Berlin: Ulbricht, in a television interview taped on 6 December for showing in the United States on 4 January, said that conditions for entry into East Berlin would "soon" be "normalized" to require passports with visas at the sector border, which he characterized as "the GDR's state frontier." This would be designed to confront West Berliners and the NATO countries, including West Germany, with the choice of not entering East Berlin, or obtaining East German visas--tantamount to de facto recognition of the GDR.

Ulbricht was deliberately evasive, however, on the subject of Allied military entry to East Berlin. He said this question would not arise since there would be "no place" for Allied
military personnel in East Berlin—presumably a reference to the Communist position that signature of a peace treaty will terminate all Western rights. Recent construction at the Friedrichstrasse crossing point increases the ability of the East Germans to bar entrance at any time. In the case of the West Germans, Ulbricht knows that Bonn now would be reluctant to counter such a move by terminating the inter-zonal trade agreement, as Bonn did under similar circumstances in the fall of 1960.