

## Decree by East Germany on Berlin (12 August 1961)

**Caption:** On 12 August 1961, the East German Government issues a decree condemning the imperialist aims and aggressive policy of the West towards the German Democratic Republic (GDR) and providing for very strict border controls between East and West Berlin.

**Source:** United States-Department of State. Documents on Germany 1944-1985. Washington: Department of State, [s.d.]. 1421 p. (Department of State Publication 9446). p. 775-776.

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**URL:** [http://www.cvce.eu/obj/decree\\_by\\_east\\_germany\\_on\\_berlin\\_12\\_august\\_1961-en-96741f54-9cff-4475-a568-4d2314df1e33.html](http://www.cvce.eu/obj/decree_by_east_germany_on_berlin_12_august_1961-en-96741f54-9cff-4475-a568-4d2314df1e33.html)

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## Decree of the German Democratic Republic Imposing Restrictions on Travel Between East and West Berlin, August 12, 1961

On the basis of the statement by the Warsaw Treaty member countries and the decision of the People's Chamber, the Council of Ministers of the German Democratic Republic adopted the following decree:

[...]

To put an end to the hostile activities of the revanchist and militarist forces of Western Germany and West Berlin, such control is to be introduced on the borders of the German Democratic Republic, including the border with the Western sectors of Greater Berlin, which is usually introduced along the borders of every sovereign state.

Reliable safeguards and effective control must be insured on the West Berlin borders in order to block the way to the subversive activities.

The citizens of the German Democratic Republic may cross these borders only with special permission.

Until West Berlin is turned into a demilitarized neutral free city, the citizens of the capital of the German Democratic Republic will have to have a special permit for crossing the border to West Berlin.

The West Berlin civilians may visit the capital of the German Democratic Republic (Democratic Berlin) on presenting West Berlin identity cards.

Revanchist politicians and agents of West German militarism are not permitted to enter the territory of the G.D.R. capital (Democratic Berlin).

As regards visits to Democratic Berlin by the citizens of the West German Federal Republic, former decisions on control remain valid.

These decisions do not affect the visits of the citizens of other states to the capital of the German Democratic Republic.

As regards to the traveling of West Berlin citizens abroad along the communication lines in the German Democratic Republic, former decisions remain valid.

This decree in no way revises former decisions on transit between West Berlin and West Germany via the German Democratic Republic.

The Minister of Home Affairs, Minister of Transport and Mayor of Greater Berlin are instructed to issue appropriate instructions on the enactment of this decree.

This decree on the measures for insuring peace, protecting the German Democratic Republic and its capital of Berlin in particular, and for insuring the security of other Socialist states, remains valid till the conclusion of a German peace treaty.