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Kohl and Aide Meet on Spy Case; Intelligence Shake-Up Is Expected

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BONN, Aug. 26 — Chancellor Helmut Kohl met today with his Interior Minister about what intelligence experts are calling one of the worst spy scandals in West German history.

As they conferred, the leader of the opposition Social Democratic Party, Hans-Jochen Vogel, said the Interior Minister, Friedrich Zimmermann, bore "political responsibility for the greatest endangering of security in the Federal Republic's history."

Mr. Kohl's spokesman told a news conference that after a Cabinet meeting Tuesday the Chancellor would have a second report on the spreading espionage affair and then draw the appropriate "personnel consequences" — an allusion to an anticipated shake-up in the country's intelligence establishment.

Parliamentary Hearing Set

Mr. Vogel, suggesting that his party would seek the Interior Minister's resignation, warned that "the scandal can in no way be cleaned up by measures against individual functionaries." In coming debates, the Social Democrats are certain to recall that two of their senior figures had resigned because of espionage imbroglios — Chancellor Willy Brandt in 1974 and Defense Minister Georg Leber in 1978.

Mr. Vogel on Tuesday is to chair a Parliamentary subcommittee that will take testimony from Mr. Zimmermann and other witnesses on the latest spy scandal, which erupted last Friday when East Germany announced that Hans Joachim Tiedge, a 19-year veteran of West Germany's counterespionage agency, had defected and asked for asylum.

This followed the disappearance of two Bonn secretaries and an army messenger, believed to be East German agents.

Security Check Was Ordered

Wighard Härdtl, an Interior Ministry spokesman, said a security check had been ordered on Mr. Tiedge three days before he vanished Aug. 19. Mr. Härdtl said the check had been ordered because Mr. Tiedge was a drinker and led a disorderly life, not because of suspicions that he was an East German operative.

"We assume that he did not know about this," the spokesman said of the security check. An earlier check, in 1963, had determined that "there were problems," he added.

Mr. Härdtl said the latest check had been ordered by Ludwig Holger Pfahls, the new president of the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution, as the country's counterespionage agency is known.

The Interior Ministry spokesman also disclosed that Mr. Tiedge, who joined the agency in 1966, had from 1976 to 1979 been transferred out of the section dealing with the tracking and detention of East German spies, but had returned to it "at his own demand."

Mr. Härdtl said it was still unclear whether Mr. Tiedge was a longterm East German operative or whether he had impulsively decided to defect because of mounting personal problems, which included considerable indebtedness.

The spy scandal widened Sunday evening when a 50-year-old secretary in the offices of President Richard von Weizsäcker, Margarete Höke, was arrested on suspicion of being an East German spy.

Miss Höke had worked for 21 years in the Presidential complex and in her last post was a secretary to a high-ranking foreign policy aide. The position gave her access to top-secret foreign policy documents and reports from West German embassies.

Suspects Reported Shadowed

Mr. Härdtl said that Miss Höke had been under observation for some time. Other Government sources said the woman, who had lived quietly in an apartment in a Bonn suburb, had been recruited by an East German agent who had become her lover.

Friedhelm Ost, the spokesman for Chancellor Kohl, said today that he had no information on new cases of espionage. But there were persistent reports of intensive shadowing of suspects in Bonn and of other imminent arrests. The Government's information policy seemed partly aimed at keeping suspected agents off guard.

In the meantime, counterespionage officers were reported reviewing the cases that Mr. Tiedge had worked on to try to determine if there was a pattern of deception in his work.

In the apparently thin hope that Mr. Tiedge might repent his decision to defect and return, Bonn officials have been trying to get into contact with him in East Berlin. Their efforts have so far been fruitless. Mr. Ost insisted, though, that the Kohl Government was "still in contact" with East Germany on the matter.

The Cologne police are also investigating Mr. Tiedge for the possible murder of his wife in 1962. The official account of the case indicates that the wife, Ute Tiedge, had succumbed to head wounds received in a bathroom accident; neighbors contended that Mr. Tiedge had struck her with a spaghetti bowl.

Sources indicated that Mr. Tiedge emptied his bank accounts before leaving the country, but he apparently did not inform his three teen-age daughters of his decision.

As Bonn's interest was seized by the Tiedge affair, the left-wing Green Party dissented from the general view that the defection had damaged West Germany's security.

At a special leadership gathering in Soltau, the party resolved that the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution should be dissolved since it was incompatible with democracy at home and good relations with neighboring countries.