

Brandt Told About 'Spy' in 1971

By Joe Alex Morris Jr.

BONN, May 1—Allegations that Guenter Guillaume was an East German spy were passed on to Chancellor Willy Brandt more than three years ago, yet apparently they had no effect on his meteoric rise to become the chancellor's right-hand man.

This was confirmed today by the Office for the Protection of the Constitution, the West German equivalent of the FBI. The official statement was possibly the most damaging development so far in the spy scandal which has rocked official Bonn.

In an apparently connected development, the head of the office, Guenther Nollau, was rushed back to headquarters in Cologne from a Bavarian health resort. He had only arrived there earlier in the day.

The statement issued by the

office confirmed reports that both the West Berlin Office for the Protection of the Constitution and an unofficial organization known as "The Investigation Committee of Free Jurists" had raised questions about Guillaume at the time he joined Brandt's office in 1970 in a minor position. These reports were passed on to the chancellor's office, which was making its own routine security check on Guillaume.

The reports apparently were ignored, as Guillaume was given top secret clearance. The man then in charge of Brandt's office was Horst Ehmke, now minister of post and technology.

Ehmke answered the statement, not by denying that incriminating information was relayed to him, but by putting the blame on the Office for the Protection of the Constitu-

tion. He said that, although not specifically responsible for the security check on Guillaume in 1970, the office had in fact carried it out as it did for other federal offices and had not raised any opposition to the employment of Guillaume.

The statement put out here today did not go into detail about the charges raised against Guillaume, who came to West Germany in 1956 and worked his way up in the Social Democratic Party organization to his final position as an aide to Brandt. But reports from Berlin said Guillaume had been spotted as an agent for the East German Ministry for State Security in 1955, and that at one point, West Berlin authorities put out an alarm for him.

The Office for the Protection of the Constitution did not take over responsibility

for security checks in Brandt's office until 1971. No security check of Guillaume was asked when he became Brandt's personal aide.

Despite this, the counter-espionage division of the office ran a check on him early in 1973, the statement said, and unearthed "grounds for suspicion" which led to more intensive checks and his ultimate arrest last week.

There was speculation here that Ehmke was likely to lose his job in the forthcoming Cabinet reshuffle, necessitated by Foreign Minister Walter Scheel's expected election to the federal presidency.

Originally, the government planned a minimal shift in Cabinet posts to fill the gap left by Scheel, but it appeared increasingly likely to observers that the repercussions of the Guillaume affair will change all that.