

“Bei uns ist immer was los!”

**OCTOBER 3—DAY OF GERMAN UNITY / TAG DER EINHEIT**  
**How Oktober 3 became German Unity Day?**



*CDU leader Lothar de Maizière after his party's victory on March 18th 1990.*

**April 12th, 1990**

The GDR People's Chamber elected Lothar de Maizière as Prime Minister of East Germany.

Leader of the East German CDU, de Maizière supported rapid reunification with West Germany.

He would be the first – and the last – democratically elected Prime Minister of the GDR.

**April 27th, 1990**

Discussions began on the economic and currency union of the two German states. These were led by GDR State Secretary Günther Krause and Hans Tietmeyer, director of the German Central Bank.

The question: should East Germany adopt the Deutsche Mark or stick with its own currency, the Ostmark?

Both currencies had been introduced in 1948, after the abolishment of the Reichsmark and the Rentenmark. But by 1989, inflation had left the Ostmark practically worthless outside East Germany.