

Newsletter- The Cold War Museum – Berlin, November 2010

By Baerbel E. Simon

Dear Ladies & Gentlemen

Dear Adviser and Friends of the Cold War Museum – Berlin.

I am pleased to offer the following report about the activities and developments of the Cold War Museum - Berlin.

From the 1st. of August to the 5th of September, we visited the USA

We met close friends again for hosting, talking, and dinning but we had occasion to present and bring forward the goals of the Cold War Museum - Berlin.

August/September “Good Will Tour in the United States of America”:

Many thanks go to our friends and organizer who made this trip perfect.

Charlestown retirement Community, Maryland

On Wednesday, August 11, the Cold War Museum – “Berlin Goals and Efforts” an interview with the local newspaper and the local TV Channel.

Organized and arranged by John A. Fahey.



Lake of the Woods Veterans Club, Locust Grove, Virginia.

On Thursday, August 12, at 4 pm in the Clubhouse Lower Level: Guest Speakers were Baerbel and Horst Simon, organizers of The Cold War Museum in Berlin, Germany. Their presentation detailed the Museum's exhibition's on the Berlin Airlift, 1948-1949; The Erection of the Berlin Wall on August 13th, 1961; and 1960's U-2 Incident over Russia.



It was appropriate that the day after their LOW Veteran's presentation, August 13, marked the 49th Anniversary of the Erection of the Berlin Wall.

Organized and arranged by Donna and Lincoln Landis, Ed Kessler – President of LOW Vets.

The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas.

On Sunday, August 22, at 9 am, Roe Avenue, Leawood, KS: Guest Speakers were Baerbel and Horst Simon, organizers of The Cold War Museum in Berlin, Germany. Their presentation was on : “The Divided City – Berlin”.

Organized and arranged by: Pat and Ed Robertson

WWII Living History Series to Focus on Berlin Airlift

On Monday, Aug. 23, at 7 pm, at the Trailside Center, 9901 Holmes Rd., Kansas City, Mo.: Guest speakers Mrs. Baerbel Elisabeth Simon, Executive Director of the Cold War Museum - Berlin, Germany, and her husband Horst Simon presented a



program on the Berlin Airlift as part of World War II Living History. The Berlin flag permanently display at the Trailside Center
Organized and arranged by Pat and Ed Robertson, Gary Swanson - Program Chairman, World War II Living History.

Gretna High School

On Wednesday, August 24, at 9 am to 3pm, history lectures were given to the students at Gretna High School.

Presentation: Power Point presentation and talks by Baerbel & Horst Simon: "The Cold War in Berlin and Germany "

Gretna High School is located in the center of the Midwest of the United States and just ten miles from the city limits of Omaha is the small community of Gretna, Nebraska. The village of Gretna created its first school district in 1888. Currently there are three elementary schools, one middle school and one high school. The high school has a student population of some 720 students. We are a four year college preparatory high school with a graduation rate nearing 100%. Though the German language program is small, it is active in providing students with an international perspective



Organized and arranged by Ms. Kellye Deane and colleagues.

October 2010

By Baerbel E. Simon

The second student conference took place at the Memorial Site Bunker at Harnepkop on the 8th of October 2010, hosted by the Association Atombunker Harnepkop and the Cold War Museum in Berlin.

Guests came from two high schools in Neutrepin and Seelow in the province of Brandenburg, Germany. Additionally, students attended from two high schools in Bogdaniec and Cedynia located in Poland.

We shared a wonderful "Golden October Day".

Our goal was to present the history of the Cold War in Germany as well as celebrating the service and friendship between the three Western Allies which enabled the Berliners to be very successful. Ninth-grade students were most impressed and were able to informally learn as well as understand The Berlin Airlift and the erection of the Berlin Wall which divided the nation for forty-five years..



In cooperation with teachers from Neutrepin and Seelow we have begun building an internet portal between high schools in the USA. This shall be a new "bridge of friendship" between youth in the USA and in Germany. "Tell me about your country" has become the theme between the high schools of Neutrepin and Seelow and The Cold War Museum in Berlin. Our goal is to join British Schools at the program as soon as possible. With joy the partnership between Poland and Germany shall continue to grow.

2010 marks the 20th Anniversary of the Reunification of Germany

By Baerbel E. Simon

From November 1989, the mood on the streets changed. Hopes that the GDR could be reformed began to decrease. More and more demonstrators were chanting, "We are one nation", instead of the earlier slogan "We are the folk". By the first free parliamentary elections in the GDR in March 1990 the population took a decision in favor of German Unification.

In January 1990 GDR Prime Minister Hans Modrow, concerned that the situation would become increasingly unstable, proposed that opposition parties and civil rights alliances should participate in government. Elections for the GDR parliament were due in May, but due to public pressure for action the date was put forward to 18 March. The question was the Unification - yes or no and when and how?

Firstly, a rapid reunification was not the aim of the Federal Republic of Germany policy: in late November 1989 Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl proposed a ten-point plan for a gradual union process. West German politicians were subject to growing pressure from the population when they visited the German Democratic Republic. At late January 1990 concrete plans for rapid reunification were in motion.

On March 18, 1990 the citizens of the GDR were able to vote in free elections for the first time in 40 years. The number of people voting was unusually high, more than 90% of the citizens voted, and the result was clear. The Alliance won just over 50% of the votes, which meant the majority of the population had voted for rapid reunification.

The people of the GDR considered themselves part of the people, part of the German people, which must grow together once again. The voters gave the clear expression of their political intension by the election. The task was given to the Government by the voter's demands for the establishment of German Unity in an undivided, peaceful Europe. This demand included conditions regarding speediness and quality.

On April 19, 1990, the first and last free voted Prime Minister Lothar de Maizière of the CDU, Lothar de Mazière headed a coalition of CDU, DSU, DA, SPD and FDP. He presented his Government program to the freely elected Volkskammer. His focus was rapid unification and he also insisted that West Germany must share its wealth. This was the first time, that the Volkskammer did justice to its name.

These goals, immediate action and quality, can be best guaranteed if our way to unity is based on a treaty in accordance with Article 23 of the *Basic Law”.

The Basic Law of the Federal Republic of Germany Article 23.

On 8 May 1949, and, with the signatures of the Allies, it came into force on 23 May 1949, as the Constitution of Federal Republic

The word constitution was not used, because the Basic Law was a provisional constitution for the Federal Republic of Germany, the efforts and goals were a reunified Germany In case of a reunification Article 23 should be used:

Article 23

For the time being, this Basic Law shall apply in the territory of the Laender Baden, Bavaria, Bremen, Greater Berlin, Hamburg, Hesse, Lower Saxony, North Rhine-Westphalia, Rhineland-Palatinate, Schleswig-Holstein, Wuerttemberg-Baden and Wuerttemberg-Hohenzollern. It shall be put into force for other parts of Germany on their accession.

On October 1949, the East German Soviet Occupation Zone was

transformed into the Communist German Democratic Republic (GDR) with its own constitution.

In November 1989 the Communist Regime in East Germany collapsed and the GDR peacefully joined the Federal Republic of Germany. Article 23 of the Basic Law was used for the reunification.

*East Germany, which had been unitary since 1949, re-divided into its original Federal Länder, Brandenburg, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania (*Mecklenburg-Vorpommern*), Saxony-Anhalt, Saxony (*Sachsen*), Thuringia (*Thüringen*) and Berlin as a new city-state, now capital.. After reunification, the Basic Law remained in force, having proved itself as a stable democracy in West Germany. A number of changes were made to the law in 1990, mostly pertaining to reunification, such as to the preamble.

*The GDR was split into 14 Districts (*Bezirke*):

The 14 *Bezirke* were drawn without regard to the borders of the *Länder* and each named after their capitals, from north to south: Rostock, Neubrandenburg, Schwerin, Rostock, Potsdam, Frankfurt/Oder, Magdeburg, Cottbus, Halle, Leipzig, Erfurt, Dresden, Karl-Marx-Stadt (named Chemnitz since 1953) Gera and Suhl..

The Kohl Administration agreed a timetable for monetary, economic and social union with effect from July 1, 1990. There was no longer an economic basis for the GDR to continue on its own as an independent state. In August 1990, the Volkskammer of the GDR (the parliament) resolved to push for the fastest possible accession to the territory that came under the ambit of the Basic Law of the Federal Republic of Germany. The Unification Treaty of August 31 designated that the five newly formed federal states –

.In Moscow, on September 12, 1990 the Foreign Ministers of the Federal Republic of Germany, the GDR, the Soviet Union, Great Britain and France signed the “Treaty on the final Provisions with respect to Germany” the “Two-plus- Four-Treaty” as it became known. On October 2-3, 1990 it was welcomed in a communiqué by the Foreign Ministers of the OSCE countries convening in New York. The GDR formally ceased to exist on October 3, 1990. The sovereign unity of Germany had been re-established.

Basic Laws Federal Republic of Germany

Source: Die letzten Monate der DDR by Ed Stuhler

<http://www.iuscomp.org/gla/statutes/GG.htm>

Source: Die letzten Monate der DDR by Ed Stuhler

Photos by Horsst Simon

The Cold War Museum – Berlin

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