

June 2, 1953

**Otto Grotewohl's Notes on Meetings between East
German and Soviet Leaders in Moscow**

Citation:

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<https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/113100>

Summary:

Consulations between Soviet and GDR leaders to improve the economic situation in GDR

Original Language:

German

Contents:

Translation - English

Malenkov Semyonov Beria Grechko Molotov Kaganovich Khrushchev Ulbricht Bulganin
 Oelssner Mikoyan Gr[otewohl] Concerned about GDR Document on Measures for
 Improvement Read by Oelssner continuation at 10:00 on 3 June

6/3/53 Continuation the same composition Malenkov: the starting-point for everything has to be a change in conditions in the GDR. Beria: We all have made mistakes; no accusations Molotov: So many mistakes, therefore correcting it in a way that all of G[ermany] can see it. Khrushchev: L.P.G. greatest [degree of] voluntarism Beria: correct fast and vigorously--that document you can take back again with you Kaganovich: the flight from the republic is bad. Our document is reversal, yours is reform. Mikoyan: without revision of the five-year plan (heavy industry), the reversal is impossible Why iron and steel works since one can buy pig iron. Malenkov: Not to worry about prestige; if we don't correct [the situation] now, a catastrophe will happen. Frank corrections. Soul Lenin = NEP policy Delayed--lost much time. One has to act quickly. Calm work style. Ulbricht: no panic within the L.P.G. 1) lowering of the requisition quotas 2) improve equipment of MTS food we want to help Mistake to do everything yourself since you can't first small group Document no airplanes no tanks immediately [illegible] measures 6/4/53 [...] We recognize that the assessment of the political and economic situation in the G.D.R. as contained in the documents given to us yesterday is correct. 1) Intention to submit it to Politburo 2) and to call for a meeting of the CC Plenum Oelssner will read Some questions: 1) Socialism (Technical norms a[nd] socialist competition) Construction of the foundations of socialism--recently forced construction 2) Dissolution of LPG 500,000 ha. Fallow--1/10 of the total acreage 2a) food--100,000 t. wheat 3) Five-year plan--heavy industry--Effect on foreign trade and reparations 4) Situation of the working class (Social Insurance) 5) Elimination of the ration system 6) Extraordinary expenses (what and how) Garrisoned [People's Police] 7) Agents and espionage