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## Is German Politician's Death Tied to North Network?

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# Uwe Barschel affair may upset New Yalta, Irangate arrangements

by Mark Burdman and Rainer Apel

Ongoing revelations concerning the mysterious death of Uwe Barschel, the governor of Schleswig-Holstein, West Germany, in a Geneva hotel Oct. 11, are threatening to cause grave political damage to those powerful international forces behind the policy of Western arms sales to Iran and a strategic "New Yalta" sellout to the Soviet Union.

After several days of hysterical lies about Barschel's "suicide" or "natural death" appearing in the West German press and from the statements of West German politicians, the reality-principle began to emerge in a significant way in the mass-circulation West German popular press Oct. 16. Both *Bild Zeitung* and *Munich AZ* ran front-page banner headlines about Barschel's likely murder, and linked the sordid affair to the networks behind international arms and drugs trafficking. The articles pointed to a history of arm trafficking in Barschel's home state of Schleswig-Holstein, a pattern of strange deaths allegedly linked to arms-trafficking networks that have occurred in Austria and West Germany over the past years, and the history of Geneva as a "place of death" for operatives involved in arms deals.

As useful and important as these revelations are, the view of *EIR*'s investigative team is that they only point to a much more important and higher level, in who would most likely be behind the death of Barschel, and why he died. In our view, the events of Geneva Oct. 11, are bigger than a mafia killing, but intersect a raging, intense factional war within the leading policy elites in the Anglo-American world and on continental Europe, and likely, as well, within the circles of international freemasonry.

The key "fault line" in this factional war would be the question of how far, and how fast, to go, in global deals with the Soviet Union. As measured by the race toward a Reagan-Gorbachov summit and the various levels of U.S.-Soviet discussions on numerous issues now ongoing, one tendency in the elite, typified by the U.S. Eastern liberal establishment, the British forces associated with the House of Windsor and NATO Secretary General Lord Carrington, and the West German circles around arch-appeaser Foreign Minister Hans-

Dietrich Genscher, is hell-bent on a global "New Yalta" at all costs. A second tendency, reflected in the recent mouthings of former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, and, with somewhat different shadings among leading strategists in France, West Germany, and Britain, is very worried that this deal is going too far, too fast, and may be ultimately suicidal for the West.

As typified by Genscher, who has for years protected arms sales to Iran on German soil, the first of the two groups is largely co-extensive with those policy factions who have orchestrated the policy of selling arms to Iran. This dates from the time when the U.S. Carter administration orchestrated bringing Khomeini to power. This is the other "fault line" in the international earthquake of what is being called in Europe, "the Barschel Affair." The name for this fault line is *Irangate*.

While many features and details of "the Barschel Affair" remain unexplained, there is no question that the case is a singularity in the international political scene, capable of undoing "parallel governments" vis-à-vis both Iran deals and the sell-out to Moscow.

Minimally, it necessitates a new phase in Irangate investigations. Why was Barschel meeting with Irangate insider **Adnan Khashoggi**, on the Friday before his Oct. 11 death, in a locale, the **Grand Canary Islands**, that has featured in Iran weapons deals, via the Trust-connected **Flick** families and other channels? Given his position as governor of Schleswig-Holstein, a state bordering on the key Irangate center of **Hamburg** and important in its own right for arms deals, did Barschel know too much for certain people? Why was Hamburg's *Stern* magazine in a position to tail him from the moment he arrived in Switzerland, and why did *Stern* journalists, before anyone else, discover his body? What should one make of reports circulated by reliable sources in Europe, that the representative of Iran's Melli Bank in Frankfurt, former David Rockefeller/Chase Manhattan aide Hermann Schmidt, was overheard on a recent social occasion asserting, on the subject of Uwe Barschel, "Everyone has to pay

his price when he's finished?" Was the immediate and hysterical cover-up line about his death, particularly from within West Germany, linked to efforts by Genscher and his circles, to prevent light from being shed on Genscher's protection and encouragement of Iran arms sales on West German soil?

### Freemasonry and the East

For various reasons, parallels are being drawn between Barschel's apparent murder and the murders of both Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme, in 1986, and Italian banker Roberto Calvi, of the P-2 freemasonic lodge, who was hanged from London's Blackfriars Bridge in 1982. The Calvi parallel is more than suggestive, since a freemasonic ritual murder can not be ruled out in the case of Barschel.

Some sources suggest that what may be involved in Barschel's death, is what is known in German as the *Fehmegericht* or "lynch tribunal" that metes out death sentences to those it wishes silenced. It is reported that the Nazis at the close of World War II were engaged in covert operations in Eastern Europe of the *Fehmegericht* type. In modern times, crucial components of the *Fehmegericht* capability have reportedly been integrated into Soviet intelligence operations and use an East Germany-based intelligence operation. This operation is said to have the form of a freemasonic association and to overlap those institutions in East Germany which have historically been involved in "Orientalist"/Islamic studies.

There is no question that Barschel was living under a death sentence. In May of this year, he nearly died in a plane crash, in which the two pilots of the plane died instantly, his bodyguard later in hospital. That having failed, it is a good guess that Barschel was fingered to die by other means. The question is, why? Those giving the orders may, indeed, have been concerned that he was in a position, through family and political connections, to know too much about Iran arms deals: his brother, Eike, for example, is the financial director of the Zurich firm Wild-Leitz, involved in the production of electronic equipment for the West German Leopard II tank. His wife, Freya, née Baroness von Bismarck, has the extensive international political and financial connections that that famous family name implies. There might, however, also have been other or additional reasons for certain people wishing his death: Schleswig-Holstein, as the gateway to the North Sea, is a strategically most sensitive region; and the Christian Democratic governor might have been, especially in the East, regarded as impediment to plans rendering the region even more vulnerable to a Soviet attack.

In this connection, we can point to the role of the "mole" in his office, Reiner Pfeiffer, who was instrumental in leaking information to *Der Spiegel* that triggered the giant political scandal against Barschel, which followed the unsuccessful May plane-crash assassination attempt. The French paper *Le Figaro* on Oct. 15 put much emphasis on the report that an East German defector to the West, Lt. Col. Werner Stiller, has alleged that Pfeiffer is an operative of the East German

Stasi secret service, with the special assignment of running political wrecking operations against the political institutions of the Federal Republic of Germany. It is known for a fact, that in 1979 Pfeiffer collaborated with the Soviet-run organization VVN (Verein der Verfolgten des Naziregimes) in a dirty operation against conservative Social Democratic Senator Seifritz of Bremen, based on forged evidence that he had been a leading Nazi before 1945.

### From 'Affaire Barschel' to 'Affaire Genscher'?

The *immediate* indication of what is involved in Barschel's death, is shown by his meeting on Grand Canary Island with major weapons dealer Adnan Khashoggi. Khashoggi is the Saudi moneybag whose name has featured in all Irangate investigations, together with the names of Washington's Michael Ledeen and Oliver North, Israel's Amiram Nir and David Kimche, Iran's Manucher Ghorbanifar, and others. The meeting locale is also suggestive: The Canaries have been identified in Spanish press accounts as central to transshipments of arms to Iran, via corporate affiliates of the Flick family of West Germany, one of the key families in the East-West "Trust."

For reasons still not adequately explained, Barschel did not simply fly from Grand Canary back to Kiel, where he was scheduled to make an appearance before an investigative committee on Monday, Oct. 12. Instead, he went to Geneva, and stayed at the **Beau Rivage Hotel**, a hotel well-known for being the site of negotiations for arms sales, including to Iran.

In phone communications to members of his family late Saturday afternoon to early evening on Oct. 10, Barschel indicated he was accumulating useful information for his legal counterattack back in Kiel. What this amounted to, in fact, say highly reliable European sources, is that Barschel was preparing himself to *go public* with facts about Iran sales and related matters, as an offensive move in his own defense, to turn around the Schleswig-Holstein political witchhunt against him.

Certainly, Barschel was in a position to do so. Geographically, and in terms of ruling political elites, Schleswig-Holstein broadly overlaps **Hamburg**. Hamburg, as documented in the Tower Commission report on Iran, and elsewhere, has been the center-point of Iran arms negotiations from the earliest days of arms for hostages negotiations; dates and places of Oliver North meetings with various interlocutors are known and documented. Even earlier, Hamburg was a launch-pad for the Iranian revolution, through the Hamburg Mosque of the late Ayatollah Beheshti, and through relevant Iranian links to the "Absalom Lodge" of Hamburg freemasonry.

Up to the point of, and even after, Barschel's death, the Hamburg elites' dirty operations have continued. Reporters from *Stern* magazine were the first to find Barschel dead in his Beau Rivage Hotel room, after having engaged in an

elaborate tracking of his activities from Grand Canary Island to Geneva. Reportedly, *Stern* reporters handled and/or pilfered documents found in Barschel's room, and, as of the afternoon of Oct. 15, Switzerland was abuzz with rumors that arrest and extradition warrants were about to be issued by Swiss authorities against the journalists. Likewise, it was Hamburg's *Der Spiegel* weekly which coordinated the anti-Barschel political witchhunt of the May-to-October 1987 period, through deals with the aforementioned Reiner Pfeiffer.

Hardly irrelevant to the circumstances surrounding Barschel's death, is that Hamburg has loomed all the more important in Iran arms deals, since the British government closed down the London-based Iran Military Procurements Office in September. On Oct. 16, the Hamburg Chamber of Commerce held a conference on the prospects for expanding German-Iranian economic relations, with the keynote speaker being the economics attaché of the West German embassy in Teheran. On Oct. 21, the Hamburg elites' think tank, Haus Rissen, was sponsoring a conference on Iran and the Gulf, with participation from the Hamburg-based Near and Middle East Association, the German-Iranian Chamber of Commerce, and the German Orient Institute, the latter being official advisers to Genscher.

The "re-routing" of dirty Iran arms sales operations from London to Hamburg, Frankfurt, and elsewhere in the Federal Republic, simply underscores the crucial political role of Herr Genscher. It was he who met with Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati in September, and promised export credit guarantees for German businesses making deals with Iran. It was Genscher who gave accreditation to Iran's new ambassador to Bonn, Mostafavi, a fanatic who had been one of the key figures in the Iranian takeover of the U.S. embassy in 1979. This accreditation occurred over the protests of U.S. government authorities. It was Genscher who arranged for Iranian envoy Sadegh Tabatabai to escape West German judicial processes, when he had been nabbed transporting drugs in his baggage. And it is Genscher who continues to provide political protection to a wide array of Iranian operations in Germany, from which terrorist outrages against French, Turkish, American, and other interests have been, and can still be, carried out.

While the events leading up to Barschel's death on Oct. 11 were unfolding, Genscher was in the United States. During his U.S. stopover, he met President Reagan, and insisted on maximal Western back-up for the Gorbachov regime in the U.S.S.R. He also praised Gorbachov to the skies at a St. Paul, Minnesota conference organized by the Institute for East-West Security Studies, a New York-based arm of the East-West "Trust." Obviously, Genscher embodies the unique overlap between East-West appeasement and support for Iran, and forcing out into the open his dirty dossier, would be the only way to really get to the bottom of the Barschel Affair.

## **Irangate's 'Northern Route'**

It should also be stressed that the Barschel affair, appropriately pursued, should provide key leads in blowing apart that component of the Iran arms sales market extending from the European "Northern Route."

Aside from Hamburg, Schleswig-Holstein is important in its own right. Controversy has been erupting for some months, about submarine deals from Kiel's Howaldt Deutsche Werft (HDW), to Indonesia, South Africa, and India. On learning that he had been implicated, a top Indian naval commander committed suicide in mid-April of this year. Also in Schleswig-Holstein, in the port city of Lübeck, is the company Ingenieur-Kontor Lübeck (IKL), among whose trade partners in arms has been Israel.

Hamburg and the Schleswig-Holstein port cities of Kiel and Lübeck are among the nodal points of the "Northern Route" of shady international arms transactions. This extends from Sweden and other Scandinavian points, to northern Germany and Holland, and then into Central Europe, and, via various transshipment points, to Iran. In the complex of trading relationships, there is usually a number of East bloc connections to be found.

In recent weeks, Swedish Customs investigators have been circulating dossiers to most European governments, on the details of arms deals to Iran, details discovered in large part by Customs officials' cracking the connections of Malmö, Sweden businessman Karl Erik Schmitz. Schmitz and his Scandinavian Commodities have been the representatives in Iran, for several years, for various Swedish companies, in mediating arms deals. Swedish Customs raided Schmitz's office on Aug. 29, 1985, and it is widely believed that the ripple-effects of that raid and the Palme government's reticence about more arms sales to Iran, were key factors in Palme's subsequent murder.

Schmitz is reputed to be one of the components of what British, French, and Swiss press accounts are increasingly referring to as the "euro-arms cartel," among the key members of which are affiliates of Sweden's Bofors and Nobel, Britain's ICI, the Bronfman-owned Du Pont Co., and others.

Because of the stresses and strains in international arms sales caused by the U.S. Irangate investigations, British and French animosities toward Iran, etc., there has been, in this year, a wild shake-out in the Iran arms "sales market," with patterns of unexplained deaths. As we detail elsewhere, Austria, in particular, has become the main point where hard questions are being asked, because of the peculiar deaths, similar in modus operandi to that of Barschel, of two Austrian officials, former Austrian ambassador to Greece, Herbert Amry, and former director general Apfalter of the Voest-Alpina firm. Both were cognizant of details of shady international arms deals to Iran and other Middle Eastern countries, and both died on the eve of scheduled testimony before judicial investigative bodies.

# Numerous deaths in Iranian arms scandals

by Thierry Lalevée

But for Uwe Barschel's assassination in Geneva on Oct. 11, many other deaths might have gone without notice. For example, less than 24 hours after the discovery of his body, an AP wire from Vienna asked an embarrassing question: "Is there a link between the deaths of Uwe Barschel, Herbert Amry, and Heribert Apfalter?" On Oct. 13, the Munich daily

*Abendzeitung* reprinted the wire and elaborated on the cases. On Oct. 14, the question was again asked in a banner headline in the mass-circulation Austrian daily, *Wiener Kurier*.

A common thread in the wires and the articles were the quotes from "security experts" asserting that "there exists toxic gas which can induce a heart attack, without leaving any organic trace."

The question not only hints at a wave of unsolved murders, but defines a link between each of them: illegal arms sales to Iran.

Who were Herbert Amry and Heribert Apfalter? They were two crucial figures in a scandal that is threatening to rock the Austrian political scene. Austria's state military industry, Voest-Alpina, sold at least 200 GHN-45 cannons

## Death in Geneva: a chronology

At three o'clock in the afternoon of Sunday, Oct. 11, international newswires started reporting on the mysterious death of German politician Uwe Barschel, whose body had been found at 12:30 p.m. in the Beau Rivage Hotel in Geneva.

Barschel had come to Geneva, to meet an "important informant," who would provide "the last piece of a puzzle proving that a longstanding plot" had been conducted against him, as Barschel told his wife, his sister, and his brother in separate phone calls Saturday evening. Before coming to Geneva, Barschel had been spotted at the private estate of Irangate figure and international arms dealer, Adnan Khashoggi, on Grand Canary Island.

At a press conference in Geneva on Monday, Oct. 12, Uwe Barschel's brother Eike Barschel and his widow Freya Barschel presented the following story:

Although Barschel's stay in the Canaries was secret, the informant had called him there Oct. 9, asking the politician to meet him in Geneva "alone, without bodyguards." The informant, giving his name as "Robert Rohloff," had previously telephoned him at a secret, unlisted number on Sept. 26, offering "information."

Freya Barschel added that her husband was afraid from the moment he got the first call, that "they were after him." After meeting with the informant, Uwe Barschel phoned his brother Eike, and said he had gotten "names in Germany." He would not speak about it on the phone.

He had arrived at Geneva's international airport Cointrin at 3:10 p.m. and met with the informant for about 10 minutes, he later told his relatives. He took detailed notes on the encounter. He was to meet the informant after 6:30 for the second time at the Geneva Hilton Hotel, he told Eike Barschel by phone at about 6:20.

The brothers agreed to either meet that same night, or Sunday morning for breakfast at Eike's home in Yens, near Lausanne. According to the hotel's telephone recorder, Barschel tried to call Eike again at 7:06, but failed. Eike Barschel guessed that his brother's second meeting with the informant had lasted longer, and grew concerned only Sunday morning, when Uwe Barschel did not show up for breakfast. The regional police were informed. Eike tried to call his brother at the Beau Rivage at about 10:00 a.m., but no one answered at the hotel room. Alerted again, the police filed a missing persons report.

At 11:00, the hotel detective noticed a sign outside Barschel's room requesting that the room be cleaned, and then another sign at about 12:00 saying "Do Not Disturb." At 12:30, *Stern* magazine reporters, who had tracked Barschel down from Grand Canary Island to Geneva, showed up and found the door unlocked, they told police. Looking inside, they found the bed unused. Apart from a broken glass and one shoe lying around, the room looked as if just cleaned. In the bathroom, they found Uwe Barschel in the tub, fully clothed and lying on his back in the water, as if asleep. There were no waterspots on the floor, the faucet was shut off, the towels not used, and no wound was visible on Barschel's dead body. Yet the reporters told other media later, that Barschel seemed to have shot himself to death.

The notes Uwe Barschel had made after meeting the informant were not in the hotel room.