

# Berlin

## 1969

## Chronology 1970

Updated 27 Mar 13.

This page provides a chronology of events that shaped the period that "Berlin 1969" describes in 1970. This page will be updated from time to time.

**1970:** Ex-Coloradan Dean Reed is a recording star in Eastern Europe. Since 1967, he has made appearances in big cities of the Soviet Union and other Socialist countries. In this period, Reed takes up residence in East Berlin, becoming in effect a country music star without a country. [--rwr note: Blossoming in his transplanted setting, Reed developed a devoted following that still has fond memories of him today.]

[Fans keep Dean Reed's memory on the Web.](http://www.deanreed.de/)

<http://www.deanreed.de/>

**2 Jan 70:** Extension of U-Bahn Line 7 from Britz-Sud to Zwickauer Damm in the American Sector (3.4 km) opens. Later in the winter, obscure Line 5 of the U-Bahn, which shuttled between Deutsche-Oper-Platz and Richard-Wagner-Platz in the British Sector, is discontinued in preparation for construction of the next segment of Line 7. (Richard-Wagner-Platz U-Bahnhof is reopened in 1978 on the extended line.)

**14 Jan 70:** In his State of the Nation address to the Bundestag (similar to the U.S. presidents' State of the Union speech), Willy Brandt outlines his government's views on the Special Status of Berlin, and supports the Four-Power talks on improving conditions for West Berlin.

**28 Jan 70:** American pianist Barbara Nissman presents a *Klavier-Abend* at the *Konzertsaal Bundesallee*. On the same bitterly cold night, the *Akademisches Orchester* appears at the *Philharmonie*, the *Hochschule fuer Musik* hosts a *Lieder-Abend* with vocalist Josef Greindl, and the *Zwoelf-Apostel-Saal* is the venue for a *Violin-Abend* with Konstantin Plaeinitz. A typical night in West Berlin-- Brahms on the Bundesallee versus Brahms at the Philharmonie. [--rwr note: In an uphill battle, Nissman sparkles, but she is outnumbered by the Academic Orchestra down the street. For the full story of her maiden concert in Berlin, visit "Nissman Debuts" in Stories/Geschichte section of this website.]

**28 Feb 70:** MG Ferguson is replaced by MG George M. Seignious. The new USCOB commander, a lanky Texan, swaps the Mercedes limo favored by Ferguson for use of the U.S. Ambassador to Germany's Lincoln Continental limo. Rumors among GI's are that Seignious claimed that he needed more leg room. The Lincoln stretch has jump seats for security men, which when folded up offer plenty of room for a Texan. [--rwr note: In one of the lesser known events of the Cold War, I once wangled a ride in the Lincoln limo, which in West Berlin traffic was like sailing on the S.S. *United States* through a school of German fishing boats.]

**19 Mar 70:** First meeting of the heads of state of the two Germanies--Willy Brandt for West Germany and Willi Stoph for East Germany, in the East German city of Erfurt.

**26 Mar 70:** Ambassadors of the Four Powers meet in the Allied Control Authority Building (former German Supreme Court Building) for the first time since the start of the Berlin Blockade in 1948. As the building is in the American Sector of the divided city, they are guarded by U.S. Military Police, who in turn are guarded by the West Berlin city police.

The symbolism is deep. The victorious Allied powers might actually be getting back on track to resolving issues left frozen two decades earlier. [--rwr note: Colleagues of mine who are on the U.S. Army's bomb squad searching the building tell me about finding the forgotten collection of books, documents, maps that were gathered for the Allied staff who thought they might have to administer a broken, defeated Germany for years. A scheme to deputize me for the bomb squad so that I can get in to see this falls through, as someone higher up points out that I might actually find a bomb, and had no training on what to do if that distraction came up. I did drop by to watch the diplomats and staff arriving. For more on the talks, read about them in the Troubled Times section of this website.]

**3 May 70:** Oil pipeline from Saudi Arabia to the Mediterranean Sea interrupted in Syria, creating all-time tanker rate highs from June to December. [--rwr note: In hindsight, this launched the Energy Crisis as an issue, as it demonstrated how easily Middle Eastern countries could gain attention or actual advantages by pressure on oil supplies. Not much later, these issues were to overlap into German events. Read "The Terror Tax" in the Stories/Geschichte section of this website.]

**26 Jun 70:** Opening of the 20th International Film Festival in West Berlin.

**12 Aug 70:** Treaty of Moscow; FRG (West Germany) signs non-aggression pact and acknowledgement of all the existing borders in Europe, including the Oder-Neisse Border between Germany and Poland and the boundary between the FRG (*BRD*) and GDR (*DDR*).

**28 Sep - 8 Oct 70:** Aaron Copland conducts in Berlin concerts. See [American Memory - photos by Victor Kraft](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/copland/acres2.html)  
<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/copland/acres2.html>.

**16 Nov 70:** The first special lanes for buses opened in West Berlin (Tauntzienstr.-Kleiststr and the Hauptstrasse in Schoeneberg).

**7 Dec 70:** Treaty of Warsaw; FRG (West Germany) signs non-aggression pact, recognizes the Oder-Neisse Border between Germany and Poland, and normalizes diplomatic relations between the two signing nations.

**9 Dec 70:** Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries meets in Caracas, Venezuela and established minimum tax rate for petroleum. Also demands that posted oil prices be changed to reflect changes in foreign exchange rates [so that as the US\$ fell in value, oil prices set in dollars would be adjusted upwards].

[More on energy price influences through the years.](http://www.eia.gov/totalenergy/data/annual/perspectives.cfm)  
<http://www.eia.gov/totalenergy/data/annual/perspectives.cfm>

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Print sources include print publications of:

The Allied Museum, Berlin.

The Press and Information Office of the Land Berlin.

The Land Berlin Central Office for Political Education.

The BVG (Berlin's transit system) at [www.bvg.de](http://www.bvg.de) for 75th anniversary history of Berlin's unified transit system.

Your AFTV Program.

Verkehrsamt Berlin.

Bering, Henrik; *Outpost Berlin*; edition q, inc.; Carol Stream, Illinois; 1995; 266 pages.

[Central Library in Berlin.](http://www.zlb.de/)  
<http://www.zlb.de/>

[Richard Huffman's Baader-Meinhof pages focus on German terrorists.](http://www.baader-meinhof.com/timeline/)  
<http://www.baader-meinhof.com/timeline/>

[Return to Berlin 1969.](http://www.berlin1969.com)  
<http://www.berlin1969.com>

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