

# W. Germany Arrests Nine In Spy Ring

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BONN, Jan. 15—West Germany has arrested nine persons on suspicion of stealing secret computer technology from IBM and delivering it to a Communist secret service.

In announcing the arrests today, the federal public prosecutor, Siegfried Buback, refused to identify those arrested or to name the firms and countries involved in the alleged industrial espionage. He referred only to "persons employed in the computer sector" and said that they had been working for "an Eastern secret service."

However, reliable sources in Bonn said that the prosecutor's office had evidence indicating that the service was the Soviet KGB. The sources also confirmed that the alleged spying was directed principally against IBM's West German subsidiary, the American computer firm's biggest European branch. The subsidiary, which specializes in electronic data processing, has an annual turnover of about \$1.7 billion.

A spokesman for IBM's headquarters in Stuttgart released a brief statement confirming that "one IBM employee, an equipment maintenance man," was among those arrested. The statement added only that "IBM had cooperated fully with the police when asked" and said, "All other inquiries should be directed to the German authorities as it is a police matter."

FA spokesman at IBM's international headquarters in Armonk, N.Y., said that the other arrested persons may be former IBM employees. Reuter news agency reported.

At the federal prosecutor's office in Karlsruhe, Buback

activities in Stuttgart, Dusseldorf, Solingen and Krefeld. IBM has offices or installations in each of these cities.

The prosecutor also said that when police searched the homes of the suspects they found a Soviet-made miniature camera, computer components and several rolls of incriminating film.

One of the suspects, he added, had \$37,000 on his person when arrested. Buback also said that his office had information indicating that the alleged members of the ring had been paid at least \$118,000 for their activities.

characterized the arrests as the breakup of "one of the most important industrial espionage rings" operating in West Germany.

He said that those under suspicion apparently became involved for money and alleged that they had given the Eastern secret service details of computer systems, programming techniques, maintenance manuals, magnetic tapes and other technical material.

The Soviet Union has always lagged at least 10 years behind the United States in computer technology, and in recent years the gap has been widening.

According to Buback, the investigation began Dec. 22, when two of the suspects were discovered using a miniature camera to photograph computer maintenance manuals at a firm in Frankfurt. Twelve persons were subsequently arrested, he said, and nine are still in custody.

In addition to Frankfurt, Buback said, the ring had conducted industrial espionage

## Guillaume Indictment For High Treason Set

KARLSRUHE, West Germany, Jan. 15 (AP)—Guenther Guillaume, whose arrest as an East German spy last year toppled Willy Brandt as chancellor, will be charged by West Germany with high treason at the end of this month Federal Prosecutor Siegfried Buback announced today.

Guillaume and his wife, Christel, were seized in Bonn April 25 under urgent suspicion of espionage for Communist East Germany. They have been held in custody for investigation since then.

Guillaume, 47, is suspected of passing secret documents to the East Berlin secret service while he worked as a key political aide in Brandt's chancellery.

Brandt quit as chancellor in the wake of the disclosure, which led to a continuing scandal because of alleged security lapses in the government. Brandt was succeeded as chancellor in May by his Social Democratic Party colleague Helmut Schmidt.

## Army Sentences GI For Aiding Espionage

KAISERSLAUTERN, West Germany, Jan. 15 (AP)—A U.S. Army court-martial sentenced a soldier to four years at hard labor today after finding him guilty of having passed classified documents to his German-born wife "for the benefit of a foreign government."

Sp. 5 Leslie J. Payne, 27, of Pana, Ill., was arrested by German police Oct. 14 and handed over to U.S. military custody. His wife Krista, 39, who was born in what is now Communist-ruled East Germany, remained in the custody of West German police, and is still awaiting trial before a German court.

The foreign government mentioned in the court-martial's verdict was not identified, but it appeared that East Germany was involved.