

GDR SECURITY OFFICER DEFECTS, SPARKS SPY CRACKDOWN

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[Text] Karlsruhe--The escape of an officer of the GDR Ministry for State Security to the West started a widespread search for GDR spies in the Federal Republic today. The Federal Prosecutor's Office said today that the first lieutenant, together with his wife and child, "came to West Berlin" last night "with important documents from his office."

The documents are currently being evaluated by the competent authorities of the Federal Republic. Federal Public Prosecutor General Kurt Rebmann has started a series of investigations and has "ordered the executive authorities to take action."

The Public Prosecutor's Office declined to give further details. The outcome of the investigations and the swift action by the authorities are to be announced at the beginning of the week, the spokesman of the Public Prosecutor's Office told DPA.

In West Berlin a news blackout has been imposed on the escape of the GDR officer. No information can be obtained from official sources. The allied authorities in Berlin are said to have been brought in alongside the German authorities.