

URSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1967

Columbia Art-History Teacher Arrested on Visit to East Berlin

BERLIN, Sept. 13 (Reuters) — Ronald Wiedenhoef, a 30-year-old teacher of art history at Columbia University, was arrested in East Berlin last week, a spokesman for the United States Mission said today.

He said the reason that Mr. Wiedenhoef was taken into custody had not yet been determined, and it was not known what he was doing in the Communist sector of the city.

The spokesman said that Mr. Wiedenhoef, who is from Milwaukee, was living in West Berlin while working on a thesis in art history. American authorities were not officially informed of the arrest by East German officials, he added.

"We are quite concerned over this, as one would normally expect official notification in such a case," the spokesman said. Apparently no charges were brought against Mr. Wiedenhoef, he said, adding that he was not aware that Mr. Wiedenhoef had made any contact with East German or Soviet officials.

Because the United States does not recognize East Germany, it has no diplomatic representation with the East German Government. Queries are lodged with the Soviet Embassy

in East Berlin, but usually are not answered.

He Is Working for Ph.D.

BERLIN, Sept. 13 (AP)— Mrs. Ronald Wiedenhoef, wife of the Columbia University teacher who was taken into custody in East Berlin, said today that her husband had been doing research on Berlin architecture for a Ph.D. degree. Mrs. Wiedenhoef, who is 24 years old and was born in Berlin, said he went to East Berlin on Sept. 5 and did not return.

In Washington, a State Department spokesman said he understood that Mr. Wiedenhoef had taken photographs of buildings in East Berlin in connection with his studies. Camera users frequently run into trouble with the police in Communist countries.

A '59 Graduate of Cornell

The Coloumbia University information office said yesterday that Ronald Wiedenhoef was appointed a part-time teacher in the department of art history and archaeology in 1965. He received a bachelor of civil engineering degree from Cornell in 1959 and a master's degree in art history from the University of Wisconsin in 1964.

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