Günter Nooke was an important figure in the East German opposition and during the unification process. He was a representative for Alliance 90—a coalition of several opposition groups—in the first democratically elected East German People’s Chamber and a board member of the Treuhandanstalt—the trust agency charged with privatizing East German enterprises.

Following unification, Mr. Nooke was a member of the Brandenburg state parliament and continued his leading role in Alliance 90 until 1993, when he left following its merger with the Green Party. In 1996, he joined the CDU with six other former East German activists in protest against the growing power of the PDS—the East German communist successor party. Since 2010, he has been the German Chancellor’s G8 Personal Representative for Africa.

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PHOTO CREDIT: Campaign poster for Alliance 90 during the first all German federal election in 1990. Courtesy of the Bundesarchiv.