

GERMANS RELEASE TOP NAZI SUSPECT

Highest Court Frees Naumann, Seized by British in Plot Against Bonn Regime

By M. S. HANDLEE
Special to The New York Times

BONN, Germany, July 28—Dr. Werner Naumann, arrested Jan. 15 by the British security police on suspicion of heading a Nazi conspiracy to overthrow the Bonn Government, was released today without bail by the West German Supreme Court in Karlsruhe.

The Supreme Court ruled there was neither "urgent suspicion against him nor the danger of his fleeing nor his hampering the investigation."

Dr. Dagobert Moericke, president of the Second Chamber of the Supreme Court, said afterward that the order releasing Dr. Naumann did not prejudice future proceedings against the former high official in Joseph Goebbels' Propaganda Ministry and his associates. Dr. Moericke affirmed that he believed proceedings would be taken against Dr. Naumann on the completion of the investigation by West German authorities.

Bornemann Also Released

The Supreme Court also ordered the release of Dr. Karl Bornemann, a former Hitler Youth leader who had escaped arrest by the British in the Jan. 15 swoop and later surrendered to West German authorities.

The Naumann affair caused a great sensation in West Germany where early skepticism was succeeded by serious concern over the dimensions of conspiracy after Dr. Naumann and his seven associates were turned over to the West German police in March for investigation and prosecution.

The British announcement Jan. 15 said: "For some time British authorities have been aware that a group of former leading Nazis has been plotting to regain power in Western Germany. In the field of foreign affairs this group is particularly concerned with propagation of anti-Western views and policies. Its activities have been directed from centers in the British Zone."

The United Kingdom High Commissioner, acting under powers reserved in the revised Occupation Statute, had decided that the activities of this group should be further investigated," the British announcement added. "On his instructions the ringleaders have been arrested and detained for examination with a view to ascertaining to what extent the activities of these men and their contacts within and without the Federal Republic at present constitute a threat to the security of the Allied powers."



Associated Press
RELEASED: Dr. Werner Naumann, one of eight former Nazis, accused of plotting to seize power in West Germany, who was freed on court order pending further investigation.

existing political parties to prepare for the forthcoming general elections Sept. 6 because in his view "these elections will be the last of the kind" in West Germany.

German legal authorities in Bonn said Dr. Naumann's release without bail amounted to a writ of habeas corpus, which the former Nazi had sought and failed to obtain in a British court while he was in British hands.

A spokesman of Chancellor Konrad Adenauer's Christian Democratic Union said Dr. Naumann's release did not alter the fact that Dr. Naumann and his backers in West Germany were highly dangerous to the security of West Germany.

Dr. Nauman told German reporters after his release that he would welcome a trial before a German court. He said he would be able to prove his Nazi organization never existed.

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Others Seized With Naumann
Those arrested were Dr. Naumann, who was nominated in Hitler's will to succeed Goebbels as propaganda minister; Dr. Gustav Scheel, former student leader, former gauleiter of Salzburg and nominated in Hitler's will for the post of Minister of Culture; Paul Zimmermann, former S. S. brigade fuhrer and administrator of concentration camps; Dr. Heinrich Haselmayer, who was Hitler's associate in the 1923 Munich putsch, student fuhrer in Hamburg and author of a work on racialism advocating the sterilization of the unfit; Heinz Stepen, district Nazi group fuhrer, and Dr. Karl Scharping, former official in the radio department of the Goebbels ministry.

In contrast with the reasons given in today's ruling to release Dr. Naumann and Dr. Bornemann, the West German Supreme Court ruled June 17 to continue the detention of Dr. Bornemann on the ground that there was strong suspicion of his participating in an association treasonable to the constitution.

Dr. Thomas Dehler, Federal Minister of Justice, refused to comment tonight on the release of Dr. Naumann and Dr. Bornemann. Dr. Dehler said May 5 that he had underestimated the seriousness of the suspected conspiracy until he had read the voluminous records seized by the British and turned it over to the German Government.

Dr. Dehler said that reading the documents he became convinced that Dr. Naumann represented an acute danger to democracy in West Germany. Addressing the Foreign Press Association in Bad Godesberg, the Minister of Justice said Dr. Naumann had cast his "spider web" over every Right-Wing organization in Germany.

The Minister of Justice reported that Dr. Naumann's notes discussed "the necessity" of infiltrating the

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