

economy is as much vigorous as reported, especially in the domain of the productivity of labor which looks to me suspiciously high.

I am rather inclined to believe that East Germany deliberately disseminates this kind of disinformation in order to attract fresh credits to its would-be robust economy, which in fact is a very ailing one.

By the way, it is not for the first time that the Communist countries play the same trick. It is only to be wondered why so many in the West cannot detect this and despite of some seven decades of experience.

Why certain US banks may know East Germany better than its brethren in West Germany, remains a mystery to me.

Another comment I should like to make it is that the Soviet Bloc economies are in such a poor shape, and more is to come, that they simply are a great commercial risk to any creditors. Careful readings of Bloc's own statements, like those delivered at the 40th Comecon session in Warsaw last May, or those delivered by Gorbachev himself, especially the one on June 11, confirm that. Even "doctored" statistics must admit partly the truth to this end.

Mr. President,

Having first-hand experience with the so-called socialist economy I can assure you that unless central-planning is not abandoned and the economy not reprivatized, such an economy has no future before it.

Moreover, with dwindling supplies of fuels, raw materials and labor, the Soviet Bloc economies, some of them also burdened with external debts, are going to perform even still more poorly. Very soon some other factors may be at work as well. Namely, the adverse