

Official urges democratic reform

By C.J. Schepers
Staff Reporter

East Germans must demand democratic reforms if East and West Germany are to merge, a West German official told a group of UNL faculty members and students Friday.

"The deciding element is whether workers will follow the Communist Party or the new forum," said Ernst-Jorg von Studnitz.

Studnitz, who spoke in Burnett Hall on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus, is the highest-ranking West German diplomat in the political section of the Mission to East Germany. Because there are no official relations between East Germany and West Germany, Studnitz' position is similar to that of an ambassador.

Studnitz said the freedom movement has been strengthened by the

migration of more than 100,000 East Germans to the West and is slightly stronger because of last week's expulsion of hard-line East German leader Erich Honecker.

But the West German representative said he sees these events as steps, rather than concrete reforms, toward democracy.

Although Egon Krenz, 52, has replaced 77-year-old Honecker as head of the Communist Party in East Germany, the attitude of the communist government toward democracy has not changed, he said.

"I think it is only a first step," Studnitz said.

Real change could only be seen through a sharing of power between the Communist Party and pro-democratic activists, he said.

But the Politburo's public announcements last week "definitely

said no to this," Studnitz said.

"The fronts are clearly quite drawn," Studnitz said.

As long as East Germans do not have democratic rights, such as free elections or free press, the East German leaders will continue to control their citizens under a Stalinist regime, he said.

Although his government supports democratic reforms, Studnitz said West Germany only is willing to support East Germany when real change takes place in the communist-dominated government.

"It has to work with the consent of the East Germans," he said.

"The only solution can be that there are reforms in the GDR (German Democratic Republic) to the effect that people say 'yes, we can stay here and we want to stay here,'" Studnitz said.

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Other computer pranks were performed by the "pornographic painter" and "mad trasher," he said.

The pornographic painter struck the Schramm Hall user room when it opened in September 1988, he said.

Kutish said tampering with UNL software is a very serious offense.

"It's not a crime against the institution but against fellow students," he said.

If anyone is caught tampering with computer software, Kutish said, he or she will be turned over to the Student Judicial Affairs Office.

Kathy Austin, director of the judicial affairs office, said tampering with UNL computer software can be a violation of the student code of conduct.

If students are found to be guilty, Austin said, they can be penalized or warned. Some of the penalties include probation, suspension or expulsion, Austin said.


Violators also may have to attend counseling sessions, pay restitution for damages or perform volunteer work, she said.

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