PURGES AND ARRESTS IN THE GDR

SUSPENDED GDR OFFICIALS -- Zurich, Neue Buercher Zeitung, 30 Oct 51

Rudolf Schulze, the Saxon Minister for Trade and Supply, has been suspended from his office until further notice. He is accused of having sabotaged the potato supply of land Saxon through willful negligence. Similar steps have been taken against Manfred Gerlach, Mayor of Leipzig, who is the municipal official for trade and supply, and against the Landrats of nine Kreise in Sachsen-Anhalt and four Kreise in Thueringen.

SED REMOVES OFFICIAL -- Buenos Aires, Argentinozas Tageblatt, 26 Feb 52

The Central Committee of the German Socialist Unity Party (SED) has removed from office Ernst Leibagen, member of the party administration in Saxon, and has excluded him from the Central Committee, of which he also was a member.

SENTENCE SECRETARIES OF HIGH OFFICIALS -- Buenos Aires, Argentinozas Tageblatt, 27 Feb 52

According to the West Berlin newspaper Der Abend, Eva Engmann, former secretary to Otto Henschke, head of the East German Christian Democratic Party (CDU), has been sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment, and Irmgard Erkner, former secretary to Walter Ulbricht, to 15 years in a concentration camp. Both women were charged with political disloyalty.

SENTENCE BRITISH DESERTER -- Buenos Aires, Argentinozas Tageblatt, 30 Nov 51

Jack Stuart, who deserted to the German Democratic Republic from a British regiment stationed in Hannover, has been sentenced to 15 years in the penitentiary for murdering the wife of an official of the East German Socialist Unity Party (SED).
KIDNAP GER REFUGEES IN WEST BERLIN -- Zurich, Neue Zuercher Zeitung, 5 Nov 51

According to the West Berlin police, Hans Reichert, former editor of an East German newspaper, who had fled the German Democratic Republic and had been granted political asylum in West Berlin, was kidnapped on 2 November 1951 and taken to East Berlin.

ARREST JEHovah'S WITNESSES -- Zurich, Neue Zuercher Zeitung, 30 Oct 51

During the past 2 months, 66 Jehovah Witnesses have been arrested in the German Democratic Republic, making a total of 774 members of this sect now under arrest. To date 13 Jehovah's Witnesses have been sentenced to life imprisonment, and 45 to a total of 3,180 years in prison.

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