

Tunnel Attempt Foiled

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(Text) Berlin--Another attack on the GDR state frontier in Berlin was foiled during the last of June. At a press conference in Berlin on Saturday, it was announced officially that at the end of May this year a gang of antisocial and criminal elements in West Berlin began digging a tunnel from the cellar of a house situated directly on the state frontier to the cellar of a house in the GDR capital. This was to enable armed terrorists and agents of West Berlin underground organizations to enter GDR state territory unhindered. The gang engaged in building the tunnel was paid by the West Berlin "Investigation Committee of Free Jurists."

On 28 June, GDR frontier policemen succeeded in apprehending two of the terrorists, West Berliners Dieter Hoetger and Siegfried Noffke, after they emerged from the tunnel into the GDR. Hoetger has previous convictions for sexual assault. In addition, Juergen Henning, an accomplice with previous convictions living in the GDR capital, was arrested. As the terrorists tried to escape, one of the bandits who remained behind in the tunnel and subsequently escaped to West Berlin fired at and seriously wounded a GDR frontier policeman. The frontier policemen opened fire. Noffke was killed and Hoetger and Henning wounded.

While building the tunnel the gang was actively supported by the West Berlin police. Hoetger informed a police officer in detail about the planned attack and gave him the names of all concerned as early as May. In Hoetger's presence this police officer telephoned his superior and was told that approval for the attack had been given. At the same time, he offered the gang additional timber for the tunnel and 12 policemen to cover the operation.

At about 1130 hours Central European Time on 28 June, the West Berlin police force at this section of the state frontier was trebled to provide cover fire for the terrorists. The West Berlin policemen, who had taken up positions on a raised observation platform, released the safety catches of their weapons and watched events. It is known to the GDR frontier police that other terrorist groups are digging more underground tunnels from West Berlin to the GDR state frontier. Such tunnels are being dug from a warehouse, a nearby S-Bahn station, a coal dump, and in the cellars of two houses.

The GDR press office stated at the press conference on Saturday that this information was being disclosed as an urgent warning to those taking part in preparing these provocations. They are requested to stop work

on the tunnels. The GDR frontier police will not permit GDR sovereignty to be violated by hired tools of imperialist secret service branches and underground organizations. The appeal was addressed to the West Berlin population to prevent the continuation of these provocative machinations.