

Post 10727/68

Secretary to Key Bonn Army Aide Arrested in Spy-Ring Inquiry

By Antony Terry

© 1968. London Sunday Times

BONN, OCT. 26—The West German defense ministry today confirmed the arrest of a woman secretary employed in the headquarters of the Inspector General of the Armed Forces, Lt. Gen. Albert Schnez.

The woman, whose name was not disclosed, is being questioned about her alleged membership in an East German spy network. Two other members of the group were reportedly among the six East German agents who the government admitted yesterday had escaped to East Berlin.

The Inspector General's office, according to a spokesman, deals with logistics and training. The secretary, it is reliably reported, was in a position to read top secret documents on a wide range of NATO defense activities.

Photos Found

The arrested woman, sources said had been under observation for some time by the counterespionage service of the armed forces, which goes under the official name of "M.A.D." The organization was attacked in Parliament this week for not having acted decisively enough in the case of Rear Adm. Hermann

Luedke, who committed suicide two week ago after photograph's of secret NATO documents were found on a roll of microfilm belonging to him.

[A government spokesman said today that an exhaustive check into the apparent suicide last week of a secretary in the federal press office, Mrs. Edeltraud Grapentin, 58, had uncovered no suspicion of espionage, Reuters reported.

[Commenting yesterday on other recent violent deaths, those of Maj. Gen. Horst Wendland, deputy chief of the federal intelligence service, and Lt. Col. Johannes Grimm of the Defense Ministry, a Ministry spokesman said no links to any spy ring had turned up.]

Police today announced a new arrest in connection with the disappearance a year ago from a luftwaffe airbase of a top secret U.S. Sidewinder air-to-air missile.

Former Pilot Held

The man arrested is a former luftwaffe starfighter pilot, Wolf-Diethard Knoppe. Two other persons are already in custody.

The disappearance of the missile, which is used in a number of NATO air forces and has a secret infra-red device for homing on to enemy aircraft, was discovered by accident. A flight sergeant who had been asked by his wife to pick some parsley from an "out of bounds area" discovered a hole in the wire containing the top secret missiles.

West Germans, whose nerves are being strained by the daily allegations of far reaching espionage plots, were even more puzzled today by the announcement that a garbage man had found the remains of four American Hawk ground-to-air missiles and part of a missile warhead on a garbage dump near the government's secret underground nuclear shelter.

Ex
Inc
sur