

FRG SHUTTLE ASTRONAUT ACCUSED OF CIA TIES

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[Vladimir Vacha West Berlin dispatch: "Man-Smuggler a Hero; DIE WAHRHEIT says: FRG Cosmonaut Is CIA Collaborator"]

[Text] During the last few days the West Berlin communications media have unleashed a glorifying campaign about the crew of the U.S. space shuttle Challenger, which also includes Ernst Messerschmid and Reinhard Furrer. Allegedly, they can serve as an example to youth.

It is no coincidence that U.S. military experts who decided on the space shuttle's tasks have chosen R. Furrer, professor at West Berlin University, the West Berlin paper DIE WAHRHEIT wrote. For the Challenger is to launch into orbit around the earth yet another espionage satellite, the "GLOMIR" [as published], which is intended to spy over the territory of Central America and the Soviet Union. And just at the right time for this came the tip about Furrer, who is no novice in matters of espionage. In October 1964 he took part in the subversive CIA provocation action against the GDR in which Egon Schultz, GDR border guard, was shot dead. To this very day the question remains whether the lethal shot was or was not fired from Furrer's weapon. More than 20 years ago he used to be an experienced collaborator of the CIA. He personally directed the operation in which a specially outfitted passenger car with hidden arms and equipment for CIA agents was used. The cover for this subversive activity, aimed against the GDR, was the so-called TUSMA [expansion unknown] students' support organization.

Now, 20 years later, the possible assassin and smuggler of people has become a model of virtue and heroism for youth in the West. This again proves the kind of heroes chosen by bourgeois society and the ways used by it to manipulate opinion, DIE WAHRHEIT writes.