Letter to Kevin Kote, check point

Berlin, January 8, 1995

check point
Linienstr. 155
10115 Berlin
Mr. Kevin Kote

Dear Sir or Madam,
dear Kevin,

I am turning to you as a friend of the MAOTHAI with the request that you help bring public attention to my concern: spreading good Thai cuisine in Berlin.

The authorities are preventing the opening of a small Thai restaurant on Oranienburger Straße in the East. I do not know what reasons will ultimately be invoked for this bureaucratic policy of obstruction – at best it may be overload, but more likely inertia. The decisive aspect for me, however, is the absurdity of the policy for granting work and residence permits.

The Thais and Asians who work for me pay for themselves and others three times over, through contributions to the German state and through the company's earnings. Good Thai cuisine needs genuine Thai professionals – neither bar girls who have become housewives in Germany (against whom I otherwise have nothing at all), nor unemployed German cooks or doner specialists. They do not have to be housed or supported at the state's expense, and they do not block any motorways. And apart from that, has Thailand of all countries not earned a place on the preferred list for visas and the like, as a kind of return gift for the friendliness with which hundreds of thousands of German holiday-jumbo crowds are welcomed there?

Should Berlin remain a German bratwurst-and-fries capital idyll out of official ignorance, frustration or even latent fear of foreigners? No, thank you. The city does not need bureaucratic sluggishness, but work permits for my Thai chefs and for everyone else who wants to cook well here, whatever their colour!

Yours,

Norbert Frankenstein
MAOTHAI Gaststätten-Betriebsgesellschaft mbH Berlin · Wörther Str. 30 · 10405 Berlin

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Translation of the original German document