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Sixth Suicide Shakes Germans

BONN, Germany (AP)—A senior Defense Ministry clerk, missing since Oct. 21, was found dead today, a ministry spokesman announced.

The spokesman said the clerk, Gerhard Boehm, 61, had committed suicide. An autopsy has been ordered.

Boehm's body was found floating in the Rhine near the town of Bruehl about 10 miles north of Bonn.

The Defense Ministry said previously that Boehm, who worked in the administrative and legal section, had no access to classified or defense papers.

The disclosure came as West Germany's security services were investigating connections between five other suicides of officials and espionage charges.

The urgent study, which is being directed by Chancellor Kurt Georg Kiesinger and Foreign Minister Willy Brandt, was ordered after a series of suicides, arrests, deaths and disappearances among military and government workers that has caused deep concern within the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

A key case appears to be the death of Rear Adm. Hermann Luedke, a retired NATO officer, who died of gunshot wounds Oct. 8, 15 days after a microfilm of top secret NATO documents was traced to him.

Several government organizations are also feuding as a result of the incidents, and the review is expected to include a discussion of possible centralization of the intelligence and security services.

The security chiefs and state secretaries from the Foreign, Interior and Defense ministries and from the chancellor's office met for more than two hours today. They are scheduled for another meeting next week.

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