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USBLE BERLIN

9 Dec. 1965

West Berlin Police Detective Admits Long  
Espionage Career for Soviet Zone Spymasters

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On November 3, 1965, Kriminalmeister (Detective Sergeant) Hans WEISS and his wife, Ingrid WEISS (nee SPALL), were arrested by the West Berlin police for "maintaining treasonable contacts with the East German MIS (Ministerium für Staatssicherheit: Ministry for State Security)."

Weiss, who had performed routine detective assignments as a member of the criminal police detachment serving in the U.S. Sector bezirk (borough) of Neukölln, was specifically accused of having served the Ministry for State Security since being recruited by that agency in 1953. It is possible, however, that his treachery dates back to the immediate post-war years.

From the evidence uncovered so far in the police investigation, it appears that Weiss was targeted chiefly against the West Berlin police system. Although a daughter by his first marriage was once married to an American soldier, and although he had the name of a U.S. Army C.I.D. interpreter in one of his notebooks, thus far the police have not been able to establish that any Allied interests have been directly involved.

Group 1

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From Berlin

Frau weiss knew of her husband's activities and assisted him. He was serviced through a number of known MFS "handling agents" and couriers. weiss was also equipped with sophisticated camera and radio equipment, but has claimed that he never learned to operate his complicated radio properly (a directional device which permitted a gunsight-aimed radio message to be "shot" from his borderside garden home through the border fences to a waiting MFS agent in the adjoining Soviet Zone).

On the day preceding the arrest of the weiss couple they were warned by the MFS that they would be arrested "as of 0800 hrs. on 3 November 1965." In spite of this warning, weiss did not flee, but attempted to destroy incriminating evidence. He did not fully succeed and the captured material, plus the damaging admissions made during their interrogation sessions, has greatly assisted the police investigation. (He is the more taciturn of the two, however, affirming a point only after the police confront him with evidence. Frau weiss, although also a convinced communist, is talking more freely--apparently in the hope that she will be released soon to care for her 12-year-old daughter.)

After learning that weiss received such an accurate warning, west Berlin Police Department I (which is responsible for the "protection of constitutional order") has stepped up a long-time search for one or more traitors within its own ranks. The existence of at least one has long been suspected, and it is believed that the information concerning the weiss raid could only have come from a Department I leak.

Ironically, weiss was due to receive his police pension in December. Department I, which had been investigating him secretly for months, felt compelled to act before he left active service even though they did not have such evidence at that time. Although the original arrest warrant could only be based upon circumstantial evidence, the police have now uncovered most of the factual information which they then lacked.

Comment:

Knowledgeable Allied and police officials have long known that there are unfriendly agents inside the west Berlin police system--some of whom might occupy positions of high rank and sensitive trust. Given the many opportunities for Communist pressure and recruitment existing within this encircled city, this situation is not unusual.

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From Berlin

Professional U.S. intelligence officers regard Department I as alert and capable in its counter-espionage and anti-subversion efforts. Their performance so far in this particular case has been most encouraging.

For the Minister:

*Poland F. Moores*

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Chief  
Public Safety Section