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BONN, Germany AP - Police were hunting today a West German Defense Ministry official reported missing at the height of a security scare following the deaths of three senior officers and an Economics ministry official.

A police spokesman named the missing man as Gerhard Boehm, 61, senior clerk in the ministry's administrative and legal section. Boehm, said to be suffering acute depression, left a suicide note in his office Monday evening and vanished.

Police said his brief case containing personal items was found under a Bonn railroad bridge shortly after his disappearance.

A defense spokesman said Boehm, who was due for retirement, had no access to secret defense papers "apart from carrying documents from room to room in sealed containers."

The report of Boehm's disappearance came only a day after the disclosure by the federal prosecutor in Karlsruhe that Rear Adm. Hermann Luedke, newly retired NATO officer found dead from a gunshot wound Oct. 8, may have worked for a foreign intelligence agency.

Also announced Tuesday was the suicide of an Economics Ministry official, Hans-Heinrich Schenk, 40. He was assistant in the foreign trade and development aid department. He hanged himself in his Cologne home. Informed sources said Schenk suffered from depression.

Depression was also given as the motive for the suicide Oct. 8 of Maj. Gen. Horst Wendland, deputy chief of the federal intelligence agency.

Lt. Col. Johannes Grimm was found shot dead in his Defense Ministry office Oct. 18. Official spokesmen said he took his own life because of poor health.

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