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Bungling Seen in Probe Of W. German Spy Case

BONN, Oct. 24 (UPI) — Four members of the West German Parliament suggested today that counter-intelligence agencies reacted late and ineffectively to a police tip that a navy admiral who committed suicide was suspected of spying for a foreign power.

Rear Adm. Hermann Luedke, was one of six military men or civil service employes who have committed suicide this month. His last assignment was on the logistical staff of NATO.

Questions over government investigation of the suicides were raised by two Deputies of the opposition Free Democratic Party and two deputies of the Social Democratic Party headed by Foreign Minister Willy Brandt.

All complained of apparent rivalry among the various police and investigating agencies and the office of the federal prosecutor general.

Police had been tipped about the time Luedke retired a week before his death, that film he left to be developed and printed included about 12 frames of documents clearly marked "Secret." The tip came from a photographic laboratory employe.

Luedke told an investigator that the camera used to photograph the secret documents must have been stolen from his apartment in Brussels and returned to his home. The federal prosecutor general later termed the story unlikely, but not impossible.

Police revealed today that Edeltraut Grapenten, 52, an employe of the Federal Press and Information Office, killed herself by taking poison 10 days ago. Police described her motive as "purely private."

[Police in Linz, Austria's town commander on suspicion of taking photographs of military installations and passing them to a foreign service, Reuters reported.]

NATO Investigates Possibility of Spy Ring

Reuters

BRUSSELS, Oct. 24—NATO spy-catchers have started an intensive investigation to try to unearth a suspected Soviet espionage ring in the 15-nation organization, informed sources said today.

Members of national delegations and the international secretariat are being screened following the deaths of military and political persons in West Germany, Italy and Belgium.

They are checking on civilian and military personnel at political headquarters outside Brussels and military headquarters at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) near Mons, in southern Belgium.

The hunt took on new urgency when top-ranking Turkish official Nahit Impre was caught photocopying secret documents inside the closely-guarded NATO headquarters here in mid-September.

In Italy, Gen. Renato Sandalli, former air minister, shot himself yesterday. In Belgium, police are investigating the unexplained death of the Polish-born French wife of an American sergeant employed at SHAPE.

Police said Sgt. Albert Fallon found his wife, Irene, lying dead in their bedroom when he entered their apartment after midnight one night early this month. There was a .22 caliber bullet in her head and another in a wall.