

Post 10/24/68 over

German Defense Employee Missing, Believed Fifth Suicide in 2 Weeks

Reuters

BONN, Oct. 23—Police are searching for an employe of the West German Defense Ministry missing since Monday, a Ministry spokesman said today.

The newspaper General Anzeiger said the man had left a note for his family saying he intended to commit suicide.

The report followed a series of suicides of government officials within the past two weeks, one of which has led to an espionage investigation.

The spokesman named the missing man as Gerhard Boehm, 61, who held a Ministry post with rank equivalent to sergeant in the army.

The federal prosecutor in

Karlsruhe said yesterday that Rear Adm. Hermann Luedke, a former senior NATO official who died Oct. 8, was suspected of spying for a foreign power. The prosecutor said suicide was a more probable explanation for the admiral's death than the original official one of a hunting accident.

The deputy head of the West German intelligence service, Gen. Horst Wendtland, also shot himself Oct. 8 and a Defense Ministry logistics official, Col. Johannes Grimm, committed suicide Friday.

The Economics Ministry announced last night that Hans-Heinrich Schenk, 40, an official in its foreign development

aid department, had killed himself a week ago.

Police said there appeared to be no connection between the deaths.

Mines Chief Sworn In

Associated Press

John F. O'Leary was sworn in yesterday as director of the U.S. Bureau of Mines.

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