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CLANDESTINE SERVICES HISTORY

THE BERLIN TUNNEL OPERATION 1952 - 1956

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Appendix C - Typical American Press Comment

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Appendix D - East German Press Comment



## PREFACE

(the Berlin Tunnel project) came into being sometime in 1952 (the exact date cannot be established) and ceased as an active operation in the summer of 1956. The writer served as Headquarters case officer on the project from the winter of 1952-1953 until the summer of 1954 and then as the field case officer until February 1955.

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were intimately associated with the planning and implementation of the project at the policy level and very kindly offered suggestions for the preparation of this manuscript. Their comments have been incorporated and are greatly appreciated. Several other individuals, including

advice were absent from Headquarters during the period the paper was being prepared and thus unavailable to assist.

When this project was first discussed with the then Director of CIA, Mr. Allen Welsh Dulles, he ordered that, in the interests of security, as little as possible concerning the project would be reduced to writing. It is probable that few orders have been so conscientiously obeyed, and yet there

are a great many cubic feet of files connected with this project. These files mainly concern technical and administrative matters. Only those details which, in the opinion of the writer, are necessary to a broad understanding of the manner in which the project's objectives were accomplished have been included in this paper. Those interested in additional data may wish to consult the files.

In addition to setting forth significant developments, the writer has attempted to provide insight into the reasons for certain courses of action. At times this required a speculative approach. The judgments derived from such speculation were shared by all those actively concerned in the management of the project, and it is the writer's hope that they are accurately expressed in the following paper. Any error in this respect, however, is the sole responsibility of the writer.

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August, 1967

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## I. INTRODUCTION

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The exact moment when the idea emerged of digging a tunnel to intercept Soviet and East German communications is somewhat obscure. A number of factors must be considered, among them the following:

a. As early as 1948 U.S. Intelligence Officers became interested in the benefits to be derived from tapping Soviet and Satellite landlines on a scale not previously considered necessary. The loss of certain sources during this period created gaps in our intelligence coverage which were particularly unfortunate during this period of Cold War escalation. It became evident that the tapping of certain selected landlines might produce the information needed to fill a number of the gaps in our overall intelligence picture.

b. In the late 1940's and early 1950's the U.S., through the briefings of "returnee" German scientists (those who were taken by the Soviets after World War II to work in Russia) and other sources, became aware of a c. In the late 1940's the Office of Communications, in the course of its continuing efforts to provide secure communications for the Agency, became aware of a principle which, when applied to target communications, offered certain possibilities. Plans to exploit this technique were immediately formulated.

These factors then served as additional incentives (above and beyond our normal collection requirements) to focus attention on Soviet landline targets. In mid-1951 exploratory discussions were held in Washington to plan the mounting of an attack on Soviet landlines in East Germany with special emphasis to be placed on the Berlin area.

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Vital information on the



during the latter part of 1951, and by March 1952 all of the pertinent technical material had been assembled and sufficiently analyzed to permit the pinpointing of the most important Soviet circuits.

Subsequent events proved this information to be completely correct. Various methods of tapping these circuits were explored and one sampling operation was run in the East Zone, unfortu-

and one sampling opening and one sampling opening and one sampling opening and nately with negative results. By January 1953, however, the effectiveness of

was obtained of the prime target circuit.

The longest continuous sample obtained was 29 minutes and most samples were of two to three minutes', duration. Special mention should be made of the fact that it was necessary to maintain a 24-hour watch over a sixmonth period on "our" end of the cable to record these

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II. PLANNING

Inspection of all sites from which it might be possible to tunnel to the target cables served to narrow the choices to two spots: The site actually used was selected after careful deliberation which

included, but was not limited to, the following factors:

a. The location of the permanent water table (which is normally relatively high in Berlin) was ascertained to be 32 feet below ground surface. It was considered that this fact would obviate the necessity for the use of compressed air, watertight locks, and watertight construction with a corresponding reduction in the attendant engineering problems.

b. The length of the tunnel was considered to be not impractical although it far exceeded anything which had been done

c. Land was available on which to construct an installation from which to begin the tunnel.

d. Complete collateral information on the area was available.

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At this point the following major questions remained unanswered:

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a. Was it indeed possible to dig a tunnel of this magnitude (approximately 1500 feet) clandestinely, considering the fact that the border at this point was heavily and constantly patrolled by the East Germans, and hit the targets?

b. If the answer to the above was favorable, what was to be done with the spoil (reckoned at approximately 3,000 tons of sand)?

c. What type of this portion of Berlin was at that time a "squattersville" of shacks and hovels constructed from rubble by refugees from the East German Zone)?

In retrospect the first question, "Could the tunnel be dug?", was never really a debatable one---those concerned more or less decided that given sufficient money and personnel the job could be done. (This judgment fortunately proved sound.) The second question, "Where do we put the dirt?", haunted the minds of project personnel for many weeks and a great many ingenious ideas were brought forth and discarded for one reason or another until the suggestion was made facetiously that we "dig a hole and put the dirt in it." This in effect was the solution. At this time no convincing

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planning for the project continued throughout 1953 and in December of that year the Director of Central Intelligence approved the terms of reference which the implemencovered tation of the project. A series of conferences in late 1953 and early 1954 led to the following decisions: The U.S. would: a. (1) procure a site, erect the necessary structures, and drive a tunnel to a point beneath the target cables; Contractor and the second (2) be responsible for the recording of all signals produced and (3) process in Washington all of the tele-· · graphic material received from the project. b. (1) drive a vertical shaft from the tunnel's ر و فر می ور د end to the targets; 10





(2) effect the cable taps and deliver a usable signal to the head of the tunnel for recording; and
(3) provide for a

o process the voice recordings

from the site.

Activity thus proceeded on three fronts - in Berlin steps were taken to lease the necessary land and right-of-way easements for the site and a contract was let with a German contractor. The compound, which was roughly the size of an average city block, was fenced with chain-type high security fencing and contained the main operations building (the one story with basement type warehouse previously described), combined kitchen-dining facilities and barracks, and another building which housed three diesel driven generators to provide power for all facilities.

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provisions consisted of a cesspool. (The logical placement of the cesspool was such that it was situated only a few feet from the tunnel site. It later developed when the tunnel was dug that this was quite unfortunate because working conditions in the sector adjacent to the cesspool were, to say the least, highly unpleasant.) Planning called for the completion of this work on 27 August 1954.

For assistance in actually digging the tunnel it was decided to request help from the and to this end the were briefed on the project. The initial contact with was made personally by Mr. Allen Dulles to Fortunately trained engineer, had just been appointed From the first moment he learned of the operation, General Trudeau was an enthusiastic supporter of the concept. (the only available with any experience in member of the tunneling) to head the project. This proved to be an excellent turned in an outstanding job. By choice for mid-summer of 1954 he had firmed up the engineering plans, selected a crew of engineering personnel, and actually constructed a mock-up tunnel some 150 yards long working under operational conditions at a high security base in

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Some mention should be made of the actual method of constructing the tunnel. Studies of the soil structure in the Berlin area showed a high percentage of sand. For this reason it was decided that the tunnel should be lined with steel. The same sand content contributed greatly to the danger of cave-ins at the face of the tunnel, and to eliminate this risk a shield was devised with horizontal "blinds" so arranged across its face that should even dry sand be encountered the danger of cave-ins was virtually eliminated. The tunnel liner was formed of sections of heavy steel plate so constructed that when bolted together, five sections formed a steel ring approximately six feet in diameter and 15 inches long. Provision was made for bolting these rings together to form a continuous tube of solid steel. The men worked under cover of the shield described above (which was slightly larger in diameter than the steel liner) and when sufficient material had been excavated, the shield was forced forward with hydraulic jacks and a new section of liner was bolted in place. Since this method left a void of approximately one and onehalf inches around the liner (remembering that the diameter of the shield was greater than that of the liner), screw-type removable plugs were built into every third section of tunnel liner. This permitted removal of the plugs and the forcing of grouting material under high pressure to fill the void

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after the liner was in place. It was calculated (and subsequently proven to be true) that this method of construction would not permit settling of the soil and detection of the tunnel from the surface. (See fig. 9.)

engineers constructed a mock-

up of the tunnel's terminal end

Meantime

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Available plans indicated that the cables were buried some 27 inches deep along the side of a heavily traveled highway. The top of the vertical shaft (see fig. 11) then needed to be approximately 12 to 14 inches below the surface of the highway in order to give the tapping crew room to work below the ceiling of the shaft, and the whole structure had to be capable of supporting the weight of heavy trucks since the tunnel and tap chamber lay directly beneath the highway. (See

fig. 12.) Considerable care was devoted to insulating the









tap chamber to prevent its acting like a huge drum.  $\frac{3}{2}$ 

Considerable thought was given to the quantity and content of the material available from the target and the manner in which it was to be processed. It was in this field, perhaps, that we experienced some of our greatest problems. It had been decided very early in the project's planning stages to maintain the strictest possible security measures. As a minimum precaution security checks were made on each individual who in any way became knowledgeable of the project's mission, and the same standards in force for clearwere utilized. A list of ances for briefed personnel was maintained, special secrecy agreements were executed, and special briefings were given to all knowledgeable personnel. It was in the assemblage of a processing team that we experienced our greatest problem in maintaining security standards. Since the material to be processed was largely Russian voice, it was thought that we would need

linguists with near native fluency in Russian. It is axiomatic that native fluency is usually available only in natives, and

<sup>3/</sup>In spite of the insulation, it was a weird sensation to be in the chamber when an iron-shod horse trotted across it. We also suffered some anxious moments one foggy morning when the microphone in the tap chamber gave forth with a continuous series of dull thuds. After the sun burned away the fog, visual observation showed that the East German police had set up a temporary automobile checkpoint directly over the chamber. The "thuds" the microphone picked up were caused by the police officer in charge stomping his feet on the road surface to keep warm.





III. IMPLEMENTATION

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By 17 August 1954 things were beginning to take shape and the situation was as follows:

and the Site of the a. The German contractors had completed the

compound and we were in possession. b. All of the basic supplies, equipment, and .

personnel were in Berlin ready to start construction
on the tunnel. This in itself involved transporting 125
tons of steel tunnel liner from the ZI to Berlin. The
initial shipment across the East Zone to Berlin consisted
of one and one-half freight trains, the loss of any package of which could have blown the project. For security
purposes all sensitive items, such as the tunnel liner,
purposes before they left the ZI. Similar items were
differently packaged for deception purposes.
c. Space at Headquarters was secured and the

well under way in fabricating the unique equipment necessary to process the anticipated telegraphic traffic. d. Initial personnel had been selected and were

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being processed

It should be noted that personnel and equipment were programmed initially to exploit approximately percent of the anticipated take. In retrospect, perhaps this could be considered overly cautious. In justification of this decision it should be said that no one had ever tunneled 1,476 feet under clandestime conditions with the expectation of hitting a target two inches in diameter and 27 inches below a main German/Soviet highway. There were those who manifested certain reservations on the feasibility of so doing, and it is greatly to the credit of those senior officials, both civilian and military, that, in spite of these reservations, the

project was permitted to proceed. and the printing of the second In late August a vertical shaft some 16 feet in diameter

was started in the warehouse basement floor (see fig. 13) and ground water was encountered at 16 feet instead of at the predicted 32 feet. Such examination as could be safely undertaken under the steady observation of East German border guards and Soviet officials indicated that a clay lens existed in this particular spot, creating a "perched water table" the magnitude of which was unknown. Available information indicated that the clay lens possibly sloped down in the direction of the target and it was decided to proceed with the tunnel even though the top cover was to be less than half what had been anticipated. 18

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Careful visual observation was maintained and tunneling operations stopped each time the German guards walked over the tunnel on their regular patrols. Pumps were installed to take care of the excess water. Observation logs were maintained, and since the highway under observation was the main road from East Berlin to the Schoenfeld Airport, considerable Order of Battle information was obtained. It was also possible to estimate quite accurately the relative importance of individuals visiting East Berlin by observing the security precautions taken by the East Germans and the Soviets.

Both sides of the tunnel were lined with sand in bags as the tunnel proceeded and the excess spoil was hauled back to the basement of the warehouse. To facilitate movement, a wooden track was laid on the floor of the tunnel and a converted electric fork lift was used to pull a string of rubbertired trailers back and forth in the tunnel. (See fig. 14.) Cool air was supplied to the face of the tunnel through ductwork from an air conditioning unit located in the warehouse. The tunnel was completed on 28 February 1955. Construction of the tap chamber commenced 10 March 1955 and was completed, with the three target cables exposed, on 28 March 1955. (See

fig. 15.) To appreciate this accomplishment it is necessary to remember that the tunnel was 1,476 feet long (roughly the set

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length of the Lincoln Memorial reflecting pool) and that the first half sloped down and the second half sloped up. (See fig. 16.) The lack of an adequate base line made the surveying problem especially difficult. The engineers decided at one point that an object of known size in the East Zone would be useful as a reference point, so a baseball game was organized with the objective of knocking a baseball as far into the East Zone as possible. This scheme was frustrated by the friendliness of the East German guards who kept returning the baseball. Nonetheless, the engineers expressed confidence that they knew their position when the tunnel was completed to a point which could be contained in a six-inch cube. They were correct.

Excess humidity is probably one of the greatest enemies of electronic equipment. To guard against this problem the section of the tunnel immediately adjacent to the tap chamber was insulated and sealed with marine-type plywood to form, in effect, a closed room. (See figs. 17 and 18.) Vapor barriers were erected and, in addition, a heavy "anti-personnel" door of steel and concrete was constructed to seal off the tunnel some 15 yards from its terminal end. From the beginning it was realized that the duration of this operation was finite. Considerable thought was given to the posture the U.S. Government would adopt upon the tunnel's discovery and to those

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measures which would be taken at the site. The following position was finally approved:

a. The posture of the U.S. would be one of flat denial of any knowledge of the tunnel.

b. The tunnel was mined at the point it crossed the East-West Zone border with demolition charges capable of caving in the tunnel liner should the Soviets attempt forcible entry into the cover installation.

c. The "anti-Personnel" door described above was  $\frac{4}{}$  installed.

d. It was agreed that the installation would be defended against forcible entry with all means at hand.

All equipment for isolating and preamplifying the signals and passing them down the tunnel for recording was in place before each tap was made so that monitoring of each pair could begin as soon as it was tapped. (See figs. 19 and 20.) Careful check was kept of the temperature and

4/This door bore the following inscription neatly lettered in German and Cyrillic: "Entry is forbidden by order of the Commanding General." It was reasoned that this sign might give pause to Soviet and/or German officials and gain time. As a matter of fact, there were those Communist individuals who considered the posting of this sign as one of the most audacious aspects of the entire undertaking.

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humidity in the tap chamber to prevent the possibility of the introduction of moisture into the target cables thus causing faults. The moisture in the air caused by the breathing and perspiration of the technicians doing the tapping operation forced the suspension of the operation several times to permit the air conditioning equipment to dehumidify the chamber. All the components in the electrical isolation networks were individually selected and subjected to rigorous tests to insure maximum reliability, and the lead-away cables were constructed of the best available materials, sheathed in lead, and handled in accordance with the highest telephone company standards. The strictest possible visual watch was maintained with the tap crew. In short, in this, as in all aspects of the operation, every effort was made to guarantee success even though in many instances it meant delay in achieving the objective.

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IV. TERMINATION

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The tunnel was discovered (see fig. 21) 21 April 1956, after 11 months and 11 days of operation. A memorandum prepared on 15 August 1956 (reproduced in its entirety as Appendix A) examines in detail all evidence available as of that date on the reasons for the discovery. The conclusion reached was that the loss of this source was purely the result of unfortunate circumstances beyond our control - a combination of the fact that one of the cables was in very poor physical condition (this was known from the beginning) and a long period of unusually heavy rainfall. It appeared that water entered the cable in sufficient quantity to make it inoperative, thus necessitating digging up sections of the cable and causing discovery of the tap.

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## VI. AFTERMATH

As previously noted, considerable thought was given during the entire life of the project on the result its discovery would bring. In retrospect it is probably correct to say that, among those most actively concerned with the project's management, a consensus developed that the Soviets would probably suppress knowledge of the tunnel's existence rather than admit to the world that Free World intelligence organs had the capability of successfully mounting an operation of this magnitude. In other words, it was felt that for the Soviets to admit that the U.S. had been reading their high level communications circuits would cause the Soviets to lose face. Theraps fortunately, fate intervened, and as a possible consequence the Soviet course of action was exactly contrary to expectation.

The Commandant of the Soviet Berlin Garrison, who would normally have controlled the handling of the situation when the tunnel was discovered, was absent from Berlin and the Acting Commandant, Colonel Ivan A. Kotsyuba, was in charge. There is some reason to believe that he (for whatever reason) was forced to make a personal decision on a course of action without benefit of advice from Moscow. At any rate his reaction was unexpected in that he invited the entire Berlin press corps to a briefing and tour of the tunnel and its facilities. As a result the tunnel was undoubtedly the most highly publicized peacetime espionage enterprise in modern times prior to the "U-2 incident." Worldwide reaction was outstandingly favorable in terms of enhancement of U.S. prestige. Non-Soviet Bloc sentiment can be generally summarized as follows:

a. There was universal admiration (and this included informed Soviets) on the technical excellence of the installation and the imaginative nature of the undertaking.

b. The non-Communist world reacted with surprise and unconcealed delight to this indication that the U.S., almost universally regarded as a stumbling neophyte in espionage matters, was capable of a coup against the Soviet Union, which had long been the acknowledged master in such matters.

c. Coupled with regret that the Cold War necessitated such measures, thoughtful editorial comment applauded this indication that the U.S. was capable of fulfilling its role of Free World leadership in the

struggle. Appendix C contains a sampling of typicalU.S, press accounts and editorial comment on the tunnel. Predictably the Communist press treated the tunnel as an outrage and an

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intolerable indecency. Appendix D consists of a study of East German press reaction to the incident. For their contributions to Project awards were made to the following individuals:

Distinguished Intelligence Medal Intelligence Medal of Merit Intelligence Medal of Merit

Intelligence Medal of Merit Intelligence Medal of Merit Distinguished Intelligence Medal Intelligence Medal of Merit Intelligence Medal of Merit Distinguished Intelligence Medal Intelligence Medal of Merit

After the project went into the production phase it was necessary to brief a great many people to properly utilize the product. In all almost the personnel were cleared for the project

5/Unfortunately the writer has been unable to locate an exact record of those persons who received other recognition from the Agency for their participation in this project and any omissions are regretted. It should also be noted that approximately the people participated wittingly or unwittingly in this undertaking. In fact there are very few, if any, of the elements of CIA that were not called upon for assistance, either directly or indirectly (such as providing manpower), during the life of the project.

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## APPENDIX B.

## RECAPITULATION OF THE INTELLIGENCE DERIVED

Set forth below are a recapitulation of intelligence derived from the material and some typical consumer comments.














### WASHINGTON POST 1 May 1950

# The Tunnel of Love

The United States Government has not yet made any official reply to the Soviet and East German allegations and protests concerning the 300-yard tunnel that American intelligence operatives are said to have built underneath the border between West and East Berlin for espionage purposes. Meanwhile, assuming the story to be correct—we cannot help thinking the Communists have made a grievous mistake to raise so much fuss about their discovery. They are even said to have conducted special propaganda tours through the tunnel and to have exhibited the wiretapping and other recording apparatus that the Americans are supposed to have installed inside it.

have installed inside it. The probable result of all this has been to give the anti-Communist resistance in East Germany a good deal of amusement and encouragement. Certainly it must have served to strengthen the impression of American resourcefulness and thereby to restore some measure of our prestige—which apparently had been deteriorating since the equivecal attitude taken by the American authorities in the East German uprisings of June, 1954—among the captive population. The reaction of their kinsmen in West Germany is probably a preify

good index to their own. In West Germany the story has been accepted at face value with astonishment and delight as an evidence that the tradition of Yankee resourcefulness and ingenuity is not a myth after all. Espionage is one game in which the Communists were deemed, even by their enemics, to be particularly expert and our own side to be dismally inept. Very few Germans, as the Frankfurter Neue Presse exultantly observed, even suspected that the Americans "were capable of so much cleverness"; and it would be even more devastating to Communist prestige if it were disclosed that the espionage tunnel had been in operation for some time before the Communists became aware of it.

Indeed, if the tunnel episode turns out to have heen the product of Yankes ingenuity, there is an interesting parallel in American history. During the siege of Petersburg in 1864, an enterprising

the siege of Petersourg in Annaylvania coal fields Union officer from the Pennsylvania coal fields conceived the idea of mining the Confederate positions from a tunnel under them. The tunnel was dug and the mines were finally set off; and though the operation was a fiasce in part because of the failure of Union commanders to execute orders, the boldness of the stroke has compelled admiration even since.

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### TIME MAGAZINE 7 May 1956

BERLIN

Wonderful Tunnel Berlin, city of rubble, refugees, and occasional patches of glitter, is an Alfred Hitchcock dream of subterfuge and suspicion. In back streets, darkly mysterious houses lurk behind high wire fences sugnouses tark bening high wire tenes sug-gestive of darker and more mysterious doings within. Newsmen recently counted 27 separate agencies of Western intelli-27 separate agencies of work in Berlin.

fashionably operatives-some chand in the grey flannel of New York's Mailson Avenue, some with armun holsters bulging under blue serge-report to different headquarters, and rarely know what their colleagues are up to.

In all Berlin there is no spot better suffect to the Hitchcock scheme of things than a rustic, semi-deserted corner known on the U.S. side as Rudow and in the in the U.N. side as Rudow and in the Russian zone, just over the way, as Alt-Clenicke. Self-important ducks and chickens strut like commissars in Alt-Clenicke's cobbled street. Berlin's only working windmill turns lazily in the breeze near by, and close to the boundary present by and Wast stands a 1% separating East and West stands a U.S. separating task and view stanus a U.S. radar station, bending its reticular far to the operations at East Berlin's busy Schöneteld Airport. Two rings of barbed wire guard the lonely radar post, and

behind them a detachment of uniformed Signal Corps men live a life as secret, - 11 C and isolated as monks.

The Big Collar. For many a month, the super-secrecy surrounding the con-struction and operation of Rudow's radar station had fed the possip of bored Amer-icans in the occupied city. There were those who remembered a civilian engineer head to unwarder the jobs he had out in hired to supervise the job; he had quit in disgust because the blueprints seemed so crazy. "Why build a cellar big enough to drive through with a dump truck?" he asked, and was told to mind his own business. Others recalled seeing friends whom they knew to be engineers suddenly appearing at the station wearing the insignia of the U.S. Army Signal Corps. Why? An amused shrug was the only answer ques-tioners ever got-but last week the Russioners ever kot-but last week the Kus-sions thought they had found a better one. • One night at 7 o'clock, an angry, chunky Soviet colonel named Ivan Kotsiuba called a press conference in East Ber-

lin. Purpose: to protest the building by in, turpose: to protest the bound by "American organizations" of a secret tunnel under East German territory, "with the criminal intent of spying." Offered a chance to see for themselves, the Western newsmen were taken to a site some 500 yards from the radar station at Rudow.

A Lot of Money. Truckloads of Ret army troops and squad cars crowsed with Volkspolicit stored by. Mobile presentor were humming to provide lights for th occasion, and at the entrance to a hol dug in the ground, a colonel of the Rusian signal corps was on hand to explain all. Ten feet helow, its entrance a hole of in the roof by the Russians, lay the turn in the root by the reasons, by the root itself: a cast-iron tube about six fe in diameter and 500-500 yands for cranmed with electronic equipment. C bles, tape recorders, ventilating apparat and pumps of both British and Americ make. At the East German end cables ! out of the main body of the tunnel to separate chamber where they were link to two East German cables and a th used by the Russians. What was at 1 American end? The newsmen were permitted to know. As they crawled we ward, a sandbag harrier harred the w its purpose emphasized by a sign read in English and German: "Yom are t

in English and German: "You are t intering the American sector," "This tunnel," said the Russian exp with a note of admiration, "was built last years. The party responsible n have had a lot of money." Who was responsible? Nobody, nei the Pentagon, the State Department

the Pentagon, the State Department, the Central Intelligence Agency, was ing. But as Berlin's papers crapted fully with the news, one flerlin editor a ranking U.S. official: "I den't I whether your people dug that wind tunnel or not, but wheever it was, le say I think it was too bad it was fe It's the best publicity the U.S. has h Berlin for a long time," ٠. 19.20

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# Hope It Is True

Soviet charges that American intelligence agents dug a tunnel in Ecrlin, tapped a telephone cable, and recorded conversations over the Red communication network, which the Reds made with considerable fanfare and during a conducted tour of the spy tunnel for correspondents, gives us some faint hope.

Frankly, we didn't know that American intelligence agents were that smart. In fact, we were beginning to think that what the Central Intelligence Agency needed was a tew lessons on the fundamentals of espionage, from some defected Russian agent. But, now we take it all back. If the Soviet charges are true, American intelligence agents have actually collected some important information concerning. Soviet military operations and installations in East Germany.

We hope all this because that is precisely what the Soviet spy network did and is probably doing right now in the United States. This is not just tit for tat-but a stark necessity in the world of cynical power politics.

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MAY 12155 STAMFORD (Conn.) ADVOCATE 23,166 Circ.: c. Othe Page 2.5 NAY 12 Date: Money Well Spent Moncy weil Spent / There is only one agency in Wash-ington which does not account for the money it spends. The Central Intelli-gence Agency, headed by Allen W. Dulles, has never reported to Con-gress. A special committee, appointed by the President, did make a survey of the agency's activities and was apof the agency's activities and was ap-parently satisfied that it was efficient. parently satisfied that it was efficient. So secre, are the activities of this group that even the amount of money it spends is unknown. Ac-countants have estimated that there is roughly \$2 billion in budgets of other departments which is diverted to the CIA. Naturally enough, Congress worries from time to time that this money may not be well spent. Last week some to the CIA. news came out of Berlin which should calm such fears The Russians discovered that their three main telephone cables from three main telephone cables from East Berlin to points cast were tapped. A tunnel from the western zone, con-nected with the tapped lines and wires, led to sandbags at the zone boundary. The Russians were greatly disturbed. They claim that all mes-sages for several years have been in-tercepted. They blame this violation of privacy on American Intelligence. Our officials have expressed horror 16.20 08.A Our officials have expressed horrors at the charge. They haven't, they say, the slightest idea 'of where the lines lead or by whom they were laid. The Russians are just old meanles to claim we wire-tapped. West Berliners are laughing. Good for American Intelligence, they say. They hope, and so do we, that the Russians have only discovered one of several taps. At least, the expose shows that some of the money spent shows that some of the money spent by CIA may have been very well spent indeset we wire-tapped.

NATIONAL EROADCASTING CONPANY

# Alex Dreier at 6:00 P.M. over WMAQ (Chicago) and the NBC Radio Network:

"And now under the heading, special report, part one.

-UGreat Britain with its frogman spy who turned out to be not so successful in his secretiveness has nothing on us. We have a tunnel we dug under the communist sector of Berlin and which the reds exposed to the light of day, as you probably know, a short while ago. Well, our NBC correspondent, good friend and colleague, Frank Burkholzer, has investigated the story of the wiretap tunnel and he says there's just one conclusion - it's ours. We dug it, we equipped it with electronic equipment to listen in on communist East German conversations for a whole year before they found us out.

"Presumably we should be embarrassed but nobody in Berlin is. In fact, there is a hint of American and West German pride in knowing that we pulled off an espionage trick on the Reds for a change. Of course, the East Germans are making a good thing of it by conducting tours through the tunnel to impress their people with the dastardliness of the American spies, but that may backfire on than because the East Germans are not beyond getting a quiet chuckle at this outwitting of their communist rulers.

"Burkholzor tells us that the United States is stamped all over the listening post tunnel. Now, the tunnel is on the outskirts of town with our end being located under a so-called experimental radar station beside a garbage dump. It runs straight under a plowe field that has white border marking posts above it. The Russians have made three openings for the tourists. One is near the viretap, another at a point about 150 yards out in the field. When an one asks an American why there isn't any radar at the experimental radar station, the usual answer, according to Burkholzer, is, we said it was experimental, didn't we? Want to make something of it?"

"Naturally the army and the government in Washington aren't going to admit anything unless they have to. No one tells who ordered the eavesdropping tunnel built or who paid for it or who did the listening and the digging. Perhaps it was the work of a local Berlin outfit, just a curious bunch of boys. Or perhaps it was done secretly on orders direct from the Pentagon or the CENMAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY. Anyway, it was done well because it wasn't discovered for a year and now the Russians may be wondering how much we learned from recording all the phone talks, possibly includ everything that went through the switchboard of the nearby Soviet airfield. So thanks for the information, Frank Burkholzer, and now we have a question for you. Why don't we open a tourist entrance at our end of the tunnel and cash in on the publicity? Step up, one and all. Only a quarter. See modern espionage in electronic form and all underground, and who knows? Perhaps you will meet an occasional communict tourist."





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NEW YORK

W. S. Wire - Tap Tunnel<sup>2</sup>
 By Casion Cobleriz By Casion Cobleri





AT SPY

BY JOHN H. THOMPSON the tunnel. (Christ Transfer Strift) ERLIN, May 22 - Three American newsmen today s.cod 20 (set underground in the alleged "American spy tunnel," burrowed 300 yards under Berlin's little Jron Cur-tain, and peered into the post miled, and led us down a slow of the American sector (John March 1997) tunnel, "burrowed 300 yards tain, and peered into the post miled, and led us down a slow of the American sector (John March 1997) tunnel, "burrowed 300 yards tain, and peered into the post miled, and led us down a slow of the American sector (John March 1997) tunnel, "burrowed 300 yards tain, and peered into the prover the shoulders of two (Jernan communist tommy) tunnel. Across the border, Vopes acked to inscribe their opi surges of Chinese, Korean British, Americans, and ot is statements for propaganda, the wrote in my handwriting: tunnel. "We wish to thank t

Since then the "spy tunnel," so labeled by the Russians and East Germans, has been vis-ited by more than 15,000 East German worker, delenations German worker delegations, the Communists said.

radar station (the Russians) rugated steel, lined on the, say it is a dummy, owner-ship of the tunnel has not been officially admitted by the American command, here the American command, here

the American command, here reached the castwest bolter. There' behind sandbags two Young Vopos crouched with the unnel, equipped it with the unnel, equipped it with the unnel, equipped it with reponse conversations . since the summer of 1954. To them, it was an astound ing feat, which has greatly enhanced American prestige under the Russian noses, and its 'technical accomplishment, have captured the imagination on expected a sight of. No one expected a sight of. The tenter and the castwest bolter. There' behind sandbags two young Vopos crouched with their guns and a powerful-scarchlight, aimed up the tun-nel under the American sec-tor. Outside again, the 'com-mander asked us what would be the 'reaction in the United States if the Canadians or Mex-ican's drove -such a . "spy unnel" under our borders. "Is it right or wrong for Americans to de this under of. many Germans. No one expected a sight of, the tunnel today when War-

Barbed wire surrounded the ssked. station and its permanent P type buildings. Our Watched by Yanks

German communist tommy gunners. Our host in as ceric a set-ting as was ever devised by a mystery writer, was a jack German communist police, the Schoenfeld. The commander, Our tour was the third per, Name, said that 216 telephone

Our tour was the third per-mitted western reporters since tapped. the night of April 21 when Fluorescent lighting in-the Russian high command.

the night of April 21 when tapped. the Russian high command Fluorescent lighting illu-here announced discovery of minated a switchboard, banks the tunnel and equipment it of current boosters, ampli-said was used for wire tap fiers, and cables. All instruc-ping.

the Communists said. Germans Admire Feat Sifuated in line with an ex-perimental American army oil or air. The tunnel was radar station. [the Russians] made of bolted sections of cor-say it is a dimmy owner rusated steel lined on the

DEDS WAA DING driven out to the radar site the borders of the German MEDS WAA OUNS to press bureau chief. democratic republic?" h

Pens a Thank You Our answer, in halting Gei man, explained that owner American soldiers in sentry ship of the tunnel has no Let 3 U. S. Reporters Tour Eerie Bore BY JOHN H. THOMPSON He tunnel, a state of the tunnel has no boxes watched us, thru field classes as we sauntered to-ward the clearly marked com-ness or wrongness depende upon the side of the fence from which the operation we wated to reveal two sections of the tunnel.

Chicago Tribune 29 May 55

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#### APPENDIX D

NOTE: This analysis was prepared by the **staff** as part of the wrap-up of the operation.

### ROUND-UP OF EAST GERMAN PRESS REACTION TO THE DISCOVERY OF THE WIRETAP TUNNEL AT THE BERLIN SECTOR BORDER

(Sources as Indicated)

The following is an analysis of the East German press reaction to the discovery of the wiretap tunnel at the sector border between West and East Berlin. During the period under review - 24 to 26 April 1956 - a total of 31 dailies per day and four weeklies were available for scrutiny; however; only the dailies reported and commented on the incident.

Mostly concerned with reporting and commenting on the incident were the East Berlin papers which, in some instances, devoted full pages of their local sections to reports and pictures on the tunnel in addition to their front-page or secondpage accounts of developments. The provincial press gave frontpage treatment to the matter only in few instances, generally, refrained from large articles or commentaries, and often carried pictorial material with only brief explanations. The least coverage was noted in the provincial press of other

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than SED (Sozialistische Einheitspartei Deutschlands -Communist Party Germany) affiliation; none of these papers published any commentary, or any cartoon of their own, on the subject up to 26 April, in fact.

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Describing the tunnel as inspected by the journalists after the Soviet press conference, the papers pointed out that the installation was well designed and constructed, that the installation was costly and equivalent to a modern telephone exchange, and that the material - of British and American origin - used in the installation was of such quality as to guarantee long service.

The East Berlin papers, which were leading in the reports on the issue, treated the matter as a "bitterly serious incident" which represents an "international scandal" and a "breach of the norms of international law." The papers, in their commentaries, addressed the West Berlin Senat, demanding an all-Berlin understanding and stressing the necessity for united action, and insinuated that Berlin is being kept divided merely for the purpose of providing the espionage centers in West Berlin with a base for launching provocations against the GDR. Other commentaries by central and provincial papers contained calls for vigilance and for defense preparedness. Only one paper printed an editorial on the incident: In commenting on the incident the press did not draw a line

between the different developments, such as the press conference, the Soviet protest, the GDR Government protest, etc., but, as a rule, the commentaries dealt with the incident as a whole. Later, when the first reaction of the West Berlin press was available, the central press swooped down upon the West Berlin press for attempting to belittle the incident and to divert attention from the "seriousness of the matter." The few caricatures published by the papers were designed

Day by Day Reaction

to slander the Americans.

# 24 April 1956

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On 24 April 1956 six East Berlin papers printed the ADN (Allegemeines Deutsches Nachrichten Bureau - General German News Office) release of individual reports on the Soviet press conference, reported on the inspection of the tunnel by the journalists, and carried excerpts from General Zarenko's letter of protest (1 - 6). DER MORGEN and BERLINER ZEITUNG (5 and 6) printed only the abbreviated version of the ADN release. Six provincial SED papers (7 - 12) carried announcements of the discovery, brief reports on the press conference, and merely an announcement to the effect that a letter of protest has been sent to the American Chief of Staff. Only NEUER TAG, Frankfurt/Oder, printed the long version of the ADN release(12)

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Provincial papers of other party affiliations carried no reports.

### 25 April 1956

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On 25 April 22 provincial papers came out with the ADN version of the report on the discovery of the tunnel (13 - 34); the six provincial SED papers which had carried a brief announcement the day before followed up their reports by more extensive accounts of the press conference, the letter of protest, and the inspection of the tunnel (13 - 18). Papers of other party affiliations joined in the reporting campaign on this day. Only MAERKISCHE VOLKSSTIMME, of all provincial papers, published an "eye-witness" report containing a description of the tunnel and quoting individuals who had voiced their "outrage at such a thing", which produces new material for conflicts in foreign policy (16). SCHWERINER VOLKSZEITUNG, which printed the long version of the ADN release, reproduced the first picture of the tunnel (22).

Meanwhile the central press, in addition to supplementary reports on the discovery of the tunnel, descriptions of the tunnel, and pictorial material showing sections of the tunnel such as the amplifier station, etc., came out with the first commentaries. A total of five Commentaries appeared on this day. The press treated the matter as a "bitterly serious affair" which represents an "international scandal" and a

"breach of the norms of international law," pointing out that the United States violated the Buenos Aires Treaty on Telecommunications on the one hand and the GDR's sovereignty on the other hand (35 - 39). NEUES DEUTSCHLAND spoke of a new, hitherto unsurpassed "gangster act" of the U.S. secret service (35), NATIONAL ZEITUNG termed the incident as a "sensational international scandal" (36), NEUE ZEIT stressed that there is no word "strong enough to brand such wickedness" (38), and JUNGE WELT declared that "this had to happen just to those who always babble about Communist infiltration but can never prove it" (39). All commentaries were addressed to the West Berlin Senat, demanding an all-Berlin understanding for the purpose of discontinuing the "stubborn adherence to NATO policy," achieving the withdrawal of the "cold war experts of all shades," dissolving the espionage centers in the "frontier city," and achieving a "normalization in the situation in Berlin." Three papers reported on a meeting held by the National Front at Alt-Glienicke, at which the population adopted a resolution protesting against this "provocation." Franz Fischer, First Secretary of the Kreis Treptow SED Executive

Fischer, first secretary of the meeting that the Board; was reported to have said at the meeting that the people of West Germany and West Berlin have to pay for this installation through the occupation costs and to have termed the tunnel as "an appendix of the cold war" (38, 40, and 41).

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TRIBUENE, moreover, referred to a report by the HAMBURGER ANZEIGER to underscore the fact that the installations in the tunnel were not of provisional nature but designed for long service (40). DER MORGEN, describing the tunnel, added that West German correspondents who inspected the tunnel noted with satisfaction the declaration of the Soviet Lieutehant Colonel that "quite obviously, German quarters have no part in this" (41), while NATIONAL ZEITUNG briefly referred to an announcement made at the Alt-Glienicke meeting to the effect that the tunnel was open for public inspection (36).

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NEUES DEUTSCHLAND reproduced the first caricature on the issue. The cartoon showed a garden which is divided into two parts by a sign indicating the "Democratic Sector" - full of flowers," and the opposite side - a barren piece of land with a molehill topped by a flag with the dollar sign. A strong arm is pulling out of a hole in the Democratic Sector a mole wearing "U.S."-marked earphones, some sort of Army trousers with plugs and pliers showing from the pocket, and a U.S. Army cap bearing the legend "Espionage." The cartoon is captioned, "Do Not Burrow in Other People's Yards" (35).

26 April-1956 On 26 April 27 papers continued reporting on the issue (42 - 68): In 17 instances the reports were supplemented with pictures as outlined above. A total of 15 papers

printed the text of, or large excerpts from, the press release on the GDR Government protest (42 - 56). Six papers reported on the inspection of the tunnel by the population, the press, and representatives of the diplomatic corps (42, 49, 59, 60, 65, and 67). Four papers referred to a report carried by the West Berlin TAGESSPIEGEL according to which Western journalists were prohibited from inspecting the mouth of the tunnel on the Western side (42, 43, 51, and 58), and four papers referred to FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE which had spoken of an "eloquent silence" about the affair on the part of the Americans (42, 51, 55, and 58). A total of four papers reported on the Alt-Glienicke meeting (51, 60, 61, and 67). NEUES DEUTSCHLAND gave excerpts from Fisher's speech, quoting him to the effect that the people of West Berlin, in particular the SPD members, will be invited to inspect the tunnel (51). Three papers reproduced caricatures (51, 52, and 56), six papers carried  $_{2}$ commentaries (51, 52, 53, 54, 57, and 58), and one paper came out with an editorial (55). Three East Berlin papers, through their commentaries, swooped down upon the West Berlin press for its attitude toward the incident. NEUES DEUTSCHLAND accused the West Berlin papers of attempting to belittle the incident and of lauding the efficiency of the American "goblins adding that the West Berlin press is thus, making vain attempts to divert attention from the seriousness of the matter (51).

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JUNGE WELT lashed out at the West Berlin DER TAG, saying that, by its opinion, the West Berlin paper manifests its total loss of any sense of decency. Besides, DER TAG is not in the least disturbed about the violation also of West Berlin's territory (52). NATIONAL ZEITUNG held that DER TAG now admitted what it has been denying at all times, namely that West Berlin is a de facto part of NATO, adding that DER TAG now regards as "customary" the military espionage of the United States on GDR territory in addition to the "customary frontier-city policy," the "customary" partition, and the "customary" diversionist activities of the KGU and other underworld organizations. The paper stressed that all Berliners fully agree with the FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE which said that the people must demand the discontinuation of "such things" (58) NEUE ZEIT, carrying the only editorial, said that the wiretapping post is a feature of West Berlin's misuse as a NATO base. The paper emphasized that GDR policy will continue to serve all-German understanding and relaxation of international and the state of the second tensions. "But it must be kept in mind that the success of this policy will not only depend on the volume of the appeal for peace but also on our preparedness to defend our homeland as well as on our vigilance regarding the prevention of dangers resulting from the fact that one part of Berlin has be-6 6 7 N 1 4 4 come a frontier city against peace," the paper added. "What 8 

we need are contact points above the ground and in full light, namely all-German talks, and not underground trenches in the cold war" (55).

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The first commentaries carried by provincial papers dealt with the incident as an example of proof for East German press reports on hostile espionage. VOLKSSTIMME, Karl-Marx-Stadt, pointed out that the tunnel represents "a document" which is quite apt to dispel all doubts of those who have hitherto been inclined to regard East German press reports about the underground activities of Western espionage services as "exaggerated" (57). MAERKISCHE VOLKSSTIMME quoted several workers who voiced their indignation over "such a vileness" which makes German unity more difficult to demonstrate that the "Western side" is just as quiet about this "unpleasant affair" as the population is outraged (53). And LEIPZIGER VOLKSZEITUNG stressed that anyone reading about the discovery of the tunnel will inevitably weigh the Soviet attempts at maintaining peace against the efforts made by the U.S. espionage service, adding that this "breach of international law" also places the West Berlin administration "in a peculiar" The paper reminded its readers that war preparation; light." which "formerly marched on Prussian Army boots," is now marching on "American rubber soles, chewing gum, and tapping telephone lines" (54).

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SEUES DEUTSCHLASpin cariculare moved an American soldier trying in vain to "milk" a disconnected, oversized telephone recelver into a bucket marked "CIC" while another soldier is thoughtfully standing by (51). JUNGE WELT reproduced a castoon showing a mole wearing a U.S. Army cap on its head and a telephone receiver on its back halting before a sign which warns that "spies are now facing danger." The cartcon is captioned, "The Underworld that Shuns the Light," and foothoted, "Damned, we did not put up that sign" (52). FREIES WORT showed rats wearing U.S. Army caps being disturbed by a Russian soldier in the operation of what looks like a communication center. Two rats are shown facing the soldier in surprise, another standing with arms raised, and still another escaping through an opening in the wall. The caricature is entitled, "Unpleasant Surprise," and footnoted, "It is an Effrontery of the Russians to Disturb Us in Gu (Burrowing) Work" (56).



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## SOURCES

		24 Apr
1.	NEUES DEUTSCHLAND	24 Apr
		24 Apr
2.		24 Apr
3.		24 Apr
4.	NOD CEN	24 Apr
5.	DER MORGEN	24 Apr
6.	BERLINER ZEITUNG	24 Apr
7		24 Apr
8	SAECHSISCHE ZEITUNG	24 Apr
9	TOT VESTIMME, Karl-Mark-Duade	24 Apr
10	WATOKISCHK VULNOOLIMBLE	24 Apr
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15	VOLKSSTIMME, RAIL WOLKSSTIMME	25 Apr
16	MAERKISCHE VOLKSSTIMME	25 Apr
17	LEIPZIGER VOLKSZEITUNG	25 Apr
18	NEUER TAG	25 Apr
19	TATISTTZER RUNDSCHAU	
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	2. SCHWERINER VOLKSZEITUNG	25 Apr
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2	9. NORDDEUTSCHE MEDIEL	25 Apr
3	<ul> <li>NORDDEUTSCHE NEUESTE NACHRICHTEN</li> <li>MAERKISCHE UNION</li> <li>BRANDENBURGISCHE NEUESTE NABBR.</li> </ul>	· 25 Apr
3	1. BRANDENBURGISCHE REGESTE	25 Apr
	2. BAUERN ECHO	20 Apr
	DER NEUE WEU SERVICE TOTOL	25 Apr
	LIBERAL DEMOKRATISCHE ZEITUNG	25 Apr
	NETTES DEUTSCHLAND	25 Apr
	TATIONAL ZEITUNG	25 Apr
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