

BANDERA

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Page 1 of 2  
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East Berlin Berliner Zeitung of October 14, in article headed "Genie-  
Kinders for Eorn," carried long report of press conference held in East  
Berlin previous day at which one Stefan Lippolz told assembled journalists  
that he had taken part in the murder in Munich a year ago of Ukrainian  
émigré leader Stefan Bandera.

Press conference report described Lippolz as Ukrainian who had been  
recruited by General Gehlen near the end of the war and who had later  
been brought back into espionage work when Gehlen revived his espionage  
organization. His first assignment for Gehlen had been to organize  
poisoning of Bandera, he claimed. Bandera's liquidation was supposedly  
desired by Gehlen organization because, as Lippolz put it, Bandera had  
been working for British intelligence and had refused to transfer his  
network to Gehlen organization. Lippolz asserted that he had been unable  
to carry out murder attack, however, and that as consequence another  
agent named Dietrich Nitsch, who had himself subsequently been murdered by  
Gehlen organization, had been given task. Lippolz supposedly fled to  
Moscow after Nitsch's death and then came to East Germany after he  
began to fear that he, as an accomplice in Bandera's murder, would also  
be liquidated as Bandera and Nitsch had been.

Neues Deutschland report of press conference quoted Kurt Blohm,  
Chief of East German Council of Ministers Press Office, as having declared  
that: "These disclosures show clearly that ruling circles in Bonn  
military state do not shrink from even political and physical murder in  
carrying out their criminal war goals of sharpening situation further  
instead of contributing to negotiations for a German peace treaty."

Comment: Staging of press conference suggests that East German  
regime itself may have organized assassination of Bandera, since from very  
beginning of case East press has consistently reported that Bandera had  
been murdered by West Germans in order to remove inconvenient witness to  
war-time crimes of ex-republic Minister Oberlaender. East Germans evidently

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Oct. 18, 1961

SECRET

plans to keep case alive, since Nebes Dentschland account of press conference contained statement by Lt. Col. Kehl of Ministry of State Security that there would shortly be further disclosures regarding connections between Gehlen espionage service and other espionage organizations in West Berlin.

Since West German judicial investigation of Bandera's murder has not been completed, it is also possible that East German press conference may have been staged in order to put on record a documented East German version of circumstances of Bandera's murder. In this fashion East Germans might hope to minimize impact of possible later disclosures in West substantiating western press speculation about direct East German/Soviet responsibility for Bandera's murder.

LTC/INSP

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