

Document 2.

September 12, 1989, Prague – Statement from Czechoslovak Press Agency on the alleged anti-Czechoslovak campaign by the media and some political circles in the Federal Republic concerning the “illegal emigration” of GDR citizens.

ČTK, Prague. Archival database, 9/12/1989.

Translation by Todd Hammond.

In recent days the mass media and certain political circles in the FRG have escalated their campaign and activities around the illegal emigration abroad by citizens of the GDR, which are in conflict with the spirit of the common European process, with the results of the Vienna Follow-up Meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the basic norms of international law. Their goal is to discredit the successes that the GDR has achieved over the period of building socialist society, cast doubt upon its place in the society of European countries states, and interfere with their internal affairs.

It is regrettable that the illegal emigration by citizens of the GDR through a third country is enabled by violating agreements that the German Democratic Republic has signed with other countries.

The GDR during its forty years of existence has gained great and universal respect. With its politics and practice it has shown many times its devotion to the needs and aims of strengthened security and international cooperation. For the CSSR the GDR has been, from the time relations were established, a proven, reliable neighbor, partner, and ally. There can be no doubt that the CSSR and the GDR will continue to build on these traditions and principles while upholding all treaty obligations.