration of intent

by Willi Stoph, Chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers,  
before the People's Chamber on 26 June 1981

Honourable Members,

In accordance with a resolution by the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and at the suggestion of its General Secretary, Comrade Erich Honecker, the constituent meeting of the People's Chamber on 25 June 1981 elected me Chairman of the Council of Ministers and charged me with the formation of the Council of Ministers.

I should like to thank you, honourable members, very warmly for the confidence you have placed in me. In the awareness of the responsibilities that have been entrusted to me, let me assure you, the elected representatives of our people, that guided by the lofty ideals of socialism and peace I shall do all in my power for the interests of the working class and all other working people and for the welfare of the whole people of our socialist fatherland.

On the basis of our Constitution, in accordance with a resolution by the SED Central Committee and after consultation with the parties and mass organizations of the Democratic Bloc and the National Front of the German Democratic Republic, I propose that the following be elected as members of the Council of Ministers:

as first deputy chairmen of the Council of Ministers,  
Werner Krolkowski and Alfred Neumann

as deputy chairmen of the Council of Ministers

Manfred Flegel,	Gerhard Schürer,
Hans-Joachim Heusinger,	Rudolph Schulze,
Günther Kleiber,	Dr Gerhard Weiss and
Wolfgang Rauchfuss,	Dr Herbert Weiz
Dr Hans Reichelt,	



**as members of the Council of Ministers**

Otto Arndt,	Wolfgang Junker,
Dr Gerhard Beil,	Horst Kaminsky,
Wolfgang Beyreuther,	Rolf Kersten,
Dr Manfred Bochmann,	Heinz Klopfer,
Prof. Hans-Joachim Böhme,	Erhard Krack,
Gerhard Briksa,	Heinz Kuhrig,
Werner Buschmann,	Prof. Ludwig Mecklinger,
Friedrich Dickel,	Erich Mielke,
Oskar Fischer,	Wolfgang Mitzinger,
Dr Rudi Georgi,	Hans Sattler,
Werner Greiner-Petter,	Dr Kurt Singhuber,
Wolfgang Gress,	Horst Sölle,
Walter Halbritter,	Otfried Steger,
Ernst Höfner,	Dr Albert Stief,
Hans-Joachim Hoffmann,	Dr Udo-Dieter Wange, and
Dr Heinz Hoffmann,	Günther Wyschofsky
Dr Margot Honecker,	

The personalities I have proposed are tried and tested administrators who have demonstrated their loyalty to the workers' and farmers' state and accomplished successful work as members of the Council of Ministers or in other positions of great responsibility in the state and society.

**Honourable Members,**

With their overwhelming vote in favour of the candidates of the National Front during the general elections on 14 June 1981 the citizens of the German Democratic Republic reaffirmed their resolve to tread the path charted by the 10th Congress of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany for the continued successful building of an advanced socialist society. It was a resounding vote

- for the further pursuit of our central policy with its synthesis of economic and social policies.
- for the further strengthening of our socialist fatherland,
- for the reinforcement of our fraternal alliance with the Soviet Union and the other states of the socialist community, and
- for the safeguarding of peace.

The outcome of the elections is, at the same time, an expression of the increased political and moral unity of the people as manifested in the indestructible ties which link the working people to the Marxist-Leninist party of the working class and our socialist state.

The resolutions of the 10th SED Congress, which strikingly reaffirm the leading role of the working class and its Marxist-Leninist party as well as its well-proven alliance policy, provide the basis for the work of the Council of Ministers. The government of our workers' and farmers' state considers it its supreme duty to continue to contribute to the strengthening of the socialist family of nations firmly gathered about the Soviet Union and to work for a secure peace. This is the stable foundation for the development of our policy, which is aimed at the well-being of the individual and the happiness of the people.

Building on what we have achieved so far and bearing in mind the greater demands being made on us, we shall tackle the new tasks before us in order to strengthen our socialist state, which represents the interests of the whole people, in every possible way.

The Government will be guided in its activities by the 10th Party Congress decision to continue our central policy with its synthesis of economic and social policies under the changed conditions of the '80s with a view to safeguarding the current standard of living and cultural level of the population and raising it further step by step.

The political basis for this is the close alliance between the working class, the cooperative farmers, the intelligentsia and all other working people, an alliance which proved its vitality during the run-up to the elections and during the elections themselves. In the legislative period before us the Council of Ministers will continue to rely on the well-established cooperation between the parties and mass organizations united in the Democratic Bloc and in the National Front of the GDR and develop socialist democracy more fully.

In the more than 30 years the German Democratic Republic has been in existence the Government has always accomplished its objectives for the greater good of the working people thanks to the broad involvement, dedication and initiative of our citizens. You may rest assured that this will remain so in the years ahead. All members of the Council of Ministers will devote all their energies to this end.



Honourable Members,

In its foreign policy, which is directed towards peace and international understanding, the Government will be guided by the historical truth that the vital interests of the GDR coincide with the interests of the Soviet Union and the other states of the socialist community on the common basis of Marxism-Leninism and a shared socialist system.

The indestructible fraternal alliance with the Soviet Union and the GDR's firm integration in the socialist community have invariably provided the reliable and stable basis for the security and success of our people. We shall continue to spare no effort to strengthen these ties and to make the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance between the GDR and the USSR a living reality every day anew.

The intensification and expansion of our relations with the Soviet Union and the other fraternal states will remain at the centre of the international activities of the German Democratic Republic. The GDR will always make its own contribution to strengthening the unity and cohesion of the socialist community and work for the further consolidation of the Warsaw Treaty Organization as the coordinating centre for our joint defence, security and foreign policy. We are linked by fraternal ties of friendship and cooperation with Cuba and Vietnam as outposts of socialism. In view of the multiplying attempts by world imperialism to interfere in the internal affairs of socialist countries or to encroach upon their sovereignty, we express our resolve to protect socialism from any aggression.

Honourable Members,

Socialism and peace belong together as Comrade Erich Honecker stressed at the 10th Party Congress. Just as we need peace for our socialist construction effort so the results of that effort make peace more secure. In view of the confrontation politics and arms drive pursued by the most aggressive quarters of imperialism it is now more important than ever to strive with determination for peace on which the existence of present and future generations depends.

Nothing is more urgent today than to remove the danger of a nuclear world conflagration and to strengthen international security. We shall, therefore, work unflinchingly and unswervingly for this lofty cause of mankind. The cessation of the arms race, the defence and extension of political détente, and its stabilization through measures towards military

détente and disarmament remain declared aims of our foreign policy. We are thus living up to the cardinal principle of our state policy, which is to do everything to ensure that no war will ever again emanate from German soil.

Talks and agreements on the basic issues of peaceful coexistence rather than confrontation—this is the line which the German Democratic Republic is following consistently together with the Soviet Union and the other fraternal countries in shaping international relations.

The great action programme for peace which Comrade Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev proclaimed at the 26th Congress of the CPSU has our full support. We wholeheartedly welcome the appeal which the Supreme Soviet of the USSR addressed at its most recent session to the parliaments and peoples of the world.

In conformity with the blueprint for peace outlined at the 10th SED Congress, the GDR is making every effort to help ensure that these proposals, which are so important for world politics, give rise to practical results and that a healthy international situation can be established on a lasting basis. We are in favour of a resumption of the negotiations between the Soviet Union and the USA on the limitation and reduction of strategic arms, which were unilaterally broken off by the USA.

The GDR regards the Soviet proposals for a moratorium on the deployment of new medium-range missile systems in Europe as an important step towards the limitation and, ultimately, reduction of military confrontation on the European continent. In our estimation it ought to be possible to reach agreement on the limitation and reduction of any type of weapon provided that the principle of reciprocity is respected and that of equality and equal security is strictly observed. The adoption of a mandate for the holding of a European conference on military détente and disarmament remains the paramount task before the Madrid follow-up meeting to the Helsinki Conference.

The GDR will continue to pursue the aim of bringing about effective disarmament measures in Central Europe by means of the Vienna talks. It is up to the Western participants to change their attitude and to adopt a constructive and cooperative stance.

We are linked to the emergent nations and all peoples fighting for national and social liberation by our antiimperialist struggle for peace and social progress, against colonialism, racism and apartheid, against imperialist tutelage and interference. This time-tested policy of active



anti-imperialist solidarity and multifaceted cooperation on an equal footing will be consistently continued.

What the states of Africa, Asia and Latin America have to say on the basic issues of our day is gaining ever greater importance. The German Democratic Republic welcomes and supports this development. The treaties of friendship and cooperation concluded in 1979 ushered in a new stage in the GDR's relations with a number of these countries. On the basis of these accords our Republic will contribute actively to maintaining these relations at a high political level and to developing them in a comprehensive manner.

The German Democratic Republic has a high regard for the movement of non-aligned states whose strength and influence stem from its anti-imperialist objectives.

The GDR emphatically condemns the imperialist policy of generating and fomenting international conflicts and tensions, whether in the Middle East, the Persian Gulf, the Indian Ocean or southern Africa. Such actions are directed both against the interests of the young nations concerned and against world peace. We are in favour of eliminating sources of conflict by peaceful means through political negotiations. We give our unqualified support to the Soviet proposals to hold an international conference to resolve the Middle East issue.

Precisely in a situation in which so much is at stake for the peaceful life of the world's nations, the GDR together with its allies remains unwaveringly committed to the principles of peaceful coexistence between states with differing social systems. It will continue to abide strictly by the Helsinki Final Act as an entity and as a programme for the consolidation of détente.

The policy of the German Democratic Republic *visa-à-vis* the Federal Republic of Germany, as well as other capitalist states, is determined by the principles of peaceful coexistence. If we accord the highest priority to the safeguarding of peace, this must be seen against the world political background because normal relations between the two German states are of great international importance, and this applies not only to the situation in Europe.

The GDR will, therefore, persist in its efforts towards good-neighbourly relations with the FRG. However, a stepped up arms drive and the adherence to revanchist doctrines postulating the "continued existence of the German Reich within its 1937 frontier" are facts which tend to impede

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**Appeal by the Supreme Soviet  
of the USSR**

## **"To the Parliaments and Peoples of the World"**

**The safeguarding of peace has been,  
is and will be the supreme aim of the  
foreign policy  
of the Soviet Union.**

**The risk of a nuclear conflict  
increases with each day  
lost for negotiations.  
For joint efforts to curb the arms race  
and attain disarmament.**

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The Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, anxious over the increasing military danger, the unprecedented scope of the arms race, appeals to the parliaments and peoples of the world.

The Supreme Soviet of the USSR issues this Appeal on the 40th anniversary of the attack by Nazi fascism on our homeland. The Soviet people bow their heads to the glorious memory of 20 million fellow-countrymen, who fell in the war. World War Two inflicted incalculable disasters and suffering on all mankind. We profoundly revere the memory of all who sacrificed their lives in the struggle against aggression, for the sake of peace on earth.

History has taught a stern lesson. The peoples have paid far too big a price for the failure to prevent war, to avert in time the threat hanging over the world. A repetition of the tragedy must not be allowed. Everything must and can be done to prevent another world war.

The world has already been saturated with weapons of mass annihilation. But their stockpiling continues, arms ever more sophisticated and destructive are being developed. Launching pads are being prepared for hundreds of new nuclear missiles in Western Europe. People are being conditioned to the criminal idea of the permissibility of the use of nuclear weapons.

Political tension is being aggravated once again. The stake is on attaining military superiority. The language of threat is resorted to, claims to intervention in the affairs of other countries and peoples are being openly advanced and all this is covered up by the crude concoction of a "Soviet military threat".

The Supreme Soviet of the USSR solemnly declares: The Soviet Union does not threaten anyone, does not seek confrontation

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with any state in the West or the East. The Soviet Union has not pressed and is not pressing for military superiority. It has not been and will not be the initiator of new spirals of the arms race. There is no type of weapons it would not agree to limit, to ban on a mutual foundation by agreement with other states.

The safeguarding of peace has been, is and will be the supreme aim of the foreign policy of the Soviet Union. This is the aim of the Peace Programme for the eighties, adopted by the 26th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. It embraces steps for the reduction both of nuclear missiles and conventional arms, contains proposals for the settlement of existing and the prevention of new conflicts and crisis situations, is permeated with the desire for deepening detente and developing peaceful cooperation between the countries on all continents. It expresses the readiness of the Soviet Union to hold negotiations on all topical issues of peace and security, attentively to consider any constructive ideas of other states.

In our nuclear age dialogue and negotiations are equally needed by all, just as all need peace, security and confidence in the future. There is now no other sane method of solving disputed problems, no matter how acute and complex they are, except by negotiations. No single opportunity must be missed. Time does not wait. The risk of a nuclear conflict increases with each day lost for negotiations. The solution of vital problems confronting each people and all peoples is being shelved. Time does not wait. In our time all those who through their actions encourage the arms race, the further stockpiling in the world of weapons of mass annihilation of people, who advocate the use of force in the solution of disputed issues between states or who just close their

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eyes to the dangers threatening the world today, in fact are pushing mankind towards the abyss.

The Supreme Soviet of the USSR appeals to the legislative bodies of all countries with the call vigorously to speak up in favour of negotiations, which would result in the impermissibility of another round of the nuclear missile arms race—honest and equal negotiations without any preliminary conditions or attempts at diktat.

The Supreme Soviet of the USSR expects that its appeal will be considered with all the attention deserved by this most important, most pressing issue of our time. It is convinced that parliaments have the necessary prerogatives and authority to press effectively for curbing the arms race and for disarmament along the road of negotiations.

On its part, the Supreme Soviet of the USSR will continue making its contribution to the creation of such an atmosphere which would promote positive results through negotiations.

Peace is the common possession of mankind and in our time also the paramount condition for its existence. It is only through joint efforts that it can and must be maintained and reliably safeguarded.

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further progress in the normalization of relations or even put at risk what has been accomplished.

This makes it an indispensable requirement that the existence of two mutually independent, sovereign states with differing social systems be respected without reservation, and this includes the recognition of GDR citizenship and of the frontier between the GDR and the FRG as a state border. Only the strict observance of the rules of international law and the full exercise of the responsibility for peace will lead to new positive results in the relations between the GDR and the FRG.

The United Nations Organization occupies an important place in the life of peoples and states, and it bears a large measure of responsibility on matters of war and peace. Especially in times of aggravated international tensions the UN has an important role to play in the maintenance of world peace and the strengthening of international security. It is called upon to help pave the way for genuine measures towards military détente. The Soviet proposals to hold a special Security Council session involving the leaders of all member states in order to seek formulas for the normalization of the international situation and the prevention of war takes this into account. The GDR is actively working for the realization of this proposal.

Our Republic, which now as before remains fully committed to the principles and purposes of the UN, reaffirms its willingness to continue to help raise the effectiveness of the world organization, safeguard world peace and strengthen the independence of states and international cooperation on the basis of the United Nations Charter.

Honourable Members,

In the field of domestic policy, the Council of Ministers will unswervingly pursue the central policy adopted by the 10th SED Congress, a policy which enjoys the support and approval of the working class and all other working people and which is aimed at raising the material standard of living and cultural level of the people on the basis of a high growth rate of socialist production, increased efficiency, scientific and technological progress, and rising labour productivity. This policy of ours finds itself in agreement with the basic economic law of socialism. Serving the welfare of the people, it releases new energies for the achievement of the greater challenges facing us.

Full employment, national prosperity, growth and stability have been



the hallmarks of our economic and social policy, and this is bound to remain so.

The line we have been following compares favourably, and contrasts more and more strikingly, with the crisis-ridden development in the capitalist countries where even the most fervent advocates of a "free enterprise" system can no longer deny such symptoms as economic stagnation and declining production, unemployment and drastic cuts in social services.

The work of the Government must take into account the statement made at the 10th SED Congress that the Council of Ministers is responsible for the management of the entire national economy and that the fulfilment of the resulting tasks forms the main content of its activities. From this we derive the obligation to implement the economic strategy which Comrade Erich Honecker, General Secretary of the SED Central Committee, outlined in his report to the 10th Party Congress, systematically and in the most effective manner possible.

Bearing in mind that the possibilities of the scientific and technological revolution have directly become the principal reserve for the growth of economic performance and efficiency, the Council of Ministers will place the realization of scientific and technological projects at the centre of its activities. We call on workers, scientists, engineers and innovators in all sectors of our economy to assist us in this endeavour by displaying enthusiasm, perseverance and creative initiative.

In view of what is by international standards a high input of human, material and financial resources by the State into science and technology, we expect that our intelligentsia, as a reliable ally of the working class, will be so successful in research and development and in the practical application of their results that it is possible to keep pace with the scientific and technological revolution in the world and even to gain ground.

The Government will also bear in mind that science and technology largely determine how efficiently all other priorities of our economic strategy are put into practice.

Science and technology play a major role, whether it is a matter of raising labour productivity, making effective use of raw materials, fuels and fixed assets, increasing the effectiveness of investments, producing more and better consumer goods, or accomplishing other economic tasks.

The Directive for the 1981-1985 Five-Year national economic development plan of the GDR, which was adopted by the 10th SED Congress, contains all the objectives we must attain during the next five years. It provided the basis for the formulation of the State tasks concerning the drawing up of the 1981-85 Five-Year Plan.

At present, hundreds of thousands of collectives in industrial, agricultural, construction and transport enterprises, in scientific institutions and all other areas of our national economy are engaged in the formulation of their own specific tasks. The initial results to emerge from numerous productive plan discussions are indicative of a pronounced willingness to translate the tasks set by the 10th Party Congress into concrete plan targets. They are evidence of the resolve to meet the objectively greater demands of the eighties. Not least, it is necessary to mention here the initiatives of the young generation which found such convincing expression at the 11th Congress of the Free German Youth.

The Council of Ministers will ensure that all proposals and comments put forward during the public debate of the Directive for the Five-Year Plan will be carefully recorded, examined and put to use to secure the requisite increase in economic performance.

The discussion of the state tasks regarding the 1981-85 Five-Year Plan, which also covers the targets for 1982, is closely connected with the campaign to fulfil the 1981 plan. We find here thousandfold proof of the vigour of our socialist democracy, of a great preparedness to work, plan and govern together.

It is primarily the working class, led by our Marxist-Leninist party, and its most comprehensive mass organization, the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions, which by correctly combining the socialist emulation campaign for the fulfilment of the 1981 plan with the discussion of the new tasks in the coming years, demonstrate how the efficiency of our economy can be raised in the best interests of the whole people.

From the rostrum of our supreme representative body the Government expresses its firm intention to continue to work closely with the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions in a comradely spirit.

It will be a matter of high priority for the Council of Ministers due to be elected today and for its executive bodies to finalize the draft plan for 1981-85 without delay as soon as the plan discussion is over and to submit the draft law on the Five-Year Plan to the People's Chamber. Once it has been adopted by the supreme organ of power of our state, the plan



will provide the legal framework for the continuous, planned and balanced development of our national economy and for the activities of all organs of state, economic institutions, scientific establishments and all other units during the period up to 1985.

Honourable Members,

The Council of Ministers acts on the premise that our nationally owned industry will largely determine the increase in the performance of our economy. It attaches major importance to the further elaboration of a production structure which meets the requirements of the scientific and technological revolution, satisfies our economic demand and takes into account foreign market conditions, and to the raising of the quality and efficiency of production.

Aware as we are of the need to secure any future growth in performance with a modest or no increase in the input of energy and raw materials, we shall concentrate on strengthening our domestic energy and raw materials base. The expansion of the lignite industry, the better utilization of primary and intermediate products in the metallurgical and chemical industries and in the manufacturing sectors, the establishment of self-contained raw materials cycles, and the more economical use of energy and materials will be focal points of our work.

In accordance with the economic strategy of the eighties, the engineering industries will increase the output of equipment and machines as well as fabricating and spare parts by employing microelectronics on a vast scale. This will be of crucial importance not only for the projected expansion of our material and technological base, but also for the raising of our export capacity.

At the same time, the Council of Ministers will see to it that many more and better consumer goods are produced, chiefly on the basis of raw materials from domestic sources or from other socialist countries. This will also apply to the engineering industries, including combines manufacturing capital goods, and to the various sectors of basic industry.

The workers, engineers, scientists and all others employed in industry are faced with great tasks and responsibilities. We are convinced that our experienced working class will cope with these successfully in close cooperation with the intelligentsia.

The Government attaches considerable importance to the further development of the construction sector with a view to strengthening the

potential of our national economy and steadily continuing our housing programme.

We call on all construction workers in our Republic rapidly to increase the proportion of modernization and rationalization measures in the further development of industrial building and to increase not only the amount of newly built and modernized dwellings but also the level of maintenance and repair work. The overall aim is to build still more effectively and to reduce the social cost involved quite substantially.

The implementation of the agricultural policy of the SED will be a major concern of the Government. It is designed to strengthen the alliance between the working class and the cooperative farmers and the socialist production relations in the rural sector still further. At the same time, this provides a solid foundation for stable supplies of food for the consumer and of important raw materials for industry.

We are firmly convinced that the cooperative farmers and agricultural workers will provide our people with their daily bread and with everything else needed for a balanced diet by ensuring the ever better cultivation and utilization of the soil, using the fixed assets which have greatly increased in recent years to the best advantage and further raising the output of animal products on the basis of home-grown feedstuffs.

As the discussion of the Directive for the Five-Year Plan issued by the 10th SED Congress has shown, the working people in the agricultural and forestry sector are meeting their great responsibilities and managing better and better to organize the production process in the most effective way possible.

The careful harvesting, storage and processing of all farm produce at a minimum of losses constitutes a further reserve which must be opened up in the interest of augmenting our national wealth and for the benefit of every individual. The impending grain and root crop harvest and the autumn sowing will decide which contribution the agricultural sector will be able to make to strengthening the national economy.

The Council of Ministers will take all measures required to raise the efficiency of our agriculture and to give attention to the further strengthening of the class alliance between workers and cooperative farmers. In accordance with the principles of socialist democracy it will, together with the cooperative farmers, prepare new legislation relating to cooperative farms and a reform of farm prices.



In the interest of supplying the consumer with foodstuffs and industry with raw materials, the agricultural potential of the private plots operated by cooperative farmers and agricultural workers should continue to be used to the full. Similarly, we shall assist allotment gardeners and breeders of small livestock in their efforts to raise their output and to ensure the well-organized sale of their products.

In developing the transport system, postal services and telecommunications, the Council of Ministers will give special attention to the need to improve services for the general public, notably commuter and suburban traffic, postal services and the distribution of newspapers, in terms of both quality and quantity. At the same time, it will be essential to satisfy economic demand more effectively and to reduce costs through a rational organization of goods traffic.

The Government considers it one of its foremost obligations to supply the population ever better with consumer goods and services.

The emphasis will be on ensuring a continuous supply of essential commodities in accordance with demand. At the same time, the output of new high quality goods will be increased in order to cope better with consumer demand for such products. Consumer goods will be available in all three price categories.

We call on all those employed in the trade and service sector to help ensure through their initiative that a good supply of merchandise is available at all times, that after-sales services and shopping facilities are improved, and the quality and promptness of repairs and other services further increased. Those engaged in this sector are faced with the task of contributing to the growth of our national income by reducing costs, avoiding losses and making careful and rational use of the material and financial resources at their disposal.

The Council of Ministers will continue to promote and assist craftsmen, commission dealers, private tradesmen and innkeepers. In contrast to capitalism our state offers a secure future for all of them, and we are convinced that they will always help through good and diligent work to meet the needs of the population better and better.

Honourable Members,

The Government considers it a major task to concentrate the administrative and planning side of its executive organs more than before on raising economic performance and efficiency. The principal yardstick

for the activities of all organs of state is the state plan which must be conscientiously fulfilled in every respect.

In conformity with Comrade Erich Honecker's statement at the 10th Party Congress that the Five-Year Plan is increasingly proving the chief instrument of economic management, efforts will have to be focussed on guaranteeing the planned and balanced development of the national economy by improving the budgeting process and taking full account of the major economic correlations as soon as the Five-Year Plan is worked out.

Now that the combines have become the basic units for managing industry, construction, transport and communications, it is essential to bring out their full potential on the basis of centralized management and planning by the state by making full use of the possibilities and reserves inherent in this new form of management. The exchange of information and the comparison of performance levels must help to make the results achieved by the best combines and enterprises the common property of all. It remains a basic truth that the exchange of information is the cheapest form of investment. What is more, it is of great help in bringing out all the advantages of the socialist production relations in the interests of the entire people.

At the same time, it is necessary to gear the system of performance rating and the economic incentives used in combines and enterprises ever better to the aim of achieving the maximum benefit for the national economy as a whole. Similarly, we shall continue to apply the socialist principle of payment according to work done in such a way as to provide a material stimulus for high performance in production as well as research and development.

Honourable Members,

Extensive tasks for our Government result from the further systematic intensification of socialist economic integration with the USSR and the countries of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance. This is and remains a solid foundation for the development of our national economy, helping to strengthen socialism on a world scale and adding to its appeal. We always feel bound to spare no effort so that the agreements, arrangements and treaties concluded with the USSR and the other socialist countries may be carried out conscientiously. This is not only a matter of the stability of mutually beneficial cooperation—we consider this a



dictate of proletarian internationalism. All combines, enterprises and institutions involved in socialist economic integration must be concerned never to lose sight of this fact.

We shall continue to seek a further expansion of economic and trade relations with the developing countries. We are linked to the emergent nations by a shared antiimperialist interest in strengthening their economic independence, contributing to their industrialization and working for the reorganization of international economic relations on a democratic basis.

In our trade with the capitalist states we are guided by the principles of full equality and mutual advantage. We are opposed to any discrimination and any restrictions, and we resist any attempts to pass the effects of the crisis-ridden and inflationary development in capitalist countries on to the GDR.

Honourable Members,

Our economic policy, directed as it is towards the growth of production, productivity and national income, is designed to safeguard and progressively increase the material standard of living and cultural level of the people even under more complicated foreign trade conditions. This will create the necessary prerequisites for the further enhancement of the socialist way of life.

The Council of Ministers will be concerned to implement our social policy in accordance with the basic orientation given by the 10th SED Congress. Our long-term housing programme will be continued according to plan in the period 1981—85. The net monetary income of the population and the retail trade turnover will be raised systematically to reflect increases in performance. It goes without saying that only such wealth can be distributed as has been produced.

The Government feels committed to the principle adopted by the party of the working class that supplies of essential commodities for the population must be ensured at stable prices. The same goes for the maintenance of low rents, service charges and fares.

For this purpose, as well as for health and social services, education and other areas, our State will again set aside substantial amounts of money. As a result of rising personal incomes and increasing public spending, the real income of the population will grow according to plan during the period 1981—85.

An advanced socialist society needs educated citizens who display a high level of expertise, political knowledge, skill and a readiness to give their best and whose life style is increasingly determined by the values and standards of socialism.

In the '80s, as before, the Government will look upon the further improvement of the integrated socialist education system, notably the communist education of the young generation, as a top priority. The Council of Ministers and its executive bodies will make sure that the tasks set for school education, vocational training and higher and professional education in the 10th Party Congress Directive for the 1981—85 Five-Year Plan are accomplished.

Artists and other cultural workers in this country bear a large measure of responsibility for the spiritual side of the new man. The working people expect them to produce consummate works of art which are imbued with the optimistic world view of the working class and which contribute to a creative atmosphere, job satisfaction and well-being.

In the coming years, just as before, the Government will pay due attention to the further enhancement of conditions for a rich and varied intellectual and cultural life, meaningful leisure activities, especially among the young, recreational opportunities for working people and their families, and the development of physical culture and sport.

The health and social services occupy a special place in our policy geared to the well-being of the people. Thanks to the dedication shown by their staff in coping with the growing requirements they contribute to a high general state of health, a climate of security and family happiness. The Government will concentrate its efforts on the expansion of primary health care. Special attention will be given to industrial health, maternal and child health, the care of retired workers, and the care of physically and mentally handicapped persons.

Great importance will be attached to water management and the protection of our environment, especially in heavily populated and industrialized areas. The funds appropriated for this purpose are to be employed to maximum effect. At the same time, we invite all citizens of our country, wherever they live and work, to help preserve and protect our countryside for us, for our children and future generations.

It is a major concern of the Government to keep accentuating the role of Berlin, the capital of the GDR, as the political, economic and cultural centre of our country. Housing construction will continue to head the list



of priorities. The scientific potential of our capital will be developed systematically. This, coupled with growing output and productivity, is to serve as the basis for a greater contribution of Berlin's industry to the qualitative expansion of the material and technological base of the GDR's economy, to consumer supplies in accordance with demand, and to an increase in exports.

In its future development the capital will continue to be assisted by the other parts of our Republic, with special credit going to the young generation whose "FDJ Initiative Berlin" deserves our full respect.

Honourable Members,

In conformity with the Constitution of the German Democratic Republic the Government will conscientiously fulfil its political, economic, social and cultural tasks and the defence tasks entrusted to it. Basing itself on the programme of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and implementing the resolutions of the 10th SED Congress, the Council of Ministers will do everything to strengthen the socialist State in every possible way. Any attempt to disrupt our body politic will definitely be given a firm rebuff as it has in the past. We are taking all measures required to counter any attacks and attempts at interference on the part of the class enemy. We are convinced that the members of our army and security forces will acquit themselves with high honour in carrying out their responsibilities.

The continued successful implementation of our central policy requires that all organs of state never lose sight of the fundamental relationship which exists between the fulfilment of our challenging economic tasks, the systematic development of the material standard of living and cultural level, and the institution of all the measures required for the protection of our state, the strengthening of the socialist community and the safeguarding of peace.

The fulfilment of the resulting tasks requires the further improvement of administrative work. We will strictly enforce the tried and tested principle of democratic centralism. Now as before it is essential to combine central management and planning by the state more effectively with the creative initiative of the working people and their collectives and to raise the degree of responsibility of the local authorities, combines and enterprises for the fulfilment of the centrally formulated tasks still further.

In close cooperation with the working people and their public organizations, especially the trade unions and the youth organization, it is necessary to promote the socialist emulation campaign for the fulfilment of the plan and the overfulfilment of selected targets. This requires an organization of administrative work throughout the state and the economy that prompts the working people to show initiative and to give of their best. It must be ensured in all areas that performance levels are compared and information exchanged and that the most advanced practices are systematically applied elsewhere.

The Council of Ministers will continue to attach prime importance to the further development of socialist democracy. It wants to see the working people involved on a still broader scale in the administration of the state and the economy.

Our socialist democracy offers all citizens wide scope, enabling every individual to engage in a variety of democratic activities, especially in the formulation and fulfilment of our challenging plans. In the field of education and in other areas of cultural and social life, including meaningful leisure activities, democratic participation has become a feature of life.

The Council of Ministers has the highest regard for the work of the elected assemblies and their members who bear such a high measure of political responsibility. Their activities are a striking embodiment of our socialist democracy. As an organ of the People's Chamber the Council of Ministers ensures that the policy of the state, which reflects the will of the people, is implemented at all levels. I am confident that it will continue to receive valuable assistance in the form of trusting cooperation with the committees of the People's Chamber.

A salient feature of our socialist democracy is the growing role of the local authorities and their councils. As components of an integrated system of administration the local authorities and their organs have a great potential which can be used still more for the fulfilment of the state's responsibilities. The projected amendment of the Local Government Act should be seen in this context.

In the awareness of the need to ensure a uniform approach by all organs of state, the Council of Ministers will lay special emphasis on creating further prerequisites for effective cooperation between central and local government. This applies in particular to the coordinated development of the various sectors and local areas and the better use



of the opportunities which exist for rationalization at the local level. A major priority is to organize cooperation between the local authorities on the one hand and combines and enterprises on the other in such a way that a steep increase in economic performance and efficiency is promoted and additional resources for the systematic development of working and living conditions are opened up.

In streamlining the administrative and planning process the Council of Ministers will continue to adhere to its proven method of generalizing the best practices in central and local government on the basis of reports given by the competent managers and administrators.

It will remain our supreme principle that the work of the organs of state must be geared to the welfare of the people. The state apparatus exists for the people. We shall remain unswervingly committed to this principle.

We look upon the rationalization of administrative work as an ongoing creative process which must help improve the standard of work and the level of efficiency and to cope with the growing tasks without increases in personnel. What is involved here is not only the quantitative relationship between cost and benefit, but such qualitative aspects as the further enhancement of democratic centralism and of the climate of trust existing between the citizens and their state. The working people must be able to see for themselves that their responsible participation in the fulfilment of our tasks commands great respect and that the matters they bring to the attention of the authorities are taken seriously.

In enforcing the relevant legislation passed by the People's Chamber, the Council of Ministers will see to it that petitions are carefully processed by all organs of state. Every administrator is required to examine proposals and criticisms conscientiously, to act upon them wherever this is possible and to look for constructive solutions. It is incompatible with the principles of our policy to give inadequate or no consideration at all to petitions submitted by citizens.

The Council of Ministers wants to see the general sense of awareness and initiative regarding the solution of social and personal problems heightened through systematic and ingenious public relations work on the part of the state. The better all citizens are familiarized with party and government policy and with local affairs, the greater our confidence that everyone will make a specific contribution to the attainment of our objectives.

The Council of Ministers will fully live up to its responsibility for the further development of the socialist legal system and the enforcement of socialist legality. It will bear in mind that the rule of law is of great significance for the life and work of our citizens, encouraging people in their efforts to seek a steep rise in economic performance, to raise standards of efficiency and to use material and financial resources sparingly.

The citizens of our country are aware that the prevailing climate of security is largely determined by how their constitutional rights are respected and by how they fulfil their duties towards the community. Our legal system contributes to the emergence of socialist relations among the people, but it also protects the achievements of the working people from attacks by the class enemy.

The Council of Ministers urges still greater efforts to prevent infractions of the law and to ensure order, discipline and security everywhere. It will promote all initiatives undertaken by working people and their collectives towards this end. In the future, as before, we shall not allow the climate of tranquillity and the creative work of the working people to be disturbed or endangered by irresponsible elements. Any violation of the law will draw an adequate response.

The legal provisions in force have proved their value in practice. In order to keep abreast of developments, the Council of Ministers will ensure the further development of our socialist law on the basis of a plan for legislation to be introduced by 1985.

Honourable Members,

In conclusion, I should like to point out once again that the work of the Council of Ministers will be entirely geared to implementing the forward-looking resolutions of the 10th Congress of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany in every sphere of national life. In so doing we are also fulfilling the tasks outlined in the election manifesto of the National Council of the National Front. All proposed members of the Government are aware of the great responsibility they are assuming both for the work of the Council of Ministers as a collective body and for their specific portfolio.

Honourable Members,

I would ask you to endorse this declaration of intent and to elect the Council of Ministers I have proposed. At the same time, I should like to request you to assist the Government in the fulfilment of its tasks.