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West Germany's Spy Net

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Compromised by Double-Dealing of Two Agents

BY LARRY RUE

(Chicago Tribune Press Service)

BONN, July 14 — Whatever value the German secret services have for western security may have been canceled by the information that the Russians received from the two self-confessed double agents being tried in Karlsruhe federal court.

There are three intelligence organizations in West Germany: the federal intelligence agency, formerly the Gehlen organization, which was operated by the United States from 1945 until 1955, when the federal republic became a sovereign state; the military intelligence agency, and the office for the protection of the constitution.

Worked for Russians

Gen. Richard Gehlen, head of the compromised intelligence agency, will be pensioned Oct. 1, the independent newspaper, Stuttgarter Zeitung, said. A West German spokesman said

here, however, that he had no information about the report.

Henz Felfe, 47, and Hans Clemens, 41, for 10 years worked for the federal intelligence agency, at the same time informing the Russians of its activities and secrets.

Part of their testimony has been given in secret. But enough already has been heard in open court to indicate the necessity for a complete reorganization of the three intelligence services, of which Felfe and Clemens had an intimate knowledge.

The West German public has learned at the trial that Felfe and Clemens turned over to the Russians the names, code names, and physical descriptions of western agents operating behind the iron curtain.

Western Agents Purged

Western agents in communist East European countries had been systematically purged, and no one seemed to know until now who exposed them to the Communists.

Contentions by the two of them regarding the communist intelligence have caused Germans to ask what benefit the official security agencies have had for the federal republic.

The difference is that the 150

million dollars spent for these services in the last 12 years have gone down the drain.

Combined with the shock at the betrayal of top secrets to the Russians is the distress felt over the fact that it was two former SS [Nazi elite guard] officers and Nazi security agents who involved West Germany in a major political scandal.

Called Untainted Nazi

Both Felfe and Clemens had gone thru the postwar denazification mill unscathed.

Felfe was discharged by a denazification court as "untainted." This caused Federal Judge Kurt Webert to exclaim: "One can only be surprised about this."

Federal Prosecutor Erwin Fischer explained: "This happened with the aid of the British, for whom Felfe worked as an agent after being discharged as a prisoner of war."

Clemens was tried in 1948 before a Rome court and acquitted of charges of shooting hostages. Clemens himself showed surprise at this leniency, for he had commanded an execution squad for several hours.

All from Dresden

Both Felfe and Clemens, as well as Erwin Tiebel, who acted as their courier and also is being tried before the Karlsruhe court, came from Dresden, now in communist East Germany.

Clemens, who joined communist intelligence in 1940, testified that the Russians greeted him and Felfe with hugs and kisses and danced them around Dresden in 1945. The Russians pointed out the bridge to their home city and by British and United States members in July 1945. Between

150,000 and 300,000 persons were killed, mostly refugees fleeing from the approaching Russian armies.

Clemens told the court that he had accepted the Russian offer out of hatred for the Americans.

"They treated me horribly when I was a prisoner of war, and they destroyed my home town, Dresden," he said. "I wanted to repay them two- and three-fold with the help of the Russians."

Dined by Russians

To celebrate the entry of Felfe and Clemens into their intelligence, the Russians dined and wineed them with caviar, lobster, vodka, and champagne. "I drank only champagne," Felfe remarked, "because of my gall bladder."

When Clemens traveled to East Berlin to hand over information to his Russian superior, a man named "Max," the latter had a dog and a lobster ready for him.

"I love lobster," Clemens said in court. When celebrating Felfe's employment by the Gehlen organization in Munich in 1951, Clemens recalled, they also had lobster.

"We drank to the health of Max and so on," he testified, saying everything was fixed up. Clemens testified.

The Gehlen organization accepted an application from Felfe after he had presented them with "valuable information" regarding communist intelligence which Max had supplied.

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