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Turkey

*Telegram¹ from the Turkish Ambassador in East Berlin, Metin Mekik²,
to the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

Normal

East Berlin, 13 June 1990, 12.00

For the first time in 42 years, the mayors of East Berlin and West Berlin held a joint meeting in the “Rote Rathaus (Red Municipal Building)” on Tuesday, 12 June.

East Berlin Mayor Tino Schwierzina³ (SPD) and West Berlin Mayor Walter Momper⁴ (SPD) have underlined the historical nature of the meeting and stated that they decided to meet in the same building every fortnight.

The demolition of the Berlin Wall and holding the Olympic Games in Berlin in the year 2000 were the main topics discussed at the meetings between the two mayors.

In fact, the demolition of the Berlin Wall has begun as of today (13 June). Momper announced that border controls between Berlin’s two sides will be eliminated as of 1 July 1990. The mayors declared that the unification of Berlin will be completed following the election of the joint city council and emphasized that the unified Berlin should be the capital of the new and united Germany.

As you may recall, after World War II, Berlin City Council convened for the first time on 21 May 1945 and elected engineer Dr Arthur Werner⁵, aged 70, as mayor.

Three years later, the joint city council was included in the British Occupation Region. Upon this, a separate municipality was established in East Berlin, which was under the occupation of the USSR, and Friedrich Ebert⁶ was elected as the first mayor on 30 November 1948.

¹ Telegram No. 58/2 (copy, translated from Turkish): Turkish Diplomatic Archive 3181295. Copy to the Turkish Embassy in Bonn. Reference: our communication dated 4 May 1990 and numbered 0584/446-228.

² Metin Mekik (1932–2013), dodis.ch/P57531, Turkish Ambassador in East Berlin.

³ Tino Schwierzina (1927–2003), dodis.ch/P57536, Mayor of East Berlin 30.5.1990–11.1.1991.

⁴ Walter Momper (*1945), dodis.ch/P57440, Governing Mayor of West Berlin 16.2.1989–24.1.1991.

⁵ Arthur Werner (1877–1967), dodis.ch/P57537, Mayor of Berlin 17.5.1945–5.12.1946.

⁶ Friedrich Ebert Jr. (1894–1979), dodis.ch/P57539, Mayor of East Berlin 1948–1967.