

**WE SHALL CONTINUE  
ON OUR GOOD ROAD  
OF PEACE  
AND SOCIALISM**

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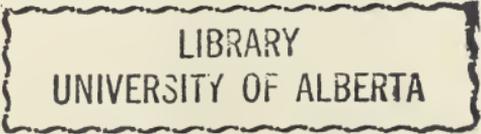
# **We Shall Continue on Our Good Road of Peace and Socialism**

New Year's Message by Walter Ulbricht,  
Chairman of the Council of State  
of the German Democratic Republic



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Dear Fellow-citizens,  
Dear Comrades and Friends,

On the threshold of 1971 I convey to you my most cordial greetings. During the past year you have done good work. Great achievements have been accomplished by the working class and the other working people in our Socialist homeland. You will agree with me that we have jointly advanced a good deal. I thank all of you from the bottom of my heart for your great efforts.

## **I. Our Peace Initiative**

When looking back on the year 1970, we see as a foremost and determining element the intensified struggle waged by the Soviet Union and the entire community of Socialist states for peace and security.

Thanks to the cohesion, strength and consistent peace policy of the community of Socialist states, peace has been preserved in Europe. We are fully aware that our ally, the Soviet Union with her great experience, capacities and potential is the decisive guarantor for peace and security.

The great peace initiative of the community of Socialist states has attained special weight. It is an encouraging fact that this initiative has the support of the peoples also in non-Socialist states, including broad circles of the people in the FRG. This has contributed to the conclusion of the Treaty between the USSR and the FRG and the Border-Treaty between People's Poland and the FRG. These treaties, which still require ratification, have brought about changes in the European situation which could improve conditions for the continued waging of the struggle for peace and security in Europe.

These treaties are the fruit of the patient and purposeful peace policy pursued in the post-war years by the Soviet Union, the GDR as well as the other members of the community of Socialist states. In the interest of peace, it has, to a great extent, been directed at safeguarding the results of the war waged by the Anti-Hitler Coalition and the popular anti-fascist movements in many European countries.

The said treaties stipulate the recognition of the inviolability of the territorial status quo, the inviolability and integrity of the European borders, including the western border of the People's Republic of Poland and the border between the GDR and the FRG, by the Bonn government which has, over and beyond, pledged itself to shape relations to the GDR on the basis of full equality and non-discrimination and to promote the accession of the FRG and the GDR to the United Nations Organizations and its specialized agencies.

Regarding its relationship to the GDR, the government of the FRG agreed that neither of the two states be entitled to represent the other state abroad or act in its name. All this, when viewed as a complex, could open up friendlier perspectives for the situation in Europe to the extent of the realization of the treaties and the pledges made. More favourable conditions have also been created for the establishment of contractual relations between the sovereign GDR and the FRG on the basis of international law. Thus the ratification of the treaties has first priority.

In the struggle for peace and security in Europe, the GDR has, from the very beginning, been standing in the first rank. This was essentially due to the fact that the GDR has consolidated as a popular democratic state. In fraternal alliance with the Soviet Union and the other member-states of the Warsaw Treaty, the GDR has become a strong bastion of peace in Europe and a crucial factor for European security. The attained progress strengthens our determination to continue consistently with our policy towards relaxation of tension.

As everybody knows, the FRG took a different road. Nevertheless the lessons from two world wars should suffice for the ruling classes in the FRG, too, to draw the necessary conclusions and to support every effort towards the ratification of the two treaties. Ample time has, after all, gone by since the holocaust of the Second World War, and the changes in the balance of power, too, ought to be taken into realistic consideration. The issue is the future of man in all European countries, and no-one should allow himself to be misled by the illusion that any conflict, instigated any time by the West German imperialists, might not affect him personally. The issue of war and peace is the direct concern of every human being. Consequently, the most personal interest of every individual citizen of the FRG should compel him to support the ratification of the treaties and to back all efforts for a European security con-

ference attended by all European states on an equal footing. It would serve the cause of international understanding if all European countries including the FRG were to establish normal diplomatic relations with the German Democratic Republic, and it would greatly benefit the cause of peace if the GDR and the FRG were soon admitted as equal members to the United Nations Organization.

In the interest of a most comprehensive safeguarding of peace, the Soviet Union and the other members of the community of Socialist states also took the initiative regarding West Berlin, resulting in the fact that for some time now the four ambassadors have been discussing the problem of West Berlin with a view to finding a way towards a settlement which eliminates, as effectively as possible, the threat of a conflict about West Berlin.

Imperialist propaganda has been crying from the rooftops throughout the world that West Berlin is intended to play the role of a troublemaker against the GDR. After the German Democratic Republic has, despite all those sabotaging plots, proved its solidity and unassailability, the time appears to have come to conclude agreements which establish normal relations, thus putting paid to such schemes.

Concrete proposals have already been submitted. The GDR Government has declared its preparedness to conclude an agreement on the bilateral transit between the GDR and the FRG, naturally under the condition that any disturbing activities, especially any illegitimate state activities of the FRG in West Berlin are discontinued and revanchist and fascist practices there are stopped. The GDR is also prepared to regulate, by way of a treaty, the relations between the GDR government and the West Berlin senate, which would meet the needs of the citizens of West Berlin to a great extent.

We have been surprised at the Bonn government's attempt to evade the issue of entering into negotiations with the GDR on a normal agreement on transit according to international law by pretending not to be authorized by the three Western Powers to do so. That attitude of the FRG indicates that Bonn is less concerned with the requirements of the citizens of the FRG and West Berlin than some ulterior political motives.

I would like to recommend to the government of the FRG to cease evading the issue by using the Western Powers as an excuse. The Bonn government would be well advised if it were to concede to the needs of the West German citizens priority over irrelevant political considerations

and to free the citizens of West Berlin from the sabotaging activities and the illegitimate state interference by the Bonn government.

Whereas this year 1970 has been another year of peace in Europe, the barbarous US-aggression in South-East Asia has spread to further countries and become intensified. Portugal, that still remaining colonial power, assaulted—so far without retribution—a sovereign African state, the Republic of Guinea while imperialist aggression against the Arab countries is still going on. In the country of the Israeli aggressor, the peace resolution passed by the Security Council of the United Nations Organization of 1967 is being scorned in these days while preparations for a new edition of the aggression are being proudly proclaimed. All that cannot but fill every peace-loving human being with grief and anger.

The aggressive acts perpetrated by the imperialist in Asia and Africa make us time and again aware of the fact that peace is by no means a gift from heaven but must, day after day, be regained and preserved through our unrelenting struggle for the all-embracing strengthening of the GDR and the community of Socialist states, by effective work in all fields of the economy and the state.

## **II. 1970—A Year With A Remarkable Balance Sheet**

As far as the development of the German Democratic Republic is concerned, 1970 was a year with a remarkable balance sheet on five years of work within the framework of the long-term plan adopted by the Seventh Congress of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED) which encompassed the period from 1966 to 1970. The level of fulfilment forms the starting basis for the forthcoming long-term plan covering the period from 1971 to 1975.

When all is said and done, we have made good progress in those past five years. They were years of strenuous work and abounding with problems. Yet precisely in those complicated situations the great Socialist community effort of the working class, the class of co-operative farmers, the intelligentsia and the other working strata of our population stood its test, just like our Socialist system and our Socialist planned economy. Many heroic deeds were accomplished by the work-

ing people of the GDR under the extreme weather conditions of the years 1969 and 1970. Equally successful has been the close co-operation with the Soviet Union and the other Socialist countries and the systematic integration within the community of Socialist states. And thus, all working people, all classes and strata of our population fulfilled by their common effort, the long-term plan as a whole and even overfulfilled it in essential positions although it has not been possible to master a few major tasks of the 1970 plan.

In the course of the long-term plan 1966 to 1970, industrial production increased by an annual average of 6.5 per cent, and labour productivity by 6 per cent per year. During the past five years, the national income rose from 84,000 million marks in 1965 to 108,000 million marks in 1970. This enabled us to increase our total investments from 20,500 million marks in 1965 to 32,600 million marks in 1970, while the retail turnover rose by 13,000 millions. Still, no more statistics. What they should show was the fact that all of us have become more prosperous through our joint efforts and that we have increased our national assets.

This has enabled us to now raise the minimum wages and increase the incomes by taking a number of measures in favour of those working people whose kind of work does not make possible an increase of income in direct connection with their performance at work. This increase will benefit more than 1.7 million working people.

The achievements of our agriculture, the co-operative farmers, agricultural workers, technicians and scientists of this section of the national economy deserve a special tribute. In spite of the extreme adverse weather conditions within this five-year period, it has been possible to raise the production of animal produce for the market by 20 per cent, as planned. As far as slaughtering cattle, poultry and eggs are concerned, the targets of the long-term plan have been overfulfilled, while the envisaged increment of grain and milk production could not be fulfilled on account of the extremely adverse weather conditions in 1969 and 1970. Our cooperative farmers and farm-workers have, in the past two years, frequently been compelled to wage a heroic struggle against inclemencies of weather. All the more recommendable has been their unceasing struggle for increasing soil fertility and the establishment of conditions for the continued raising of animal produce. The members of the Socialist farming community can be proud of the fact that they have stood the exacting test imposed on them during the past two years.

Dear Citizens of the GDR,

The long-term plan 1966 to 1970 was our first five-year plan elaborated on the basis of a scientific prognosis of the necessary and possible development of the GDR. The fulfilment of precisely this five year plan was, nevertheless, difficult not only on account of the calamities of weather. We were still battling with the task of overcoming the worst consequences of the pillaging of the GDR by the FRG which had lasted until 1961, while the border was open. At the same time we had, in the interest of our people, to invest large funds into future projects which will not bear fruit until later. During the time of this plan the German Democratic Republic began to master, in definite fields, the scientific and technological revolution which is, in our country, being carried through by the people for the people. In many factories considerable progress was made regarding Socialist rationalization, partial automation and complete automation, linked with an increased application of operational research. Major steps have been undertaken on the road towards an effective structure of our Socialist national economy.

Large enterprises of the structure-determining branches of industry, such as in the fields of power generation, chemistry, scientific-instrument manufacture, electronics, electronic data-processing, process instrumentation and control engineering and light-weight metal construction have been erected. Major industrial research centres have begun operating. And all that has been achieved while the 5-day working week was introduced.

Nobody has ever been under the illusion that revolutionary changes of such a magnitude could be implemented without contradictions and temporary difficulties in some fields. Needless to say that it took some time until all of us had completely comprehended all those new problems by way of intensive theoretical and practical work.

We have, thus, made some progress in those years in shaping the advanced social system of Socialism and its Socialist democracy.

In this conjunction our Socialist state system has been further developed which is borne out by our new Socialist Constitution.

Another important fact is the complex development of our Socialist educational system within that period. Our educationists, scientists and practitioners have done sterling work. My heartiest thanks to all of them!

The past five years were for the working people in the GDR a great period of learning. Many, many thousands of people have studied with

great assiduity modern technological processes and, not lastly, the economic system of Socialism. The level of general knowledge among the working people has risen. They are studying, more systematically than in the past, how to make sensible use of their leisure time, which has been extended as a result of the introduction of the 5-day working week, by new methods, advanced studies, artistic activities, physical culture and sports.

Our womenfolk have contributed a very great deal towards the development and the success of the socialist German Democratic Republic, and their role in real co-determining the development of the GDR is growing steadily.

Special tribute should be paid to the initiative of the young people, male and female, in the construction and overfulfilment of the targets of youth projects, in the struggle for rationalization and automation and for scientific and technological progress.

I am fully aware, dear friends and comrades, of the great demands which have resulted for you from the responsibility of the working class. I also know how difficult it has often been for the Socialist teams and each individual worker, and this is why I have the great desire to thank you from the bottom of my heart, all of you who are contributing, by your individual effort, towards the success of our work.

In 1970, the results of joint and strenuous work have become more obvious in many respects. We are happy about the progress made in beautifying our homeland. We are happy about the progress made in the construction of the centre of our capital Berlin as well as the reconstruction of other major city centres, although we shall have to advance a bit more slowly here and there in favour of building more factories and dwellings. Under the slogan "Let us all beautify our towns and villages!" our citizens have accomplished a great deal in beautifying their areas and environment. This is the road along which we should continue to proceed with vigour, with love of mankind and our Socialist homeland.

Dear Friends and Comrades,

The increasingly conscious activities of our citizens developed in the struggle for the fulfilment of the national-economic plan in the past long-term planning period. The fact is becoming more and more obvious that a new quality of the relations between the citizens as well as be-

tween the classes and strata of people is emerging. The basic approach of the leading working class, comradely solidarity and co-operation and mutual assistance, is exerting an ever stronger influence on the joint struggle waged by all classes and sections of our people for the shaping of Socialist society.

The general interest for national-economic problems, for the problems of the Republic as a whole and the community of Socialist states is gaining ground, just like the number of agreements reached between factories and municipalities and the National Front on the joint shaping of social life, and particularly intellectual and cultural activities within the area, while we witness changes in the thinking in large contexts, in contexts of the Republic as a whole, in the juxtaposing of today's performances and efforts to the demands and targets of the near and even the remote future and while ever stronger traits of Socialist patriotism are developing in the character of the people of the GDR.

### III. Where We Go From Here

The German Democratic Republic has developed into the Socialist German nation-state. The working class in firm alliance with the class of the co-operative farmers, the intelligentsia and the other working strata of the population, marks in the GDR the characteristic features of the Socialist German nation-state on the basis of Socialist internationalism.

Only the working class and its allies are able and prepared to perpetuate the progressive democratic and revolutionary traditions of the German nation in all spheres, whereas in the FRG the ruling classes, monopoly capital and the feudalists' and *Junkers'* large-scale ownership of land have, by taking over and spreading of the symptoms of decay of monopoly capitalism and its antihuman imperialism, continued to sever from the progressive and democratic German traditions. By becoming integrated into the aggressive, imperialist system of the NATO-alliance, they have degraded the FRG to the level of a NATO-state and a tool of US-global strategy.

Some one hundred years ago, the German *Reich* was founded as a result of the German-French war of 1870/1871 by an alliance of big

capital and *Junkerdom* in blood and iron. It is quite in keeping with the logic of history that the German *Reich*, which was founded and afflicted by such a spirit, went down in blood and iron in 1945 as Hitler's *Reich*. Big capital and *Junkerdom*, the rulers of the German *Reich* have invariably trampled underfoot the national interests of the German people and sacrificed them on the altar of their class interests.

At the end of the Second World War, the great change had become both necessary and possible. This chance was, in 1949, missed as a result of the setting up of a separate state covering the three western zones by the imperialist Western Powers in alliance with West German big capital and *Junkerdom*. The FRG was established and extended as a NATO-state, as a hideous descendant of German imperialism for the purposes of US-global strategy.

In the GDR, the Party of the Working class, the mass organizations, which form the National Front, and the state leadership of the GDR which have grown into the Socialist German nation-state, are fully aware of their great responsibility. They enliven and open up, in a systematic manner, the humanist progressive legacy of the German past from Thomas Müntzer to the heroes of anti-fascist resistance of the Free Germany Committee, to Heinrich and Thomas Mann, to Johannes R. Becher, Bertold Brecht, Hanns Eisler, Arnold Zweig and many others who have made vital contributions towards our humanist and democratic German tradition and the shaping of our Socialist German nation-state and its Socialist national culture. The people in the German Democratic Republic hold this heritage in high honour. It is perpetuated and handed down to the coming generations.

To the German Democratic Republic the close fraternal friendship with the Soviet Union and the other members of the community of Socialist states has already become part of the progressive and humanist national traditions. The people and government of the GDR are aware that our historical tasks can be solved only in fraternal alliance with the Soviet Union and the other members of the community of Socialist states.

All the greater are the responsibility and obligation incumbent on all social forces in the GDR, to shape here, on German soil, in an all-embracing way, the social system of Socialism and the Socialist community of man. This means also that all spheres of social sciences, especially of economics, philosophy, history, ethics, literature and arts

fully meet the demands made by the advanced social system of Socialism and the specific historical task of the GDR particularly regarding these sciences.

In the new year of 1971 we shall continue on our good road. Our tasks have been laid down, since the national economic plan and the budget plan have been adopted by the People's Chamber.

Here I should like just to emphasize that the paramount issue is now to implement exactly the decisions of the 14th Plenary Session of the Central Committee of the SED and the national economic plan, which has been passed by the People's Chamber. What is important is to enforce, in the struggle for the all-out fulfilment of the national-economic plan in all fields of the economy and in the other spheres of society, the highest effectiveness, meaning the highest economy. It is of paramount importance always carefully to observe the law of the proportional development of the national economy according to plan which means to pay special attention to applying and utilizing ever more rationally and effectively, the already existing huge assets of nationally-owned machines, equipment, installations, buildings, institutions etc. We must project and prepare all new investments, new plants, factories and production stages etc. with every care, we must calculate most punctiliously and fulfil the plan most strictly. In any case production by means of the new plant must be better and cheaper than with the old one. Highest effectiveness demands, above all, to achieve lower production cost and a high quality on the road of complex rationalization and partial automation. As long as we always keep in mind the target of the highest economy we shall be able to export at more favourable terms and also be able to meet the domestic requirements of our people better than in the past.

On the threshold of 1971, which will be for us an important year with decisions, reaching far into the future, I should like to salute those of my fellow-citizens who are now, in the service of our Socialist community, doing their vital round-the-clock work, which does not brook any interruption.

I convey my most cordial greetings to the members of the National People's Army and the other armed forces of our Socialist Peace-State who make sure that we can celebrate this turn of the year, too, in a carefree spirit, among our families or friends, comrades or fellow-workers. I salute our railway workers and all those working people of

the other branches of the postal and transport services who are working now because transport and communications go on also during festive hours. I salute the coal-miners, the power-workers and all the other working people in our Republic who are doing their duty in these hours. I salute the members of our health services who are always ready to serve our community.

I salute, last but not least, also our old-timers who, as activists of the first hour after the catastrophe of the Hitlerite war, started the new life going. They cleared the rubble away and laid the first foundations for our Socialist society, our Socialist economy and our Socialist state. They are integral parts of our community of Socialist man which owes them gratitude and recognition.

I wish all of you, my dear fellow-citizens, dear friends and comrades, with all sincerity a successful, healthy and happy New Year 1971

Friendship!



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