

'MEDIUM-RANK' DEFENSE OFFICIAL DEFECTS TO GDR

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[Text] Bonn--An official from the Bundeswehr has apparently defected to the GDR. The Defense Ministry confirmed today that the official has been missing for weeks. ADN has reported that a Bundeswehr official asked for asylum in the GDR on 10 February. His request for asylum was being examined.

According to the Defense Ministry, the man is an official "of medium rank from one of the Bundeswehr offices." Precise details about his office were not given. A spokesman pointed out that the official was not working in the Defense Ministry at Hardthoehe. The Federal Prosecutor's Office has taken charge of the investigation.

It is also not known whether the defection by the official is perhaps connected with the mass flight of alleged GDR agents from the Federal Republic brought about by the defection to the West of GDR Capt [as received] Werner Stiller.