

**April 1, 1988**  
**Information about the Status of the Operation**  
**Ethiopia (1 April 1988, 14:00 Hours)**

**Citation:**

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**Summary:**

Alexander Schalck-Golodkowski updates Egon Krenz on the status of the shipping arms and ammunition to Ethiopia.

**Credits:**

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**Original Language:**

German

**Contents:**

Original Scan

Translation - English

A. Schalck<sup>[1]</sup>  
Berlin, 1 April 1988  
Member of the Politburo  
and Secretary of the Central Committee of the SED  
Comrade Egon Krenz

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Dear Comrade Krenz!

According to the mandate I received, I am sending you another information about the status of loading arms and ammunition for the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

Please take note.

With Communist greetings,

I.V. [illegible name, but Schalck's deputy]

### Appendix

A. Schalck  
Berlin, 1 April 1988

### Information about the Status of the Operation Ethiopia (1 April 1988, 14:00 Hours)

#### 1. Air transportation

After the 19.8 tons of arms and ammunitions having departed with Interflug on 30 March 1989, the following cargo is planned:

- With a charter aircraft from Cargolux scheduled for 2 April 1988 or 3 April 1988 additional 47.2 tons will be flown out.
- There is an announcement from the Ethiopian side that on 2 April 1988, 09:45 Hours, an aircraft from Ethiopian Airlines with flight number 9730 will land in Schönefeld. It has a loading volume of about 40 tons. There is plenty of material in Schönefeld, an immediate loading can be guaranteed.
- The further departures will be with aircraft from Interflug as soon as overflight clearances are obtained. Feedback from the GDR Ambassadors in countries to be overflown do indicate that overflight clearances will be obtained probably from 8 April 1988.
- Through provision of an IL 62 from the government fleet, the request by the Ethiopian side to speed up deliveries can be met.
- Nevertheless, because of the low capacity of the aircraft, until about 20 April 1988 only about 281.2 tons can depart. Therefore it has to be decided to organize in addition a sea transportation route option.

#### 2. Sea transport

- The Ministry of Transportation has provided the MS "Neuhaus", which is ready for loading in Rostock from 4 April 1988, 06:00 Hours. This ship will be loaded with 60 trucks W 50 and 973 tons of arms, ammunition, uniforms, and shoes.
- Based on a departure on 6 April 1988, the arrival in the Ethiopian harbor of Assab is to be expected on 18 April 1988.
- The remaining 40 trucks will be loaded on MS "Blankensee", departure from Rostock will be on 12 April 1988.

The coordination by the participating armed organs is guaranteeing the deliveries to Schönefeld and Rostock by the fastest date possible.

#### 3. Provision of trucks

The vehicles produced by 31 March 1988 for the order "Iraq" were not available, because they are already on their way with Arab labels by railway transport to the harbor.

The NKW Conglomerate [GDR manufacturing side for commercial transport vehicles]

will run extra shifts on 1 April 1988 and on 2 April 1988 to complete 30 trucks W 50 in addition to the plan.

These 30 vehicles will be transported by drivers from the NVA [National People's Army] to Rostock beginning 3 April 1988 at 08:00 Hours.

Additional 15 vehicles will be transported to Rostock from current production by drivers from the Mdl beginning 4 April 1988 at 15:00 Hours. An additional number of 15 vehicles will leave on Tuesday, 5 April 1988, at 08:00 Hours, also by drivers from the Mdl.

### Appendix

#### Transportation Concept

1 April 1988

#### Transportation Concept □ □□

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Provider □□□ □□□ □□□

Product □□□ □□□ □□□

Target □□□ □□□ □□□

Mode of Transportation □□□ □□

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AKM □□□ □□□ □□□

15,000 □□□ □□□ □□□

Ship □□□ □□

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Ship □□□ □□

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Uniforms □□□ □□□ □□□

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300 300 300

Ship 300 30

300 300

300 300 300

PG-7 300 300 300

9,000 300 300 300

Ship 300 30

300 300

300 300 300

Uniforms 300 300 300

10,000 300 300 300

Ship 300 30

300 300

300 300 300

Shoes 300 300 300

10,000 300 300 300

Ship 300 30

300 300

300 300 300

Shoes (additional) 300 300 300

10,000 300 300 300

Ship 300 30

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300 300

Koko 300 300 300

AKM 300 300 300

11,860 300 300 300

Ship (750 Air) 300 30

300 300

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M-43 300 300 300

10,200,000 300 300 300

Ship (0,675 Mio. Air) 300 30

300 300

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RPD 300 300 300

2,000 300 300 300

1,000 Air

300 1,000 Air 30

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M-39 300 300 300

3,999,600 300 300 300

Ship 300 30

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Uniforms □□□ □□□ □□□  
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Air □□□ □□  
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Shoes □□□ □□□ □□□  
2,000 □□□ □□□ □□□  
Air □□□ □□

[1] Translator's note: Alexander Schalck-Golodkowski (1932-2015) served as Head of KoKo 1966-1989 and as State Secretary in the Ministry for Foreign Trade from 1975 to 1989.