

A-850

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMO TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE, BONN, STOCKHOLM

FROM: USBER, BERLIN

DATE: April 26, 1963

SUB: GDR Spokesman Names American as Courier in Terror Activities  
Against Regime.

At an "international press conference" held in East Berlin on April 24, 1963 and attended by Western correspondents, Lt. Col. Gerhard KEHL of the GDR Ministry for State Security named U.S. citizen Joan GLENN as a courier for a West Berlin organization charged with terror acts and other illegal activities against the GDR.

MIN  
USCOB  
POL 2  
EA 3  
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USIS  
RIAS  
IO/U 2  
ASAG 3  
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F&R 2  
CONS

East German officials arranged the press conference to announce the release by GDR authorities of (West Berlin) Free University student Leif PERSSON, Swedish national, apprehended in the GDR and accused of carrying over 40 forged Swedish passports to GDR citizens (presumably students) wishing to escape to the West. Regime officials who spoke at the press conference about alleged terror and espionage actions organized in West Berlin included: Chief of the Press Office of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers Kurt ELECHA; Deputy State Attorney General Werner PUNK; State Attorney Gernot WINDISCH; and Chief of the Legal Section in the Foreign Ministry Dr. KOHL, as well as Lt. Col. Kehl. Leif Persson was present and admitted his participation in the illegal actions as charged, evidently as quid pro quo for his release in lieu of sentence. The Swedish Consul General in West Berlin, Oesten LUNDBERG, also appeared "as a guest".

350 ASSISTANCE TO ESCAPEES

An account of the press conference contained in "Neues Deutschland" April 25 makes it appear that GDR authorities obtained the name of Joan Glenn from Persson, who is reported to have provided his captors with numerous details concerning the activities of the "Girrmann group", so-called terror organization in which Joan Glenn allegedly participated.

Group 3 - Downgraded at 12-year intervals, not automatically declassified

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EAS:WLDutton:nb

4/26/63

R. G. Mays, Jr.

Coordinated: *WLD* CONS - Mr. Wallons  
*WLD* POL - Mr. Stull

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Comment: Mission records show that Joan Kathleen Glenn, born June 25, 1942 in Salem, Oregon (Passport B-205902), resided as of January 19, 1963 with a family named WESTER at 15 Ebersstrasse, Berlin-Schoeneberg. As of June 1962 she reportedly resided at 37 Goethestrasse, Berlin-Zehlendorf, the address cited by "Neues Deutschland" as the location for meetings of the Girmann group.

As reported in Stuttgart's WIROM 69 to the Department, dated January 29, 1962, and Berlin's Tel. 1418 to the Department of January 31, 1962, Miss Glenn is an acquaintance of Robert Frederick MANN, U.S. citizen who was sentenced in October 1962 to 2 1/2 years imprisonment in East Germany on charges not publicly stated (see Berlin's A-331, November 1, 1962). Miss Glenn called at the Mission in January and again in March of 1962 in connection with the Mann case.

The Mission is attempting to locate Miss Glenn and alert her to the accusations against her which have appeared in "Neues Deutschland." From the Stuttgart telegram cited above, it would appear that Miss Glenn was aware in early 1962 that her activities might be known to the East German security service.

For the Acting Assistant Chief of Mission:

R. Glynn Mays, Jr.  
Chief  
Eastern Affairs Section