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27 March 1981

# East Europe Report

POLITICAL, SOCIOLOGICAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

(FOUO 4/81)

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EAST EUROPE REPORT  
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GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

THREAT OF U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS HEARING FREES FAMILY

Hamburg STERN in German Vol 33 No 49, 27 Nov 80 pp 271-273

[Article by Tyll Schoenemann: "Human Rights: With 1503 into the West--Because East Berlin Fears a U.N. Investigation, a Young Man Is Permitted To Emigrate to the FRG"]

[Text] Brigitte Klump from Rohrbach, Ingolstadt, wrote to Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs Hans-Dietrich Genescher in Bonn. She was concerned about human rights violations in the GDR. She wrote. "It should be possible to set up a U.N. court to cite and evaluate human rights crimes." The minister asked her to be patient. "The FRG will continue to pursue the strengthening of human rights institutions, also on U.N. levels." Brigitte Klump was not satisfied with such empty phrases.

Eight months after this correspondence, the lone fighter succeeded in something where the Federal Government had failed: The United Nations decided to conduct a debate on human rights violations in the GDR in the spring of 1981. If this plan materializes, it would be the first time that an East bloc country would be censured by this U.N. tribunal, which so far has censured South American and African dictatorships only.

Brigitte Klump's crusade against the GDR started 1 year ago, the reason being her nephew Klaus Klump, who was detained for 14 months because of an attempt to flee from the republic. In November of 1979, the young man was pardoned in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the GDR. He was not permitted to leave for the West, however, Brigitte Klump: "To me, this was a clearcut case of 'vendetta.'"

In the 1950s, she abandoned her studies in journalism at the Leipzig Karl-Marx University ("The Red Cloister" according to the GDR jargon) and fled to the FRG. Here she published a book in 1978 (entitled "The Red Cloister--A German Education"), in which she gets even with the investigative procedures of the GDR Secret Service. This is the main reason why the efforts of the minister for inner-German relations to get Klaus Klump out of the GDR and reunited with his family had been futile.

The determined writer did not give up. When Bonn could not help her any further, she fought the jungle of U.N. authorities in New York and Geneva. In the course of her research it became clear that individual grievances are unsuccessful there.

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Says a high-ranking official of the Foreign Ministry, "Unfortunately, the possibility of dealing with human rights violations in the United Nations are limited." Presenting her case only resulted in the Geneva U.N. Commission submitting a copy of the file to the GDR. Brigitte Klump: "After that, there was no word at all."

The trips to New York and Geneva, however, gave the writer a clue: She had been discretely advised by the U.N. officials of the possibility of taking the GDR to court in spite of all problems. This possibility was "Resolution 1503," adopted by the U.N. Economic and Social Council. Under this resolution the U.N. Human Rights Commission must deal with the activities of a country if a minimum of 20 accusations from this country have been submitted "at one time and referring to individual cases." Then there will be a vote on whether the situation warrants debate or not.

If during the debate the majority of the members satisfy themselves that "systematic and proven human rights violations have taken place in that country," the commission is entitled to use its instruments: to send an investigation commission or to adopt a public reprimand.

So Brigitte Klump collected additional cases of human rights violations in the GDR. Shortly after she started her work, a U.N. official informed her that "we have sufficient cases at hand now. The commission has already resolved to debate the situation in the GDR in late February of 1981."

Hardly had the GDR authorities received word of the impending U.N. debate, than they attempted to get the pending cases off the table. Klump's nephew Klaus was ordered to see the personnel department of his plant. His parents were already waiting there. The head of the Internal Affairs Department of the Kreis Administration said, "We do not wish to separate any families. You may leave the GDR together."

Only 9 days later, on 15 November, the family joined Brigitte Klump. A Foreign Office representative extended his congratulations, saying, "You certainly know how to handle the 1503 method."

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GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

SED DIALOGUE WITH DISSIDENT WRITERS DEMANDED

Munich SUEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG in German 13 Feb 81 p 11

[REUTER Report: "Leipzig Author Attacks GDR Authorities." A translation of a Hamburg DER SPIEGEL article on Frank-Wolf Matthies, referred to below, is published under the heading, "Writer Matthies' Emigration, Crackdown on Literary Circles Reported," in JPRS 77564, 11 March 1981, No 1856 of this series, pp 48-49]

[Text] Gert Neumann, a writer from Leipzig, has sharply attacked the SED leadership, accusing it of "censorship and ignorance of [extant] problems." In an open letter to Kurt Hager, SED Politburo member responsible for cultural policy, the 39-year-old author challenged the party leadership to an "open dialogue" with the dissident intellectuals. It will be increasingly difficult "in the future," he noted, "to force negative obligations on the positive elements of this society." Should the SED leadership be unwilling to enter into the dialogue, this would be tantamount to "the beginning of a catastrophe...of a despairing society."

According to friends of his in West Berlin, Neumann was briefly kept under arrest by the state security service in November. The purpose of the arrest was to coerce Neumann into making statements against his East Berlin fellow writer Frank-Wolf Matthies. As in the case of Matthies, Neumann too has been offered by the state security service permission to emigrate to the West. Neumann, however, has refused this offer. He has not been permitted to publish his books in the GDR. His first work, "Die Schuld der Worte" (The Fault of Words), was published in the FRG in 1979. His novel, "Elf Uhr" (11 O'Clock), will also be published there soon. At the time of Neumann's arrest, the state security service confiscated a copy of the manuscript whose original, however, had already reached the West. Right after his and Matthies' arrest, Neumann wrote Hager a letter of protest which, however, remained unanswered. Shortly thereafter Neumann composed the open letter.

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GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

LESSER SPIES FACE PROBLEMS AFTER ESCAPE TO GDR

Hamburg STERN in German Vol 34 No 2, 31 Dec 80 pp 110, 114, 115

[Article by Peter Pragal and Uwe Zimmer: "Espionage: The Ungrateful Fatherland-- What Agents Can Expect After Their Escape into the GDR and Why Many of Them Want To Be Back in the West"]

[Text] Nothing was lacking West German physicist Werner Mettner (the name has been changed by the editors) when he came to the GDR. He moved into a house on East Berlin's Mueggler Lake. He did not have to pinch pennies; he did not even have to work. Mettner had been recruited as a "scout on the invisible front" (SED jargon-- i.e., as an agent in the FRG--and was drawing his reward in the worker and peasant state.

The sweet life came to a sudden end when he had nothing new to report to the supervisors in the Ministry for State Security (MFS). From the villa with frontage on the lake he had to move to an apartment in a row house. He was assigned a job in a scientific institute where he was constantly spied upon by agents. The former West German citizen expressed the wish to return to the West. Thereupon the comrades from security summoned him to a medical examination. And when he did not arrive punctually, an ambulance pulled up in front of Mettner's rented apartment and drove him to a closed neurological sanitarium. Diagnosis: acute paranoia.

The FRG security agencies are increasingly examining the fact that ever more discovered spies want to return to the West soon after their escape to their East German employer. The spy hunters have during recent months concentrated on the fate of escaped spies. A confidential paper by the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution [BFV] has this to say about the deserters: "Used to the free way of life in the West, they are forced to discover that they are treated like normal GDR citizens."

Only those who have rendered services to the socialist fatherland as top spies can count on permanent special treatment. For example, the former CDU Bundestag deputy from Hamburg, Karlfranz Schmitt-Wittmack, became vice-president of the Chamber for Foreign Trade a year after his escape in 1954. He was allowed to keep that post until his retirement. Heinz Felfe, the former top GDR agent at the Federal Intelligence Service (BND) in Pullach has also landed a good job--professor of criminology at Humboldt University in East Berlin. And once Willy Brandt's former chancellery aide Guenter Guillaume has served his sentence at Rheinbach penitentiary, he too can expect life-long gratitude for the SED powers back home.

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For the small-fry escaping the West German counterintelligence net, however, daily life in the GDR is more likely to be dismal. An excerpt from the RFV study notes: "They receive an apartment that corresponds to conditions in the GDR, usually representing a step down; they do not continue to receive their previous salary but only a sum equivalent to the GDR norm. Transition payments--made in some individual cases--are stopped as soon as possible."

While GDR citizens who were sent to the West with forged passports are integrated without problems upon their return, the recruited personnel from the West must count on the mistrust of their employers for the rest of their lives. One who spies for money, like Karlsruhe accountant Rainer Fuelle or Stockach physicist Juergen Sanden, need not be convinced communist by any means. And the BFV men in Cologne doubt whether Christel Broszey, former secretary of CDU politician Kurt Biedenkopf, is any better off in the East than was the former chief secretary in the FRG Ministry for Science, Irene Schultz. "Financially and humanly, I only paid in," ex-agent Schultz admitted to STERN after her return from the GDR. The BFV comments: "As soon as the informational interest disappears and the agent becomes uninteresting for the MFS, the outward lifestyle changes: life within a community under constant surveillance, suspension of contact with former MFS sponsors, employment that does not correspond to the achieved level of education."

Emigre problems become even more intense for those who have gone East with their whole families--like Hanau chemist Werner Unseld, Erich Ziegenhain, a government executive in the Hesse Social Ministry, or Erich Spiegel, a sociologist from Heppenheim. The BFV study has this to say about what awaits the wife and children: "The agent's family members are often unsuspecting, since the purpose of traveling to the GDR is often represented as an unexpectedly necessary visit to relatives. Only there do they become aware of the entire significance. While wives reconcile themselves in most cases, the growing or even adult children are especially hard hit by the consequences of the escape."

Children who have lost their friends, who miss the customary liberal lifestyle and who do not reconcile themselves to the constraints of the communist system are thus especially willing to return. The understandable wish to leave the GDR again is, however, faced by difficulties. East German authorities take the West German identity documents from the new arrivals. As replacements they receive temporary GDR identification documents unless they are immediately granted GDR citizenship. The result is that if a former FRG citizen applies for permission to leave, he is no better off than a GDR citizen who would like to move to the West. Quite the contrary--authorities of the SED republic sometimes let the escaped West German wait longer, wanting to keep the details of espionage from becoming known in the West.

Often the wish of the children of the spies to return to the old homeland is rejected out of fear that this might create a legal basis for a later family reunion with the parents. Wolfgang Grahl, now 34 years old, had to wait 19 years before he could again move to the western part of his hometown of Berlin. His parents, both MFS agents, escaped arrest in 1960 by fleeing to East Berlin. They did not live badly there--the family lived in a one-family house in the affluent Biesdorf suburb--but the son suffered. In school he had to serve as an example for the alleged decadence in the West. He reported: "My teacher told horror stories, and I was supposed to confirm them. That I could not do. I had seen something quite different." Wolfgang Grahl became an opponent of the regime over the years and in 1974 protested publicly against the violation of human rights. He was arrested, sentenced to 5 years in prison for "agitation against the state" and was ransomed last year.

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It is no wonder then that GDR agents whose cover has been blown in the West, but who have received adequate warning of impending arrest, think more than twice before fleeing to their masters in the East. While in 1976, 37 spies for the East escaped the grasp of the West German authorities, only 15 chose the Eastern path of escape last year. The BFV comments: "According to current information, exposed agents have refused to escape to the GDR despite warning and urging. This indicates that they would rather face prosecution and sentencing in the FRG than an uncertain future for themselves and their families in the GDR."

Indeed, punishment for traitors in the West bothers them less than life under real socialism. The example of Helge Berger, a diplomatic secretary, shows this. While working in the German embassy in Warsaw, she betrayed background negotiation material to the Poles, causing the FRG "immeasurable damage," to quote a counterintelligence agent in Bonn. The spy encountered lenient judges and today--after having served two-thirds of her 5-year prison sentence--again sits behind a desk in a West German industrial plant.

Quite different has been the case of physicist Mettner. The SED regime has meanwhile released him from the mental institution and sent him to the West, but he can no longer be happy in his freedom. Driven by the fear that the long arm of the East Berlin MFS could also reach him in the West, he is avoiding contacts and is screening off his private life. The trauma of the GDR has captured him.

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POLAND

CHAIRMAN OF 'RURAL SOLIDARITY' INTERVIEWED

Paris PARIS MATCH in French 6 Feb 81 pp 76-77

[Interview with Zdzislaw Ostatek, chairman of Rural Solidarity, in Rzeszow, by Willy Golberine; date not given]

[Text] Zdzislaw Ostatek, 45, is the "Walesa" of the Polish farmers. On 27 September 1980, he was elected chairman of "Solidarnosc Wiejska" (Rural Solidarity), a grouping of several farmers movements. Since then, he has been campaigning to have Polish authorities legalize his 1 million-member union. Father of three children, Ostatek has a 10-hectare orchard in Gropec, near Warsaw. "Back in the Stalin era, my father already had problems," said Ostatek who has been arrested several times.

Our special correspondent interviewed him in the city of Rzeszow, not far from the Soviet border, where he had gone to support strikers.

[Question] How large is private agriculture in Poland?

[Answer] There are approximately 3 million private farms employing 7 million persons. They produce 80 to 90 percent of all Polish grown food. The average size of the farms is 3 and 1/2 hectares. This is just enough to support the farmer's family. Farmers are obliged to work an average of 14 hours per day. In Poland, there is no land for sale. Officially, there is. In any event, government propaganda says there is. But actually such purchase is impossible. There are too many administrative barriers. When there is a farm for sale, the state-run cooperatives have priority. The only land purchasable by private farmers is wasteland.

[Question] How many members does Rural Solidarity have?

[Answer] More than a million.

[Question] How long ago was Rural Solidarity formed?

[Answer] Some 2 years ago, we established a farmers self-defense movement near Lublin in the eastern part of the country. We did this because we realized the Gierek government posed a serious threat to farmers. Some 3 years after its assumption of power, it had initiated a plan to destroy private agriculture, an expropriation plan.

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[Question] What form did this attack take?

[Answer] In an effort to force farmers to sell their land, everything was done to impoverish them. For example, they were allowed only limited access to fertilizer and modern farm machinery.

[Question] What was the government's reaction to creation of your movement?

[Answer] From the very beginning, severe repressive measures were taken against our members, many of whom were arrested and held in confinement for 2 to 3 days. Even the children were harassed. At school, their book bags were searched for documents. I personally was arrested several times, once when I was on my way to church in a neighboring village, our church having been closed to us because it had been used for meetings.

[Question] What are Polish agriculture's current problems?

[Answer] The government controls prices and keeps them too low. Consequently there is no incentive to produce more.

[Question] If farm prices are decontrolled, will this not have an impact on the cost of living?

[Answer] No, because production will increase. We need only obtain fertilizer and modern machinery. This requirement to decontrol prices and make our labor profitable is what prompted formation of our union so as to consolidate our forces and oblige the government to listen to us.

[Question] What are your relations with the government?

[Answer] We have met several times with Deputy Premier Jagielski, the one who negotiated at Gdansk, and the minister of agriculture, both of whom told us we were not entitled to a union. We want to meet with Premier Pinkowski. We have called upon American and Canadian parliamentarians of Polish origin to exert pressure on the government.

[Question] What are your relations with Solidarity, the trade union federation?

[Answer] Excellent. We were invited to attend their most recent national meeting in Gdansk.

[Question] In the long run, isn't there liable to be a conflict of interest between farmers and workers?

[Answer] Our system's specificity compels us to promote worker-farmer cooperation because wages and prices are controlled by the state which is our common opponent. This worker-farmer unity is the greatest danger for the state.

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[Question] What is your assessment of the crisis?

[Answer] It's a loss of confidence between government and people. We need a government that creates that confidence, so that society regains confidence in work, in the authorities.

[Question] What authorities?

[Answer] The new unions.

[Question] Are you prepared to make sacrifices to extricate Poland from this crisis?

[Answer] Yes. The farmers are prepared to wait for the price decontrol they demand, but they want to be sure they will not be cheated once again. We want to be consulted in all discussions that concern us. Government officials are bureaucrats who know nothing about farming.

[Question] What weapons do you have?

[Answer] We have a strategic weapon. It only looks as if farmers are not on strike. The truth is they are boycotting production in the absence of outlets and because of the maintenance of absurdly low price ceilings. At the present time, for example neither butter nor processed meats are available. Farmers are somewhat like steelworkers who would limit their work to keeping the blast furnace lighted. Farmers are producing only enough to survive.

[Question] Don't you think it is a contradiction to have independent farmers in a socialist country? And what do you think of socialism?

[Answer] If it is contradictory, that means this ideology is foolish. Up to now, there has been no ideal socialism, only the Russian, Polish, Chinese, etc. models. They are stupid. We support socialism in industry but not for farmers.

[Question] Is socialist agriculture possible?

[Answer] Not in Poland. Various forms of socialist agriculture have been tried in Poland. The results have been disastrous. There is the GDR example. It only appears to be working there because the government decided to pay farmers double or triple the wages paid factory workers. In the long run, that kind of socialism must inevitably collapse. Since the end of the war, all farmers have rejected that socialism and entered the ranks of the opposition to the government. We want to use the movement to create a state within a state. The unique possibility is the private farm which must be the foundation of agriculture.

[Question] Isn't that a rejection of socialism?

[Answer] If you wish. The only possibility for us in a new socialism in which nationalized industry would coexist with private agriculture.

[Question] Aren't you afraid the government will turn the workers against you?

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[Answer] No. The government has tried to nationalize agriculture several times since World War II. Each attempt ended in famine. Workers know that the state-run farms cannot manage to produce efficiently. If private agriculture were to disappear, there would be nothing left.

[Question] Why does the government repeatedly want to collectivize agriculture?

[Answer] The farmer is the foundation of the Polish nation. The government wants to destroy our Polish culture, uproot it. The government wants to achieve socialism by destroying the farmer. In the leadership's view, socialism means the worker, and the farmer means capitalism. If we obtain what we want, our organization can then make it possible to increase production, thus raising the standard of living, and raising it to higher level than in other socialist countries. This will then become a political problem.

Photo caption: Zdzislaw Ostatek assumed leadership of the militant farmers movement. His main problem is getting his union officially recognized.

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POLAND

PHOTOGRAPHS OF SOVIET PRESENCE IN POLAND NOTED

Paris PARIS MATCH in French 13 Feb 81 pp 62-65

[Photographic reportage: "Poland: They Are Here"]

[Text] Their presence is both menacing and discreet. Red Army soldiers stationed in Poland, and ready to reinforce the action of Warsaw Pact troops in the event of intervention, want to keep an extremely low profile, for the moment. They leave their bases and compounds only on very rare occasions. Romano Cagnoni, the photographer who took the first pictures of the Russians in Afghanistan--PARIS MATCH, 20 June 1980--had been almost sure that the Russian New Year holiday season would bring the wolf out of the woods, or rather the Russian bear out of the Polish forests. He was not mistaken. Taking advantage of a relaxation of discipline, officers and enlisted men mingled with the population to do their shopping. Cagnone, who had obtained a tourist visa--his passport describes him as an antique dealer--was able to photograph the Russians, often at very close range, with a camera hidden under his coat. Nevertheless, he was eventually detected and the Polish police confiscated all his film. Too late, however. Cognoni had already turned his best rolls of film over to a staunch friend. His extraordinary clandestine photographic reportage confirms the presence in Poland of these Russian troops who are becoming more and more numerous according to Western diplomatic personnel stationed in Warsaw. Only last week, a train full of Soviet troops was seen arriving in Bialystok.

The Poles themselves do not know how many there are. It is estimated, however, that there are at least three divisions, in other words, 30,000-40,000 Soviet soldiers in Poland. They had reportedly been ready to intervene on the night of 7-8 December when--as recently revealed by Zbigniew Brzezinski, Carter's national security adviser--the Soviets wanted to invade Poland, before dropping the idea because of the U. S. President's warnings. Since then despite the Polish people's hostility, reinforcements of weapons and men have been sent to Russian bases inside Poland. The three main bases are at: Legnica, the largest base, close to the East German border; Bialystok, northeast of Warsaw; and Novy Dor, northwest of the capital. But there are also other smaller bases, like the one in Rembertow on the outskirts of Warsaw. For greater secrecy, Soviet camps are often located out of public view, in forests, for example. In the event of a Soviet offensive, these troops would serve as the advance guard and supporting elements for Warsaw Pact forces poised near the GDR border, and in Czechoslovakia and the USSR. Ever since Reagan's charges against the USSR, Moscow's attacks against Polish "antisocialist" elements have been extremely harsh.

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Photo Captions

1. pp 63-63 Photographed without his knowledge in the streets of Legnica, southwest of Warsaw, this Red Army officer furnishes further proof of the Soviet threats hanging over the Poles.
2. pp 64-65 Polish passers-by do not care much for the presence of the Soviet soldiers window-shopping in the center of Legnica.
3. pp 64 Other Russian soldiers in front of a kiosk in Legnica
4. p 64 A Russian officer talks with a civilian on the railroad platform.
5. p 65 A cigarette-smoking Russian soldier strolling through the market place in Legnica.
6. p 65 Soldiers came into town by truck from their base which they are rarely authorized to leave.

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ROMANIA

DATA ON TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS 'ALARMING'

Bucharest PENTRU PATRIE in Romanian Oct 80 p 23

[Article by Colonel Victor Beda]

[Text] The analysis of the data on the evolution of traffic accidents which occurred during the 1 January-31 August 1980 period results in interesting conclusions. The first and major statement is that in spite of the 5 percent increase in the number of motor vehicles and the 12 percent rise in the number of professional and amateur drivers, the number of accidents went down 10 percent, of persons who died in traffic accidents -- 12 percent, and of injured people -- 10 percent.

We note, and this is a gladdening fact, an enhanced responsibility of drivers in driving the motor vehicle, which mainly results from the fact that more and more drivers understand and apply the rules of defensive driving. The number of serious violations: dangerous speeding, hazardous passing, failure to yield, driving under the influence -- has declined, and this actually provided the ground for the reduction in the number of accidents and the alleviation of their consequences. However, we still have many problems to solve. A recent spotcheck conducted in all counties indicated that out of 300,000 motor vehicles checked 214,000 were provided with safety belts. This was fairly good, but what was the use of it, as only 20 percent of the persons in the motor vehicles involved were using the "life belt." The studies conducted in this country concluded that the number of people who die in accidents would be by 200-300 smaller if all the people in the front seats of the cars used safety belts.

A paramount problem involves the behavior of pedestrians in traffic. The survey "Dynamics of Traffic Accidents During the 1970-1979 Period" carries the conclusions drawn in this area. It points out that during the period under review no notable progress was achieved in terms of reducing the number of accidents caused by pedestrians. Compared to 1978, when the level of this kind of traffic accidents accounted for 39.5 percent of all accidents, in 1979 this level is 39 percent. In the first half of this year, pedestrians caused 38.5 percent of all accidents. Of course, the situation would be incomparably better if also the motorists used defensive driving

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in relation to pedestrians. Often, the situation is as follows: the driver notices an old man on the roadway, crossing carelessly. He continues to move forward toward the old man, at the same speed, limiting himself to honk his horn, a signal which in the end does not prove to work miracles and the accident occurs. In other cases, the driver notices a group of children playing in the immediate proximity of the road. Any time one of them may rush toward the roadway. However, the driver ignores this possibility, by no means reduces his speed, and the accident takes place.

This year also, failure to correlate the motor vehicles' speed with the traffic conditions represents the primary cause of traffic accidents for which drivers are to blame. Many of the drivers continue to drive carelessly in the rain and fog, when driving through rural communities, or when crossing thoroughfares. A great proportion of traffic accidents results from the shared fault of pedestrians and drivers: careless crossing of passengers who became pedestrians, in front or in the back of buses stopped at bus stops and failure to reduce the speed of motor vehicles when they are nearing these "trap" locations.

Drivers of public transportation facilities play a great role in preventing these accidents. The advice "Dear passengers, after getting off the bus, make sure that traffic permits you to cross" would help to save many lives.

The survey which I mentioned above carries an interesting conclusion with respect to the share of various transportation facilities in the commission of accidents. The automobiles are the most dangerous vehicles. They account for 42.40 percent of all facilities but they cause 53.82 percent of all accidents. (The slim driving experience of the drivers who have been driving for less than 5 years is a factor involved). The trucks, which account for a proportion of 11.21 percent, cause 10.06 percent of all traffic accidents. The bus drivers hold an uncoveted record. Even though they account for 2.43 percent, they cause 7.54 percent of all traffic accidents. The motorcycles and mopeds are the most prudent transportation facilities. Although they account for more than one-fifth (20.65 percent) of all motor vehicles, they only cause 4.67 of all traffic accidents.

This year saw many accidents caused by bicycle riders. Left turns without signaling and especially without making sure that traffic permits the turns and use of the bicycle after the owners, because of drinking an alcoholic beverage, could not stand on their feet, much less on a device on two wheels, were the major causes of traffic accidents triggered by bicycle riders. However, I must point out, in this area also, that many of traffic accidents could have been avoided if motorists used defensive driving. The driver notices a drunk bicycle rider and yet he does not increase the lateral distance, he does not reduce his speed. The driver has noticed the bicycle rider in the middle of the road and it is almost certain that he will make a left turn to enter the yard of the house, but the driver of the motor vehicle starts overtaking the cyclist, without even honking his horn. It is easy to guess the outcome.

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The program to prevent and combat drunk driving has assumed new facets in recent years. Whereas 1970 only saw 174,600 tests of alcohol in the body, 1978 saw 437,000 tests, and 1979, 548,000. In the total tests made in 1978, the test tubes became green in 43,296 cases, and in 1979, in 39,988 cases. The first half of 1980 saw 30 percent more tests than 1979 and the number of persons found to have driven while under the influence of intoxicating liquor was smaller than that in the first 6 months of the previous year. However, there is the need for greater firmness in fighting drunk driving because this year also, intoxicating liquor has been the cause of a great number of very serious accidents. It must be pointed out that in the 8 months of 1980, very many pedestrians and bicycle riders lost their lives or were disabled because, while moving on the road under the influence of alcoholic beverages, they became the victims of traffic accidents.

A striking phenomenon this year has been the recrudescence of cases involving driving vehicles without a license. In June these infractions rose 10 percent versus 1979, in July, 19 percent, and in August, 34 percent! In most cases, the "urge" to drive cars, motorcycles, mopeds and even trucks, without having this privilege, appeared after the ingestion of a large amount of intoxicating liquor, a fact which certainly considerably augmented the hazard involved in these actions, specifically because in such cases the "drivers" were eager to display their aptitudes and talents of genuine motorists before their relatives and friends, and drove at speeds that are dangerous even for experienced drivers.

This year also saw the highlighting of an aspect that is dangerous to traffic: right-of-way yielded not according to the law but on the basis of horsepower and size. The trailer ignores the truck, the truck looks down on the automobile, the light motor vehicle does not yield the right-of-way to the motorcycle and moped, and all of them ignore the pedestrian. It is not at all a general situation, but such cases occur fairly frequently and this is not good. In Brasov Municipality, alone, during one month, five pedestrians, including two 70-year old men and a mother with a several-month old infant in her arms, were fatally hit on the crosswalk by 20-ton mastodons!

The reduction in the number of accidents must not lead to complacency. We do not have preset percentages and levels for decreasing the number of traffic accidents. Their number and consequences must be diminished to a minimum. Consequently, the highway patrols and the workers at the militia centers, with the broad assistance of the masses of citizens, will display greater firmness and combativeness in relation to any violation of traffic rules that might cause an accident. Of course, our efforts must be effectively supported by the exemplary behavior of all participants in road traffic.

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