
Inventory to the GDR Oral History Project Interviews

Finding aid prepared by Hoover Institution Archives Staff

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Title: GDR Oral History Project interviews

Date (inclusive): 1990-1994

Collection Number: 94066

Contributing Institution: Hoover Institution Archives

Language of Material: German

Physical Description: 8 manuscript boxes, 9 card file boxes(5.0 linear feet)

Abstract: Sound recordings and transcripts of interviews of East German government and Sozialistische Einheitspartei Deutschlands leaders, and East German dissidents, relating to political processes and policymaking in East Germany from 1945 to 1990. Project directed by A. James McAdams, and sponsored by the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace and other organizations.

Physical Location: Hoover Institution Archives

Creator: GDR Oral History Project

Access

The collection is open for research; materials must be requested at least two business days in advance of intended use.

Publication Rights

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Acquisition Information

Materials were acquired by the Hoover Institution Archives in 1994.

Accruals

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], GDR Oral History Project interviews, [Box no., Folder no. or title], Hoover Institution Archives.

Introduction

by James McAdams, Principal Investigator

In 1994, the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace at Stanford University opened a major new archive, a collection of over 80 oral histories of leading politicians and policymakers from the former German Democratic Republic (GDR). The GDR Oral History Project was initiated in 1990 by Professor A. James McAdams of the Helen Kellogg Institute for International Studies at the University of Notre Dame. It was made possible largely through the financial assistance of the National Council for Soviet and East European Research. Other supporters included the Center for German Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, and the John Foster Dulles Program in Leadership Studies at Princeton University. The Hoover Institution supported the transcription of all of the interviews in the collection.

The aim of the GDR Oral History Project was to record on tape some of the still vivid memories of the former leaders of East Germany, so that in 50 or 100 years (the amount of time Socialist Unity Party [SED] general secretary, Erich Honecker, predicted the Berlin Wall would last) future students of German history would have a unique source for assessing the driving motivations of the individuals who once made up the country's dominant political culture. Of course, no series of interviews alone can realistically relate the entire history of a state. Nevertheless, the researchers felt they could preserve for posterity a segment of that experience by interviewing a select group of individuals who could reasonably be characterized as the East German political elite.

In particular, the Oral History Project chose to interview four types of politically significant individuals. In the first group, we emphasized well-known representatives of the SED, such as former members of the ruling politburo and central committee, like Kurt Hager, Karl Schirdewan, Günther Kleiber, Herbert Häber, Werner Eberlein, Egon Krenz, and Gerhard Schürer. The second group was broader, comprised largely of members of the party and state apparatus. In this case, our goal was to identify a sample of policy implementers, from diplomats to department heads. Thus, we focused on key departments of the SED central committee, such as Agitation and Propaganda and International Affairs, and sections of state ministries, such as the foreign ministry department charged with East German-Soviet relations. Our third group of interviewees was comprised of so-called policymaking intellectuals. This disparate group, with representatives ranging from economist Jürgen Kuczynski to socialist theoretician Otto Reinhold, primarily included individuals who had some tangential relationship to policymaking; we particularly emphasized former members of SED policy institutes, such as the Academy of Social Sciences and the Institute of Politics and Economics. Finally, as the Oral History Project grew, we decided to develop a fourth group of interviewees in order to cast light upon the transition from the GDR to unified Germany. This category was drawn from

former dissidents who became politicians, including such wide-ranging personalities as Markus Meckel, Lothar de Maiziere, Jens Reich, and Wolfgang Ullmann. [Footnote: Since the opportunity arose to conduct interviews with individuals in the former Soviet party apparatus who had dealings with the GDR, we also conducted several interviews in Moscow. However, the Soviet-East German relationship never evolved into a formal interview category.]

From the beginning of the project, the organizers were confronted with a question that all oral historians face: how to find an appropriate balance between the competing norms of "richness" and "rigor." Rigor involves the kind of rigidly-structured interviews that will lend themselves to social scientific generalization and even quantification; richness, in contrast, favors the unique political and personal story of each individual to be interviewed. On the side of rigor, we provided all our interviewees with a concrete set of core questions to guarantee that the interviews would not be entirely random. Nearly everyone interviewed was asked previously formulated questions about their family background and social class, their particular path to political engagement, their views on the German national question, their perceptions of the outside world, and their personal experience with policymaking in the GDR.

Yet, if we leaned in any particular direction in developing the project, it was in favor of richness. Clearly, we did not have the resources to interview the number of representatives of the GDR elite that would have been required for quantitative social-science analysis. We also found that it was best to tailor many of our questions to the individuals' own experiences, since we were dealing with very different sorts of people, with diverse backgrounds and perspectives. Some, for example, had worked closely with major figures like Walter Ulbricht; others had been uniquely positioned to understand major events, such as the 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia. We did not want any of these memories, however idiosyncratic, to be lost to future historians. Finally, we believed that after the formal questions were posed, it was crucial to let our discussion partners speak for themselves about what mattered most in their lives. Sometimes they took the interview in directions that we could not have anticipated.

Not surprisingly, we initially approached our interviews with certain guiding preconceptions about how our discussions might progress and what we might discover. As the Oral History Project developed, some of these assumptions were borne out; but provocatively, others were not. In every case, however, our successes and failures turned out to be enormously revealing about the nature of the project itself and about East German history.

Our first preconception was that we might have a hard time getting some of the most senior SED officials to talk openly about their past. This concern turned out not to be serious; in the majority of cases, they seemed to speak freely about their experiences, particularly when we assured them that we were not interested in "sensationalist journalism." With only a few exceptions—primarily, those facing criminal prosecution—it was quite easy to gain access to these former leaders, even to individuals who had granted no other interviews to westerners. We had an unexpected advantage: for the most part, we were Americans, indeed Americans from the well-known Hoover Institution. In the perception of many of our interviewees, we were worthy victors. Many were actually thrilled to welcome representatives of the "class enemy" into their living rooms, provided that we would not turn over their interviews to one of the "boulevard newspapers," like the *Bildzeitung*. Three eastern German social scientists also conducted interviews for us. They had the advantage of knowing how to speak the "language" of their former leaders. On balance, our main advantage seemed to be that no members of the Oral History Project came from former West Germany, which was still regarded by our interviewees with suspicion.

In retrospect, the readiness of these individuals to speak with us should probably not have been so surprising. After all, by depositing their thoughts in a major archive, we were assuring them that we were taking their experiences seriously and perhaps even guaranteeing that their lives had not been lived in vain. This is no mean consideration in view of what happened to the GDR. Naturally, future scholars will have to come to their own conclusions about the honesty and sincerity of each interview. Occasionally, we detected moments of outright dishonesty. Sometimes our interviewees simply refused to talk about embarrassing moments in their lives (e.g., association with the Stasi). There was also a recurring tendency for younger individuals, or those lowest in the old hierarchy, to portray themselves as something they were not before 1989—such as, closet reformists or enthusiastic supporters of Mikhail Gorbachev. There were also frequent problems with memory; some older interviewees could remember the "anti-fascist struggles" of the late 1920s with absolute clarity, but could not recall the 1950s at all.

These sorts of problems afflict all oral histories. Yet, there were many moments when we could not help but be struck by the candor of our interviewees. Many showed a surprising readiness to talk about issues that we expected to be embarrassing to them. The best example of this was the Berlin Wall, which they nearly always defended in animated terms. From the first days of the interview project, there was also a telling recognition among the leading representatives of the SED elite that they had lost the battle with the West and that they were beginning to accept this reality. Thus, there was none of the crazed rambling and denial that one found in previously published interviews with Erich Honecker. Among several interviewees, there was even a notable respect for their former opponents, such as East German dissident, Bärbel Bohley, and the late West German Green, Petra Kelly. Undoubtedly, there were many points where one wanted more self-criticism from our discussion partners. Yet, some of our interviewees wondered whether this same quality would have

been available from comparable politicians in the West. As one eastern German interviewer reflected: "Any political elite has to confront issues involving moral integrity in the daily course of its activities, and each individual must make his peace with truth as he can."

Our second preconception was that we could use such interviews to uncover new facts about the GDR. No doubt, anyone listening to the hundreds of hours of tapes in this collection will encounter a number of interesting facts about distinct events in the East German past (for example, about the mysterious death of planning minister Erich Apel in 1965, about the lack of East German involvement in the invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968, and about the banning of the Soviet publication, Sputnik, in 1988). Moreover, the interviews also serve to undermine many of the stereotypes that scholars have cultivated about some of East Germany's best-known politicians; sometimes the "good guys" turn out to be not so good in the recollections of their former associates, and the "bad guys" not nearly so bad.

Yet, one of our most interesting findings is how little most policymakers, including many members of the SED's highest circles, actually knew about some of the most important events and controversies of the East German past. We feel that this says a lot about the nature of politics in the GDR. This really was a system that kept all politically significant facts restricted to very few people. We discovered that even at politburo meetings, leaders discussed very little of substance. The most important decisions were frequently made by two or three individuals walking in the woods on a weekend. In these instances, expertise rarely played a major role.

Even if we did not acquire the full stories about some of the events in the East German past that interested us most, the opportunity to discuss such issues as the construction of the Berlin Wall or the SED's opposition to Gorbachev was unique. Indeed, future scholars may find that these interviews provide a natural complement to the mountains of written documents that have recently become available to us in such collections as the Central Party Archives in Berlin. For in the latter case, we have huge new reservoirs of historical facts, but we frequently lack the personal perspectives necessary to interpret them.

A third preconception was that we would learn much more about policymaking processes in the GDR. This turned out to be true, although not for the reasons we envisioned. Initially, we thought that by interviewing individuals at different levels of the decision-making apparatus of the SED, we would be able to construct a rough flow chart of authority, showing how decisions moved upward, downward, or outward in a complex hierarchy. Not only did we never encounter such structures, but we received constant affirmation that, but the 1980s, no well-established hierarchies existed at all. As we have already suggested, absolute power was concentrated in very few hands, and all other expressions of political activity took place on a highly informal and personalistic basis. Even the SED politburo had the character of a rubber stamp; to the extent that there were differences among its members-and these did exist on some questions-they were only expressed on a private basis over the lunch table at the ruling body's Tuesday meetings. It is striking that even those who might have been considered personal cronies of SED General Secretary Erich Honecker did not feel that they controlled very much. They, too, felt like cogs in the socialist wheel.

In contrast to this image of a faceless, even amorphous policymaking culture, there was also provocative agreement in many of the interviews that politics in the GDR had not always been so uniform and that it had changed particularly since the 1950s. Those individuals who were politically active in East Germany's first decade were practically unanimous in conveying an image of policymaking during that period that is conspicuously more collegial than anything later experienced in the GDR. Among them, there was a consensus that East Germany's first leader, Walter Ulbricht, was only a primus inter pares in the early 1950s, and that those around him could and did oppose his views on a regular basis. These findings seem to concur with the written records of the Central Party Archives.

Finally, we came closest to meeting our fourth preconception: that we could record our interviewees' views on the great issues and great debates of the GDR past. In this case, we were listening to people's perceptions that they could remember, regardless of how well they know the details of an issue. They could say what was important to them, and what was not. Many spoke passionately about matters that had once been life or death questions for their country. This was, above all, true of the long-disputed German national question. In contrast to some Western scholarship, which has held the GDR's national policy to be little more than a tactical diversion, all of the interviews conveyed a strong sense that, at least until the early 1960s, if not later, the SED leadership really did believe that it was offering a valid German path to socialism. Walter Ulbricht emerges as practically obsessed with the issue, and much of his downfall in 1970-1971 can be explained in terms of this obsession.

Similarly, the Oral History Project offers a very nuanced perspective of the complex relations that existed between the GDR and its superpower ally, the Soviet Union. It will not surprise anyone to hear that some differences existed between East Berlin and Moscow. But future scholars may be impressed by the extent of these differences, as recorded in the interviews, and by how far back they reach in East German history (e.g., in Ulbricht's efforts to push through the economic reforms of the New Economic System in the 1960s, despite manifest Soviet opposition). Additionally, the Oral History Project affords a unique perspective on the East German-Soviet conflict that emerged in the 1980s with the rise of Mikhail Gorbachev's

reformist leadership. Standard Kremlinological approaches to the study of communist leadership might lead one to expect the East German politburo to have been divided into factions of "Gorbachev opponents" and "Gorbachev supporters," with comparable divisions existing with the Soviet leadership over policy to the GDR. But aside from a few slight exceptions, we were surprised to find almost no evidence of factional divisions over the GDR's relationship with Moscow.

Of all the great issues of the East German past, the interviews offer a very clear picture of the evolution of East Berlin's relations with the Federal Republic of Germany. They depict an exceptionally close relationship between the two German states, in fact, one that defies all assertions that the essence of West German policy was to hold the German question open for some future resolution. With German reunification now an accepted fact, future scholars may be intrigued to hear, from the eastern German perspective, how seriously Bonn took the leaders of the GDR and how much of West German policy was based upon the assumption that the Berlin Wall would remain in place for "50 or even 100 years."

In sum, while the GDR Oral History Project does not presume to offer a complete or unbiased perspective on East Germany's history, we believe it is a valuable source of information and interpretations for future scholars to use as they seek to make sense of the GDR's past. We are not aware of any comparable, publicly accessible projects on the GDR's history, particularly in Germany itself, although much smaller interview collections on the history of inter-German relations in the 1960s and the roots of the East German revolution of 1989 are being assembled. Nor do we know of any similar efforts to capture the memories of comparable political elites in other East European states, although the Hoover Institution is now beginning a similar interview project on the old Soviet elite. Therefore, we hope that the Oral History Project will serve as an inspiration to researchers seeking to lay the foundations for future scholarship on countries as diverse as Poland, Romania, Hungary, and the former Czechoslovakia.

The GDR Oral History Project would not have been possible without the generous assistance of a number of experts on the history of the GDR. Aside from A. James McAdams, interviewers for the project included Thomas Banchoff, Heinrich Bortfeldt, Catherine Epstein, Dan Hamilton, Gerd Kaiser, Jeffrey Kopstein, Olga Sandler, Matthew Siena, John Torpey, and Klaus Zechmeister. Elena Danielson of the Hoover Archives played a central role in the project, cataloguing all of the interviews and arranging for their transcription.

All of the interviews in the collection are equally accessible to any interested scholars, provided that interviewees have not previously requested copyright restrictions on the use of the material. For further information on the collection, contact the Hoover Archives.

For background information, contact: Professor A. James McAdams, Helen Kellogg Institute of International Studies, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN 46556

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace.

McAdams, A. James.

Sozialistische Einheitspartei Deutschlands.

Audiotapes.

Communism--Germany (East)

Communism.

Dissenters--Germany (East)

Germany (East)--Politics and government.

Germany.

Lev Bezymenskii interview by Olga Sandler 1992 June 25

Scope and Contents note

Regards Soviet-German relations. Narrator is a journalist.

Box 1
Reading Room
Workstation

Transcript (in Russian) and photograph

Sound recording

Access

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000086

Scope and Contents note

1 sound cassette located in Box 9, Tape 1.

Lothar Bisky interview by Heinrich Bortfeldt 1933 April 6

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is head [?] of Zentralinstitut für Jugend-forschung; Kulturosoziologe at the Akademie für Gesellschaftswissenschaften; Rektor der Hochschule für Film und Fernsehen.

Box 1
Reading Room
Workstation

Transcript

Sound recording

Conditions Governing Access note

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000088

Scope and Contents note

1 sound cassette located in Box 9, Tape 2.

Siegfried Bock interview by A. J. McAdams 1992 May 18

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is a diplomat; Envoy to the European Conference of Safety and Cooperation in Helsinki and Geneva; ambassador to Romania.

Box 1
Reading Room
Workstation

CV and photograph

Sound recording

Conditions Governing Access note

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000089

Scope and Contents note

2 sound cassettes located in Box 9, Tapes 3-4.

Bärbel Bohley interview by John Torpey 1993 April 2

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is an artist; co-founder of the oppositional group Neues Forum; co-founder of Frauen für den Frieden.

Box 1
Reading Room
Workstation

CV (no transcript)

Sound recording

Conditions Governing Access note

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000091_a01 and 94066_a_0000092_a01

Scope and Contents note

2 sound cassettes located in Box 9, Tapes 5-6. Audio quality is poor.

Joachim Böhm interview by A. J. McAdams 1990 December 5

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is deputy director, ZK Dept. Regards relations with socialist countries.

Box 1
Reading Room
Workstation

Transcript and photograph

Sound recording

Conditions Governing Access note

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000091

Scope and Contents note

2 sound cassettes located in Box 9, Tapes 7-8.

Michael Brie interview by Matthew Siena 1991 December 23

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is professor für sozialphilosophie at the Humboldt-University, Berlin.

Box 1

Transcript and photograph

Reading Room
Workstation

Sound recording

Conditions Governing Access note

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000092

Scope and Contents note

1 sound cassette located in Box 9, Tape 9.

Manfred Buhr interview by K. Zechmeister 1992 December 2

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is a philosopher; director of Zentralinstitut für Philosophie at the Academy of Sciences; vice president of the International Hegel-Society; co-editor of *Philosophisches Wörterbuch*.

Box 1
Reading Room
Workstation

Transcript and CV

Sound recording

Conditions Governing Access note

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000093

Scope and Contents note

2 sound cassettes located in Box 9, Tapes 10-11.

Peter-Michael Diestel interview by Bortfeldt 1992 December 15

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is dr. jur.; co-founder of DSU; member of the Volkskammer DDR-Innenminister; president of the CDU-Fraktion im Landtag Brandenburg.

Box 1
Reading Room
Workstation

Transcript and CV

Sound recording

Conditions Governing Access note

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000094

Scope and Contents note

1 sound cassette located in Box 9, Tape 12.

Stefan Doernberg interview by Bortfeldt 1992 November 10

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is a historian; Generalsekretär des DDR-Komitees für europäische Sicherheit; director of the Institut für Internationale Beziehungen (Potsdam-Babelsberg). Transcript and cassette tape for interview conducted on January 15, 1993 are missing.

Box 1
Reading Room
Workstation

Transcript (not literal) and CV

Sound recording

Conditions Governing Access note

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000095

Scope and Contents note

2 sound cassettes located in Box 9, Tapes 13-14.

Stefan Doernberg interview by Gerd Kaiser 1993 July 27

Transcript

Sound recording

Conditions Governing Access note

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000096

Scope and Contents note

1 sound cassette located in Box 9, Tape 15.

Fred Ebeling interview by Torpey 1991 August 23

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is a member of Demokratischer Aufbruch.

Box 1
Reading Room
Workstation

Photograph

Sound recording

Conditions Governing Access note

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000097

Scope and Contents note

2 sound cassettes located in Box 10, Tapes 16-17. Audio has some echoing, but is understandable.

Reading Room
Workstation

Fred Ebeling interview by Torpey 1992 January 28

Conditions Governing Access note

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000098

Scope and Contents note

2 sound cassettes located in Box 10, Tapes 18-19. Audio has some echoing, but is understandable.

Werner Eberlein interview by Torpey 1992 February 2

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is a member DDR Politbüro 1983-1989; son of KPD co-founder Hugo Eberlein; member of the editorial board of Neues Deutschland; Russian interpreter for Ulbricht & Honecker.

Box 1
Reading Room
Workstation

Transcript, CV, and photograph

Sound recording

Conditions Governing Access note

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000101

Scope and Contents note

2 sound cassettes located in Box 10, Tapes 20-21.

Konrad Elmer interview by Thomas Banchoff 1991 December 5

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is a SPD member, Bundestag.

Box 1
Reading Room
Workstation

Transcript, CV, and photograph

Sound recording

Conditions Governing Access note

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000102

Scope and Contents note

1 sound cassette located in Box 10, Tape 22.

Rainer Eppelmann interview by Dan Hamilton 1991 November 9

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is a pastor; co-founder of Initiative Demokratischer Aufbruch (DA), its candidate for Berlin in 1990.

Box 1

Transcript, CV, and photograph

Reading Room
Workstation

Sound recording

Conditions Governing Access note

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000104

Scope and Contents note

1 sound cassette located in Box 10, Tape 23.

Box 1
Reading Room
Workstation

Rainer Eppelmann interview by Banchoff 1991 December 5

Transcript

Sound recording

Conditions Governing Access note

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000105

Scope and Contents note

2 sound cassettes located in Box 10, Tapes 24-25.

Oskar Fischer interview by McAdams 1993 March 9

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is a party official; Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Box 2
Reading Room
Workstation

Transcript, CV, and photograph

Sound recording

Conditions Governing Access note

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000106

Scope and Contents note

2 sound cassettes located in Box 10, Tapes 26-27.

Peter Fischer interview by Siena 1991 December 23

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is an engineer and economist; assistant at the Hochschule für Ökonomie, Berlin; assistant of Sigmund Rothstein, Verbandspräsident der jüdischen Gemeinden in Berlin; friend of Biermann and Irene Runge.

Box 2
Reading Room
Workstation

Transcript and photograph

Sound recording

Conditions Governing Access note

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000107

Scope and Contents note

2 sound cassettes located in Box 10, Tapes 28-29.

Peter Florin interview by McAdams 1994 March 10

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is a government official; member of SED-ZK; representative of GDR by UN in New York; chairman of UNESCO committee; ambassador to CSSR.

Box 2
Reading Room
Workstation

Transcript, CV, and photograph

Sound recording

Conditions Governing Access note

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000120_a01, 94066_a_0000121_a01 and 94066_a_0000122_a01

Scope and Contents note

3 sound cassettes located in Box 10, Tapes 28-29.

Hans-Dieter Fritschler and Landolf Scherzer interview by Kaiser

Scope and Contents note

Narrators are SED leaders in Thüringen. Scherzer is a writer and author of *Der Erste*, an account of Fritschler's political work, published by Köln: Kiepenheuer & Witsch in 1986.

Box 2

Transcript and newspaper clippings

Scope and Contents note

Includes 2 newspaper articles (with photos of Fritschler and Scherzer): (1) · Peter Pragal, "Jetzt kocht 'Der Erste' auch mal Kaffee für die Partei," in *Berliner Zeitung*, May 16-17, 1992, p. 61; and (2) · Landolf Scherzer, "Das letzte Gefecht," in *Die Zeit*, January 2-5, 1990, pp. 9, 10, 12.

Reading Room
Workstation

Sound recording

Conditions Governing Access note

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000109

Scope and Contents note

1 sound cassette located in Box 11, Tape 33.

Joachim Gauck interview by Torpey 1993 April 23

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is Bundesbeauftragter für die Unterlagen des Staatssicherheitsdienstes der ehemaligen DDR; Pastor, co-founder of Neues Forum.

Box 2
Reading Room
Workstation

Transcript, CV, and photograph

Sound recording

Conditions Governing Access note

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000111

Scope and Contents note

2 sound cassettes located in Box 11, Tapes 34-35.

Lea Große interview by Kaiser 1992 February 13

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is a communist since 1927 who was sentenced to 5 years in prison in 1935 for communist underground activities; Programmleiter beim Sender "Freies Deutschland" in Moscow, hfredakteurin beim Rundfunk Dresden.

Box 2
Reading Room
Workstation

Transcript

Sound recording

Conditions Governing Access note

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000112

Scope and Contents note

1 sound cassette located in Box 11, Tape 36.

Gregor Gysi interview by Bortfeldt 1993 July 6

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is a lawyer; one of the few to have defended oppositionists; advocate of Neues Forum; leader of the renewed SED-PDS.

Box 2

Transcript and CV

Reading Room
Workstation

Sound recording

Conditions Governing Access note

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000113

Scope and Contents note

1 sound cassette located in Box 11, Tape 37.

Klaus Gysi interview by Siena 1900 January 3

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is a government official; Head of the Department of Publishing House Volk und Wissen; minister of Culture; ambassador to Italy; secretary of state for church matters.

Box 2
Reading Room
Workstation

Transcript, CV, and photographs

Sound recording

Conditions Governing Access note

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000114

Scope and Contents note

1 sound cassette located in Box 11, Tape 38.

Klaus Gysi interview by Siena 1991 December 28

Transcript

Sound recording

Conditions Governing Access note

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000115

Scope and Contents note

2 sound cassettes located in Box 11, Tapes 39-40.

Box 2
Reading Room
Workstation

Herbert Häber interview by McAdams 1990 March 19

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is a party official; Member DDR Politbüro.

Box 3
Reading Room
Workstation

Transcript, CV, and photographs

Sound recording

Conditions Governing Access note

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000116

Scope and Contents note

2 sound cassettes located in Box 11, Tapes 41-42.

Herbert Häber interview by McAdams 1993 March 8

Transcript

Sound recording

Conditions Governing Access note

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000117

Scope and Contents note

2 sound cassettes located in Box 11, Tapes 43-44.

Box 3
Reading Room
Workstation

Kurt Hager interview by McAdams 1990 December 3

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is a government official; leading ideologist; member of the ZK of SED, secretary responsible for the ZK für Kultur und Wissenschaft.

Box 3

Transcript, CV, and photograph

Reading Room
Workstation

Sound recording

Conditions Governing Access note

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000118

Scope and Contents note

2 sound cassettes located in Box 11, Tapes 45-46.

Box 3
Reading Room
Workstation

Kurt Hager interview by McAdams 1991 July 11

Transcript

Sound recording

Conditions Governing Access note

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000119

Scope and Contents note

2 sound cassettes located in Box 11, Tapes 47-48.

Box 3
Reading Room
Workstation

Kurt Hager interview by Catherine Epstein 1993 August 6

Transcript

Sound recording

Conditions Governing Access note

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000120

Scope and Contents note

2 sound cassettes located in Box 12, Tapes 49-50.

Erich Hahn interview by Bortfeldt 1991 February 28

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is a professor of Marxist and Leninist Philosophy; candidate of SED-ZK since 1976.

Box 3
Reading Room
Workstation

Transcript, CV, and photograph

Sound recording

Conditions Governing Access note

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000121

Scope and Contents note

1 sound cassette located in Box 12, Tape 51.

Brunhilde and Helmut Hanke interview by K. H. Plagemann 1991 July 22

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is Mayor of Potsdam since 1961; member of the Staatsrat.

Box 3
Reading Room
Workstation

Transcript

Sound recording

Conditions Governing Access note

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000122

Scope and Contents note

1 sound cassette located in Box 12, Tape 52. Beginning of the interview is missing.

Box 3
Reading Room
Workstation

Wolfgang Harich interview by McAdams 1990 December 1

Transcript, CV, and photograph

Sound recording

Conditions Governing Access note

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000132

Scope and Contents note

2 sound cassettes located in Box 12, Tapes 53-54.

Wolfgang Herger interview by Torpey 1991 September 16

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is a party official; member DDR Politbüro.

Box 3
Reading Room
Workstation

CV and photograph (no transcript)

Sound recording

Conditions Governing Access note

Use copy reference number: 84066_a_0000133

Scope and Contents note

1 sound cassette located in Box 12, Tape 55. Audio quality is poor with echoing.

Wolfgang Herger interview by Torpey 1992 January 30

Transcript

Sound recording

Conditions Governing Access note

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000134

Scope and Contents note

2 sound cassettes located in Box 12, Tapes 56-57.

Box 3
Reading Room
Workstation

Frank-Joachim Herrmann interview by McAdams 1994 March 11

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is a mitarbeiter des ZK der SED; editor-in-chief of the *Berliner Zeitung*.

Box 4
Reading Room
Workstation

Transcript, CV, and photograph

Sound recording

Conditions Governing Access note

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000135

Scope and Contents note

2 sound cassettes located in Box 12, Tapes 58-59.

Uwe-Jens Heuer interview by Banchoff 1991 November 14

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is a professor of law; was advising the ZK in questions concerning Staats-und Wirtschaftsrecht at the Zentralinstitut für sozialistische Wirtschaftsführung.

Box 4
Reading Room
Workstation

Transcript, CV, and election brochure

Sound recording

Conditions Governing Access note

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000136

Scope and Contents note

1 sound cassette located in Box 12, Tape 60.

Stephan Hilsberg interview by Banchoff 1991 June 14

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is a computer scientist; co-founder of the SPD (East); member of the Bundestag.

Box 4
Reading Room
Workstation

CV and photograph

Sound recording

Conditions Governing Access note

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000137

Scope and Contents note

1 sound cassette located in Box 12, Tape 61.

Gustav Just interview by Torpey 1991 July 14

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is a member of Gruppe Harich, SPD member Brandenburger Landtag.

Box 4
Reading Room
Workstation

Transcript and photograph

Sound recording

Conditions Governing Access note

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000138

Scope and Contents note

1 sound cassette located in Box 13, Tape 62.

Gustav Just interview by Torpey 1992 February 1

**Article, "Die Schüsse im Leben des Gustav Just" by Hanno Kühnert, *Die Zeit*, p. 16
1993 April 16**

Box 4
Reading Room
Workstation

Sound recording

Conditions Governing Access note

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000139

Scope and Contents note

2 sound cassettes located in Box 13, Tapes 63-64.

Dietmar Keller interview by Banchoff 1991 November 25

Scope and Contents note

Narrator held various positions within the Kultur-ministerium; minister of culture in 1989, open to reforms.

Box 4
Reading Room
Workstation

Transcript, CV, and photograph

Sound recording

Conditions Governing Access note

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000140

Scope and Contents note

1 sound cassette located in Box 13, Tape 65.

Karl-Heinz Kern interview by McAdams 1992 May 22

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is a chemist; diplomat; GDR ambassador to Great Britain.

Box 4
Reading Room
Workstation

Transcript, CV, and photograph

Sound recording

Conditions Governing Access note

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000141

Scope and Contents note

2 sound cassettes located in Box 13, Tapes 66-67.

Günther Kleiber interview by Zechmeister 1992 November 26

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is an electrical engineer; various party positions linked to the fields of Elektrotechnik, Elektronik, data processing; Stellvertretender Ministerpräsident der DDR; Minister für Allg. Maschinen-, Landmaschinen-und Fahrzeugbau.

Box 4

Transcript and CV

Reading Room
Workstation

Sound recording

Conditions Governing Access note

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000142

Scope and Contents note

2 sound cassettes located in Box 13, Tapes 68-69.

Gerd König interview by McAdams 1993 March 9

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is a diplomat; ambassador to the CSSR.

Box 4
Reading Room
Workstation

Transcript, CV, and photograph

Sound recording

Conditions Governing Access note

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000143

Scope and Contents note

2 sound cassettes located in Box 13, Tapes 70-71.

Ernst Krabatsch interview by Banchoff 1992 March 25

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is a diplomat; member of the GDR delegation to international conferences on various occasions.

Box 4
Reading Room
Workstation

Transcript and CV

Sound recording

Conditions Governing Access note

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000150

Scope and Contents note

1 sound cassette located in Box 13, Tape 72.

Egon Krenz interview by Bortfeldt 1990 May 31

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is General Secretary and head of Staatsrat after Honecker's retirement; chief executive of the country during the transition period (October 18 - December 3, 1989); expelled from the SED in January 1990.

Box 4
Reading Room
Workstation

Transcript and CV

Sound recording

Conditions Governing Access note

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000151

Scope and Contents note

2 sound cassettes located in Box 13, Tapes 73-74.

Jürgen Kuczynski interview by Bortfeldt 1991 January 10

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is an old communist; economist; professor of Economic History at Humboldt University, Direktor des Instituts für Geschichte der Wirtschaftswiss. der Akad. der Wissenschaften.

Box 5

Transcript, CV, and note announcing Kuczynski's new book: *Ein hoffnungsloser Fall von Optimismus: Memoiren 1989-94*, Berlin: Aufbau Verlag 1994

Reading Room
Workstation

Sound recording

Access

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000152

Scope and Contents note

1 sound cassette located in Box 13, Tape 75.

Manfred Lötsch interview by Torpey 1991 February 27

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is a reform-oriented sociologist at the Academy of Social Sciences, Berlin.

Box 5
Reading Room
Workstation

Photograph (no transcript)

Sound recording

Access

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000153

Scope and Contents note

1 sound cassette located in Box 13, Tape 76. Sound quality is bad.

Reading Room
Workstation

Manfred Lötsch interview by Torpey 1992 January 28

Conditions Governing Access note

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000154

Scope and Contents note

2 sound cassettes located in Box 13, Tapes 77-78. Audio is OK in the beginning. Transcript is missing.

Lothar de Maizière interview by Hamilton 1991 November 12

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is a lawyer; becomes head of the CDU of the DDR in 1989; last Prime Minister of the GDR.

Box 5
Reading Room
Workstation

Transcript and CV

Sound recording

Access

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000155

Scope and Contents note

3 sound cassettes located in Box 14, Tapes 79-81.

Lothar de Maizière interview by Bortfeldt 1992 November 4

Box 5
Reading Room
Workstation

Transcript

Sound recording

Access

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000156

Scope and Contents note

1 sound cassette located in Box 14, Tape 82.

Moritz Mebel interview by Bortfeldt 1991 February 27

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is a Chefarzt für Urologie an der Charité.

Box 5

Transcript, CV, and photograph

Reading Room
Workstation

Sound recording

Access

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000157

Scope and Contents note

2 sound cassettes located in Box 14, Tapes 83-84.

Markus Meckel interview by Banchoff 1991 June 10

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is a pastor; co-founder of the East German Social Democratic Party; foreign minister of the DDR (April - August 1990).

Box 5
Reading Room
Workstation

Transcript, CVs, and photograph

Sound recording

Access

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000158

Scope and Contents note

1 sound cassette located in Box 14, Tape 85.

Daniil Efimovich (Melanid) Mel'nikov interview by Sandler 1992 July 1

Scope and Contents note

Regarding German-Soviet relations. Narrator worked at TASS and for the SovInformbiuro.

Box 5
Reading Room
Workstation

Transcript and photograph

Sound recording

Access

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000159

Scope and Contents note

1 sound cassette (in Russian) located in Box 14, Tape 86.

Hans-J. Misselwitz interview by Bortfeldt 1993 June 3

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is a biochemist; pastor; Parlamentarischer Staatssekretar (SPD) beim Außen-ministerium (under de Maizière).

Box 5
Reading Room
Workstation

Transcript

Sound recording

Access

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000160

Scope and Contents note

1 sound cassette located in Box 14, Tape 87.

Hans Modrow interview by Bortfeldt 1993 March 17

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is a PhD in Wirtschaftswissenschaften; within the SED for democratic reforms; on November 13, 1989, elected head of the DDR- Ministerrat, successor of Stoph; proposes gradualist unification plan in February 1990.

Box 5

Transcript and CV

Reading Room
Workstation

Sound recording

Access

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000161

Scope and Contents note

1 sound cassette located in Box 14, Tape 88.

Claus Montag interview by McAdams 1991 July 9

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is Head of Abteilung Außenpolitik der USA des Inst. für internat. Beziehungen an der Akademie für Staats- und Rechtswissenschaft der DDR. Publications on East-West relations. Botschaftsrat.

Box 5
Reading Room
Workstation

Transcript

Sound recording

Access

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000162

Scope and Contents note

1 sound cassette located in Box 14, Tape 89.

Erwin Müller interview by McAdams 1992 May 21

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is a schlosser. Journalist. Editor-in-chief of *Was und Wie*.

Box 5
Reading Room
Workstation

Transcript and photograph

Sound recording

Access

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000163

Scope and Contents note

2 sound cassettes located in Box 14, Tapes 90-91.

Harald Neubert interview by McAdams 1990 December 4

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is a professor of history. Leiter des Instituts für internationale Arbeiterbewegung an der Akademie für Gesellschaftswissenschaften beim ZK der SED.

Box 5
Reading Room
Workstation

Transcript and photographs

Sound recording

Access

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000164 No commercial use without permission.

Scope and Contents note

1 sound cassette located in Box 14, Tape 92.

Erich Nickel interview by McAdams 1994 March 12

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is a librarian. Historian. Author of *Geschichte der Bundesrepublik Deutschland*. In the GDR published under the title: *Die BRD. Ein Überblick*. Emigrated in 1989.

Box 6

Transcript and photograph

Reading Room
Workstation

Sound recording

Access

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000165

Scope and Contents note

2 sound cassettes located in Box 14, Tapes 93-94.

Boris Orlov interview by Sandler 1992 June 23

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is a historian at the Academy of Sciences in Moscow (Institut nauchnoi informatsii po obshchestvennym naukam). Special interest: German Social Democrats.

Box 6
Reading Room
Workstation

Transcript and photograph

Sound recording

Access

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000166

Scope and Contents note

1 sound cassette (in Russian) located in Box 14, Tape 95.

Rainer Ortleb interview by Banchoff 1991 December 19

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is a mathematician. Since 1968 member of the LDPD, then LDP. Head of the LDP (February 2, 1990).

Box 6
Reading Room
Workstation

Transcript, CVs, and photograph

Sound recording

Access

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000167

Scope and Contents note

1 sound cassette located in Box 15, Tape 96.

Karl-Ernst Plagemann interview by McAdams 1990 November 17

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is a mitarbeiter am Institut für internat. Beziehungen an der Akad. für Staats-und Rechtswissenschaft der DDR, Potsdam-Babelsberg.

Box 6
Reading Room
Workstation

Transcript

Sound recording

Access

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000168

Scope and Contents note

1 sound cassette located in Box 15, Tape 97.

Jens (and Christian in English) Reich interview by Siena 1989 December 28

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is a microbiologist. Co-founder of the protest movement Neues Forum.

Box 6

Transcript (for Jens only), CV, and photographs

Reading Room
Workstation

Sound recording

Access

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000169

Scope and Contents note

1 sound cassette located in Box 15, Tape 98. Side A: Christian (in English), Jens (in German and English), and Christian (in English). Sound quality is OK. Side B: Christian (in English).

Box 6
Reading Room
Workstation

Jens (and Christian in English) Reich interview by Siena 1991 December 23

Transcript

Sound recording

Access

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000170

Scope and Contents note

1 sound cassette located in Box 15, Tape 99.

Klaus Reichenbach interview by Banchoff 1992 May 6

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is an engineer. Lawyer. 1990 Landesvorstand der CDU Sachsen. Member of the Volkskammer. GDR minister.

Box 6
Reading Room
Workstation

Transcript and CV

Sound recording

Access

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000171

Scope and Contents note

1 sound cassette located in Box 15, Tape 100.

Otto Reinhold interview by McAdams 1990 March 23

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is Director of the Academy of Social Sciences [Akad. für Gesellschaftswissenschaften].

Box 6
Reading Room
Workstation

Transcript with errata sheet and photograph

Sound recording

Access

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000172

Scope and Contents note

2 sound cassettes located in Box 15, Tapes 101-102.

Box 6
Reading Room
Workstation

Otto Reinhold interview by Bortfeldt 1991 January 29

Transcript

Sound recording

Access

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000173

Scope and Contents note

2 sound cassettes located in Box 15, Tapes 103-104.

Rolf Reißig interview by McAdams 1992 May 19

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is a professor at the Academy of Social Sciences.

Box 6
Reading Room
Workstation

Transcript with errata sheet and photograph
Sound recording

Access

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000174

Scope and Contents note

2 sound cassettes located in Box 15, Tapes 105-106.

Irene Runge interview by Siena 1991 December 19

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is a sociologist, anthropologist, and journalist.

Box 6
Reading Room
Workstation

Transcript and photographs

Sound recording

Access

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000175

Scope and Contents note

2 sound cassettes located in Box 15, Tapes 107-108.

Hans Schindler interview by McAdams 1991 October 3

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is a Dipl. Staatswissenschaftler, Fachrichtung Außenpolitik (Potsdam/Babelsberg). Secretary at the embassy in Moscow. Stellvertretender Botschafter in Bonn (1979-1985). 30 Jahre Mitarbeiter Karl Seidels.

Box 7
Reading Room
Workstation

Transcript and photograph

Sound recording

Access

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000176

Scope and Contents note

2 sound cassettes located in Box 15, Tapes 109-110.

Karl Schirdewan interview by McAdams 1991 July 9

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is an old communist. Member of ZK Politbüro. Together with Wollweber dismissed for opposing Ulbricht. Then Leiter der Staatl. Archivverwaltung der DDR in Potsdam.

Box 7
Reading Room
Workstation

Transcript and CV

Sound recording

Access

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000177

Scope and Contents note

3 sound cassettes located in Box 16, Tapes 111-113.

Gregor Schirmer interview by McAdams 1993 March 7

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is a government official, Deputy Minister of Education.

Box 7

Transcript, CV, and photograph

Reading Room
Workstation

Sound recording

Access

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000178

Scope and Contents note

2 sound cassettes located in Box 16, Tapes 114-115.

Gerhard Schürer interview by McAdams 1991 July 10

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is a member of ZK. Head of Staatliche Plankommission.

Box 7
Reading Room
Workstation

Transcript with errata sheet and CV

Sound recording

Access

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000179

Scope and Contents note

1 sound cassette located in Box 16, Tape 116.

Karl Seidel interview by McAdams 1991 July 8

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is a diplomat. Botschaftsrat in Moscow. Leiter der Abteilung BRD im Ministerium für Auswärtige Angelegenheiten.

Box 7
Reading Room
Workstation

Transcript and CV

Sound recording

Access

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000203

Scope and Contents note

1 sound cassette located in Box 16, Tape 117.

Wolfgang and Regina (called "Lotte") Templin interview by Torpey 1991 August 29

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is Wiss. Mitarbeiter am Zentralinstitut für Philosophie der Akademie der Wissenschaften. Co-founder of Initiative Frieden und Menschenrechte (IFM). 1988 arrested and expelled. 1989 Sprecher der IFM am Runden Tisch. (Lotte: IFM activist. Arrested together with Wolfgang).

Box 7
Reading Room
Workstation

Transcript and photograph

Sound recording

Access

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0000204

Scope and Contents note

1 sound cassette located in Box 16, Tape 118.

Wolfgang and Regina (called "Lotte") Templin interview by Torpey 1992 February 3

Transcript (Tapes 119-120)

Sound recording

Access

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0010873

Scope and Contents note

3 sound cassettes located in Box 16, Tapes 119-121. Lotte is on Tape 121, which also has poor audio quality (it is late; contains Wolfgang telling jokes).

Ferdinand Thun interview by McAdams 1993 March 10

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is Foreign Ministry Chief of Protocol.

Box 8
Reading Room
Workstation

Transcript and photograph

Sound recording

Conditions Governing Access note

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0003441

Scope and Contents note

2 sound cassettes located in Box 16, Tapes 122-123.

Wolfgang Ullmann interview by Banchoff 1991 November 12

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is a doctor of theology, pastor, Dozent für Kirchen-geschichte. Delegate of the movement Demokratie Jetzt to the Round Table. Minister under Modrow.

Box 8
Reading Room
Workstation

Transcript, CVs, and photograph

Sound recording

Access

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0010881

Scope and Contents note

1 sound cassette located in Box 16, Tape 124.

Manfred Uschner interview by McAdams

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is mitglied des Politbüros des ZK der SED. For 14 years Hermann Axen's personal referent.

Box 8
Reading Room
Workstation

Transcript and photograph

Sound recording

Access

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0010884

Scope and Contents note

2 sound cassettes located in Box 17, Tapes 125-126.

Manfred Uschner interview by Zechmeister 1993 March 10

Transcript

Sound recording

Access

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0010890

Scope and Contents note

2 sound cassettes located in Box 17, Tapes 127-128.

Hans Voss interview by McAdams

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is a diplomat. Consul in Burma and Cambodia, ambassador to Romania and Italy.

Box 8

Transcript, CV, and photograph

Reading Room
Workstation

Sound recording

Scope and Contents note

2 sound cassettes located in Box 17, Tapes 129-130.

Access

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0010897

Günther Wirth interview by Zechmeister 1992 December 2

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is a member of the Hauptvorstand der CDU der DDR, editor-in-chief of the journal *Standpunkt*.

Box 8
Reading Room
Workstation

Transcript and postscriptum by Wirth

Sound recording

Scope and Contents note

3 sound cassettes located in Box 17, Tapes 131-133.

Access

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0010901

Vincent von Wroblewski interview by Siena 1991 December 17

Scope and Contents note

Narrator is a philosopher, interpreter (French), and editor of the *Rowohlt Sartre-edition*.

Box 8
Reading Room
Workstation

Transcript and photograph

Sound recording

Access

Use copy reference number: 94066_a_0010908

Scope and Contents note

1 sound cassette located in Box 17, Tape 134.