

# U.S. Plan Reported by Stern Magazine Appears Old

By RALPH BLUMENTHAL  
Special to The New York Times

BONN, Aug. 27—A purported United States military document, received mysteriously by the West German magazine Stern and envisioning subversion and sabotage behind Soviet-bloc lines in the event of major hostilities, appears upon examination to be several years old.

The document, marked "Top Secret," was received by Stern in the mail in June with an anonymous letter. It is identified as an operation plan involving the deployment of atomic, chemical and biological weapons and guerrilla operations in Europe.

The papers, 33 pages with tables and appendices, were examined by correspondents of The New York Times here.

Stern, which unveiled the papers on Monday, says it has verified their authenticity. Other publications in Italy, Britain and the United States have also received copies.

High American officials here have neither confirmed nor denied the validity of the Stern documents. One official suggested that they may have been circulated by Communist sources to undermine allied morale and to cause dissension between Bonn and Washington.

The copies did not bear a date. Notations placing key signatories to the plans in Paris, Fontainebleau and Orleans, France, indicate that the documents had been composed in France before the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and United States units moved out of that country in 1966-67 at the request of President de Gaulle.

The pages, which were paper back size, bore the heading, "Headquarters Support Operations Task Force Europe A.P.O. 163, U.S. Forces." The plans were numbered 10-1.

### Three Officers Named

The documents carry the names of Col. Charles B. Boswell, Col. Royal R. Taylor and Maj. Robert R. Dickey. Army sources said that the officers were no longer in Europe, but declined to say when or why they had left. In Washington, the Pentagon declined again to comment on the Stern documents or on their age. However, one officer said that his personal knowledge of Colonel Boswell and Colonel Taylor had been in Europe in 1962, in a telephone conversation, Col. Dickey said that he had been in Germany from 1960 to 1963 and had been promoted from major since then; he refused to make any other comment.

The stern reporter, Peter Stahle, said he had showed documents to an American officer in Stuttgart who confirmed their authenticity. West German military sources, reported that American intelligence was "feverishly" trying to find the leak, Mr. Stahle said.

Stern as well as Der Spiegel, the leading West German news magazine, plan to print further details of the plans in their Monday issues.

### Several Assumptions Listed

The plans listed several "assumptions," including this one: "During the chaos and disruptions attending the outbreak of war, scattered indigenous individuals and groups will be disposed to take active measures against Soviet bloc forces."

To this end, the plan listed scores of units that would be dropped behind Communist lines to engage in subversion or escape and evasion and guerrilla warfare. The targets were classified as Priority 1 or 2.

Twenty such missions, five subversion and the rest escape and evaluation and guerrilla warfare, were planned for the Soviet Union. The sites for the drops were listed with map coordinates. Many of the drops were planned for mountainous areas.

Rumania was scheduled for two missions, Albania for two, Bulgaria for three and Yugoslavia—"if occupied by enemy forces"—for one.

### Local Help Envisioned

The planners clearly envisioned help from local anti-Communist elements hostile to the Soviet forces. Within the first month of the operation, it was estimated, 14,000 such friendly people would emerge in Communist-held areas—which were presumed to include Italy, Greece and Turkey and other nations near or in the Communist bloc.

By six months after "D" or the start of operations, the planners figured on 112,500 allied local forces. Proportionately, East Germany, Rumania, Turkey and Czechoslovakia were envisioned as the main sources of such anti-Communist reaction.

The documents said: "Activities conducted by indigenous elements will be characterized initially by their clandestine nature and by the fact that many of these operations will be conducted in urban areas."

"Included in these activities are the following: sabotage, covert propaganda, infiltration into enemy installations, planned civil disobedience and formation of groups as action nuclei for future guerrilla organizations."

Because the United States military has been aware since at least last year that the secrecy of the plans was violated, it can be assumed that the conception has been altered, if indeed the purported plans were accurately described.

The anonymous letter accompanying the documents sent to Stern suggested that the late Maj. Gen. Horst Wendland, deputy chief of the leading West Germany intelligence agency, had stolen the plans before committing suicide Oct. 8, because—the writer asserted—he was horrified by American intentions.

The typed letter, with an illegible signature, displays some irregularities. It is written in English but awkward translations from the German come through, although the sender apparently tried to make it sound as colloquial as possible.

In another development, the Army officially confirmed today that a 29-year-old staff sergeant at Heidelberg, Joseph B. Attardi, was sentenced to three years in prison on July 23 for copying "cosmic" — highest secrecy classification — plans from the documents section.

However, the Army said the case was "not connected to any other case" and, specifically, not to the disclosure of the documents mailed to the publications.

Sergeant Attardi was arrested April 11 after an acquaintance to whom he had given one of the copied secret documents went to the Army authorities. The four-page document dealt with defense measures in Europe.

The sergeant, who comes from Windsor Locks, Conn., and joined the Army in 1963, is confined in the stockade at Mannheim. No motive for the theft has been disclosed.

### Pentagon Declines Comment

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 27 — The Pentagon declined again

today to comment on the Stern documents or on their age. One officer said, however, that to his personal knowledge Colonel Boswell and Colonel Taylor were in Europe in 1962. In a telephone conversation, Lieutenant Colonel Dickey, who has since been promoted from major, said that he had been in Germany from 1960 to 1963. He refused to make any other comment.

A Defense Department official said that the plans alluded to in the documents mailed to Stern sounded a lot like the original orders under which the Special Forces had been established.

"That was the mission Special Forces was originally organized to perform," he said. "They were created to foment insurgency."

He explained that the Special Forces, popularly known as the Green Berets, were doing an "about-face" in Vietnam by fighting guerrillas instead of leading them. But this was a natural reversal, he added, since the men must know a lot about insurgency and its tactics.

The official added that there was nothing new about plans for Special Forces in Europe to carry on their own brand of warfare in the event of a general ground war and that this fact had been known since the 10th Special Forces, the original unit, was deployed in Bad Tolz, Germany, around 1951.

### Ramparts to Print Data

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SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 27— Ramparts magazine said today that it had received a copy of the purported United States military plan from European sources and that it planned to publish the material in its October issue.