

DIE WELT REPORTS DEFECTION OF SED POLITICIAN

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[Report by Axel Springer Dienst, West Berlin]

[Text] An SED ideologist considered to be reliable has utilized his first visit in the West to escape to freedom. Detlef Herrmann, 31-year-old group chief of the IPW (Institute for International Policy and Economy) in East Berlin, which is directly associated with the SED Central Committee, did not return from a secret mission to the West. He has reported to the Giessen emergency reception camp as a political refugee.

Herrmann's defection has engendered confusion at the pertinent offices in the GDR, especially among the 500 colleagues of the above-mentioned institute, where he was considered a "hot shot." He has been a member of the SED for 10 years, and since early 1972, he has been a group chief with the IPW, the semiofficial organ of the SED Central Committee.

Herrmann stated to the ASD [Axel Springer Dienst]: "The FRG is being investigated from head to toe in the IPW." With the aid of extensive data, "it produces analyses and expert reports for the party leadership." The department to which Herrmann was assigned as a group chief dealt with the evaluation of the "political-intellectual trends in the FRG." This included particularly the thorough study of the political literature of the "class enemy", i.e., newspapers, periodicals, and even Chancellor Helmut Schmidt's book, "Strategie des Gleichgewichts" ("Strategy of Balance of Power"). Also, according to the escapee, the "words of CDU/CSU bigwigs", such as Franz Josef Strauss or Professor Biedenkopf are "naturally examined in detail."