

“Bei uns ist immer was los!”

OCTOBER 3—DAY OF GERMAN UNITY

## 10 THINGS YOU NEVER KNEW ABOUT GERMAN REUNIFICATION

9. Putin was a KGB agent in Germany at the time



*Putin looks over the River Elbe in Dresden on a return trip.*

From 1985 to 1990, Vladimir Putin served in the local Soviet intelligence office in Dresden. The night the wall fell had a very sudden effect on him, as he recalled to biographers: “I realised that the Soviet Union was ill. It was a fatal illness called paralysis. A paralysis of power.”

Putin still speaks fluent German, even *once addressing the Bundestag* (German parliament) *auf Deutsch*.