

NATO Is Urged to Shift A-Bombs in Spy Scare

By Norman Crossland
Manchester Guardian

BONN, Oct. 24—Security officers at NATO headquarters are reportedly demanding that the stockpile of nuclear warheads in Europe be moved in view of the risk that the late West German Rear Adm. Hermann Luedke, formerly deputy head of the alliance's logistics department, may have betrayed secrets to a foreign power.

They are asking also that the headquarters staff undergo a stringent security test.

Luedke, who was found dead in a game reserve in the Eifel hills near Bonn on Oct. 8, is reputed by NATO security officers to have had a detailed knowledge of the position of nuclear depots throughout the area of the alliance.

In Bonn, Defense Ministry sources said the extent of Luedke's knowledge of top-secret material had been exaggerated. But public concern is growing, and members of the Social Democratic Party and the opposition Free Democratic Party have raised parliamentary questions about the case and five other suicides of German officials in the past 16 days.

Suspicious about Luedke were aroused after pictures of secret NATO documents were found in a film of his which had been left at a photographic shop here for developing.

Investigations into the Luedke affair are still going on, but so far no connection is thought to have been established between his death and the other suicides. Experts say that suicides are apt to occur in waves, as unstable people may be induced to take their lives having read of the suicide of others.

The most important suicide was Maj. Gen. Horst Wendtland, 56, acting head of the West Germany security services. The latest was disclosed today. A woman who worked in the archives of the federal press office, Edeltraud Gra-

pentin, committed suicide by taking sleeping pills on Oct. 16.

[Police in Linz, Austria's second largest city, Monday arrested a platoon commander on suspicion of taking photographs of military installations and passing them to a foreign service, Reuters reported.]

NATO Investigates Possibility of Spy Ring

BRUSSELS, Oct. 24—NATO spy-catchers have started an intensive investigation to try to unearth a suspected Soviet espionage ring in the 15-nation organization, informed sources said today.

Members of national delegations and the international secretariat are being screened following the deaths of military and political persons in West Germany, Italy and Belgium.

The hunt took on new urgency when top-ranking Turkish official Nahit Imre was caught photocopying secret documents inside the closely-guarded NATO headquarters here in mid-September.

In Italy, Gen. Renato Sandalli, former air minister, shot himself yesterday. In Belgium, police are investigating the unexplained death of the Polish-born French wife of an American sergeant employed at SHAPE.

Police said Sgt. Albert Fallon found his wife, Irene, lying dead in their bedroom when he entered their apartment after midnight one night early this month.