

T-P 10/20/68

BONN SPY CASE REPORTS GROW

Six East German Agents Said Called Home

By GEORGE THOMPSON

BONN, Germany (AP) —

New reports added fuel Friday to speculation about a major spy case in the wake of a wave of suicides or violent death involving three senior German officers and two government employes.

One was a statement by Conrad Ahlers, deputy chief government spokesman, that six Communist East German agents were pulled quickly out of West Germany early this month.

Ahlers told a news conference two of the six left because of disagreements among their East Berlin bosses and two others fled fearing betrayal after the arrest of an accomplice.

Ahlers gave no details, but the latter two were believed to have quit the country after the arrest of an employe in a nuclear research center at Karlsruhe earlier this month. He did not say why the other two left.

HAWK MISSILE FOUND

In another incident, the Defense Ministry reported fragments of an exploded U.S.-designed Hawk ground to air missile has been found on a public refuse heap in the Eifel Mountains. A ministry spokesman said Hawk missiles are not sub-

ject to secrecy but "it is not customary for such waste to be left around on rubbish dumps."

He added, however, that several Atlantic Alliance nations fire rockets on maneuver grounds in the region.

The possibility of espionage first arose with the disclosure that Rear Adm. Hermann Luedke, who retired as deputy chief of the logistic department of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Sept. 30, had microfilm of secret NATO documents. He was found dead of a gunshot wound in an Eifel forest Oct. 8.

Eduard Adorno, Defense Ministry state secretary, told parliament Luedke's early retirement from NATO had nothing to do with the finding of the microfilms. He said Luedke had requested early release for health reasons last March. He was 57.

Seven days before Luedke retired, a Bonn photo store called in police and showed them nine pictures of secret NATO documents on a film Luedke had given them to develop.

MYSTERIOUS DEATH

Adorno said investigators so far have found no connection between Luedke's mysterious death and the suicides of two other military officers and two civil service officials.

He referred to the recent deaths of Maj. Gen. Horst Wendland, deputy chief of the federal intelligence service; Lt. Col. Johannes Grimm of the Defense Ministry, and Edeltraud Grapentin, librarian in the federal press office.

Government spokesmen have attributed the four suicides either to ill health or depression.

In addition, Gerhard Boehm, 61, a Defense Ministry clerk, disappeared Monday, leaving behind a suicide note. Police are still looking for him. The government said he knew no military secrets.

Adorno told parliament that investigations in all the cases are continuing. He promised to make public any new information.