

ESCAPEE DESCRIBES FLIGHT FROM WEST

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(Press conference of Jupp Angenfort, escapee from West Germany)

(Text) Announcer: More journalists than were expected crowded the Steinsaal. Correspondents of leading news agencies, papers, radio and television stations from both German states as well as of the socialist and capitalist countries wanted to know details from the well-known West German peace fighter about his successful escape from Bonn's injustice. Among other things, Jupp Angenfort described the following episode:

Angenfort: One night I stayed with a Catholic priest. This may sound somewhat strange. We have a state in Bonn which is to quite an extent clerical, where evil elements are at work, where religious intolerance exists. Well, a servant of the Catholic Church was giving shelter to a communist. It was somewhat surprising to me, but we began talking. We talked for about an hour and a half. He put many questions to me and I replied. I was impressed when he said: "Some of the things I am doing here I cannot reconcile with my conscience. You see, I am not among the youngest. I take seriously what I say to the people in church. Sometimes people ask me how it is that what has happened disagrees with what I said. Then I am in a painful situation. I cannot always ignore this since I am a pastor. In this case, however, I can do so."

Then he said to me: "You see, it is simply unbearable for me to know that a person such as Globke is a State Secretary of the Chancellor, a Globke about whom I know so many horrible things from West German press and radio reports. I will not mention the East German reports."

He said: "Take our defense minister, Herr Strauss. I have heard in the past that he does not take morals too seriously. This may or may not be so. I do not know. It is a fact, however, that according to publications--DER SPIEGEL included--he is absolutely corrupt. And such a man is a cabinet minister, such a man is being whitewashed. He is being rushed through an investigation committee, and everybody knows, the papers joke about it, that the outcome of the Fibag committee probe will be a postponement. After all, Strauss will remain war minister as before. This is simply unbearable," he said. "Many others who are religious as I am think the same way."

Well, he gave me shelter, I thanked him cordially, and through him I thanked all those as religious as he is and who would have given me the same aid.

Announcer: Jupp Angenfort considered his successful escape, which was only possible with the help of many persons, as proof of the victory of the peace-loving people in West Germany. Answering questions of West German reporters, he said that the police officials watching him had no idea of his plan. They were obviously so stunned that they forgot the order: "Halt, stay where you are."

After the press conference Jupp Angenfort was surrounded by the journalists who asked all kinds of questions. He made the following statement for our newsreel:

Angenfort: From the bottom of my heart I thank all who have helped me so selflessly. For me this was an extraordinary event. I was sometimes deeply touched about the aid I received, particularly since it not only came from communists but from people of different political affiliation, people who believed that injustice was done to the communists. I wholeheartedly thank them all and I would like to extend their aid and solidarity to all who are being held in Adenauer's prisons.