

Report from Bonn by Rainer Apel

A bomb that was built in Moscow

Karl-Heinz Beckurts was not killed by "radicals"; he was the victim of a Soviet military operation.

In a seven-page pamphlet left behind to explain their motive for killing West German industrialist Karl-Heinz Beckurts on July 9, the "terrorists" who took credit called him a leading figure in the West German lobby for President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative.

"Beckurts represented precisely the policy of international capital in the current phase of the political, economic, and military strategy of the imperialist system as a whole, which he is promoting." Beckurts, working for the Siemens Corporation as part of the "MIK" (military-industrial complex), was killed because his work aimed at "forcing the socialist countries down on their knees by military means."

The killers said they belonged to the group RAF—the initials standing for "Red Army Faction." Since the RAF has, for some time, come out with rather confused, anarchistic statements, little attention had previously been paid to the simple fact that the name of the group associates it directly with the Soviet Red Army.

For most of the 15 years of the RAF's existence, its public statements were far from resembling the statements that were issued against the West from Moscow. But the seven-page letter "explained" the death of Beckurts in straight Marxist-Leninist terms.

In short, Beckurts was not killed by "radicals" who had acquired weaponry. He was killed, as the incident itself made clear, by professionals. Beckurts' murder was a Soviet military operation, directly, or by contract.

What could be learned from the

police was that the name of Beckurts had appeared in a Communist magazine profiling the pro-SDI faction in West Germany. The magazine, *Rote Blätter*, appeared in November 1985, and named Beckurts and 48 others, including U.S. Lt.-Gen. James Abrahamson of the Strategic Defense Initiative Organization, on a secret list of participants on an SDI-expert panel. The panel, which was convened in Cologne in late June 1985, was covered under the headline: "Our SDI Mafia."

Rote Blätter is the official monthly magazine of MSB Spartakus, the student organization of the West German Communist Party (DKP), which, like the East German Socialists, never does anything without a precise order from Moscow. The official policy of the DKP and its front organizations has always been to denounce terrorism; the decision to have *Rote Blätter* run the names of the "SDI Mafia," however, was like going public with a "proscription list,"

ing a contract to kill.

As a matter of fact, a copy of that same article was found with RAF supporter Angela Senftleber, detained by police in Frankfurt on Jan. 13, 1986. Further, all the 49 names on that list belonged to the same "military-industrial complex" ganda machine has been targeting for the past few months.

Most striking is the following passage from the keynote address that Mikhail Gorbachov delivered to the 27th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party on Feb. 25: "The locomotive of militarism still is the U.S.A.,

is its military-industrial machine, which, for the time being, does not show any intention of operating in a lower gear. This has to be taken account of, naturally. . . . We have discussed our own view of the 'star warriors,' at length. The U.S.A. has already pulled many of its allies into this project. The case threatens to become irreversible. . . . Certainly, the ruling class of the U.S.A., or, to be more correct, its most egotistic groups which are tied to the military-industrial complex, pursue aims directly opposing ours. . . ."

And, on July 9, the day when the RAF terrorists placed the 50 kilograms of explosive to kill Beckurts, the Red Army's daily, *Krasnaya Zvezda*, wrote, "The Soviet Union will have to take necessary measures to neutralize the 'Star Wars' electronic space machine."

Beckurts was as much part of that "electronic space machine," Ernst Zimmermann, the West German industrialist whom the RAF killed in February 1985.

Ernst Zimmermann's company, MTU (Motoren-Turbinen-Union), was also named in the *Rote Blätter* article. The two French generals, Audran and Blandin, who were killed by the French terrorist group Direct Action (which collaborates closely with the RAF), were named as part of that "electronic space machine."

Direct Action bombed the Paris offices of a special anti-terror unit of the French police on the same day the RAF killed Beckurts. In a pamphlet "explaining" their bomb attack, Direct Action compared its own actions to the actions of the RAF, and stated that both were "part of a qualitative jump in the direction of building a Western European guerrilla movement"—i.e., low-intensity warfare against the West.