

“Bei uns ist immer was los!”

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

May 2nd, 1990

After much debate, Bonn and East Berlin came to an agreement on a 1-1 currency conversion for wages, prices and basic savings.

Most citizens could exchange their Ostmarks directly for Deutsche Marks, up to a value of 4,000 Marks (less for children and more for pensioners).

Any savings above 4,000 Marks would be converted at a 2-1 rate. Meanwhile, so-called "speculative money" - money acquired shortly before reunification - was converted at a rate of 3-1.



A controversial decision: demonstrators in Leipzig argue: "yes to a currency union, no to an unfair conversion of our savings" in February 1990.

May 5th, 1990

Talks began on the Two-Plus-Four treaty. The UK, USA, Soviet Union and France joined the two German states in negotiations about how foreign policy and security policy would be dealt with during reunification.

The aim: to reduce the treaty's members from six to five, by allowing the GDR to dissolve by mutual consent.