

**July 15, 1953**  
**Memorandum from S. Kruglov to G.M. Malenkov**

**Citation:**

"Memorandum from S. Kruglov to G.M. Malenkov", July 15, 1953, Wilson Center Digital Archive, AVP RF. Provided by the National Security Archive; translated by Ben Aldrich-Moodie <https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/111922>

**Summary:**

Kruglov reports on the arrest of organizers during the East German protests.

**Original Language:**

Russian

**Contents:**

Translation - English

Top secretUSSRMINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRSPresidium of the CC CPSU15 July 1953.To comrade G.M. MalenkovNo. 216/kin the investigatory process of the MfS [Ministry for State Security] of the German Democratic Republic there are group files on the persons who took an active part in the preparation and realization of the provocation on June 17 of this year in Berlin and in other cities.The investigation has established that the provocative work was carried out according to assignments given by reactionary and espionage organizations in West Germany.The most characteristic are the following files:1. An investigative file on 7 residents of the city of Berlin - HERTEL, 18 years of age, lubricator in a transport association, MULLER, 26 years old, the owner of a truck, DIBALL, 20 years old, without definite occupation, and others, who took active part in the riots (broke glass in government buildings and shops, tore down slogans and placards, and threw stones at police).The arrested HERTEL and DIBALL admitted that they took part in the riots on the instructions of the fascist organization "League of German Youth," of which they had been members since 1952.The arrested MULLER stated that he was drawn into participation in the disorders by the representatives of the anti-Soviet organization of West Berlin, "Fighting Group Against Inhumanity."The file of the investigation is complete.2. The investigative file on 14 residents of the city of Leipzig - GNICHTEL, 33 years old, auto electrician; MULBERG, 41 years of age, dental technician; SCHEBE, 24 years old, student of the veterinary faculty, and others. The arrested Germans in this group admitted that they were connected with the agents of the "Group for the Struggle Against Inhumanity" in West Berlin - TALEM and SCHUBERT - and on their instructions, carried out espionage and other enemy activity on GDR territory and took active part in preparing the provocation of June 17. They received instructions at secret meetings of the "Fighting Group Against Inhumanity" in West Berlin.The arrested SCHEBE showed that TAHL called him to a secret meeting in West Berlin at the beginning of May of this year and informed him that an uprising was being prepared and accordingly instructed him.The arrested GNICHTEL also received an assignment from TAHL to show up active supporters of the SED and to warn them in writing that they would be eliminated. Stamps displaying a picture of one of the leaders of the GDR with a noose around his neck were supposed to appear on the envelopes. Workers in the apparatus of the Representative of the MVD SSSR in the GDR, having consulted with the High Commissioner in Germany, Com. Semenov, are introducing a proposal to organize open trials on these cases with the goal of unmasking West German fascist organizations engaged in preparing and carrying out the provocations of June 17 of this year in Berlin and in other cities.Presented for your examination.MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE USSR S. KRUGLOV