

East German security police remain intact

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Despite the resounding defeat which the East German communist party, which now calls itself the "Party of Democratic Socialists" (PDS), received at the polls on March 18, the vast state security apparatus wielded by deposed dictator Erich Honecker, the Staatssicherheitsdienst, or Stasi for short, remains a powerful force in the country. As the new East German parliament just gets on its feet, the potential for the Stasi to run wrecking operations against the fragile new institutions now being formed in there should not be underestimated.

According to an internal memorandum issued by the PDS executive committee in East Berlin shortly after the elections, the party and its Stasi enforcement wing is planning to play every dirty trick in the book in order to recoup its losses in the upcoming communal elections, which are set for May 6, and to slow down the process of unifying the two Germanys. Any politician who refuses to enter into coalitions with the PDS on a local or regional level, is to be discredited through the targeted release of documents pointing the person's former collaboration with the Stasi—similar to the way that Wolfgang Schnur, a leader of the Democratic Revolution party, was forced to resign shortly before the March 18 elections.

According to the West German daily *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* on March 29, a leading PDS member revealed that the party intends to use its well-tested method of presenting forged or altered documents impugning targeted politicians. Since, according to Western sources, Stasi technicians are past masters at the art of forging perfect replicas of West German identification cards and the like, this new task should pose little difficulty for them. Most of the Stasi's reports are already written with cover-names, so that with a little doing, they can be altered to be used against many different people simultaneously. The Stasi remains in the possession of extensive files on 6 million of East Germany's 17 million inhabitants, all of which are maintained in triplicate, or even quintuplicate.

This threat underlines the urgency of immediately handing the considerably monetary assets of the Stasi over to the new government, and of formally dissolving the PDS—a call which is now being raised by many East (and West) German

political groups. In effect, the PDS has no claim to be a "party" in the sense of those which have been formed over the last nine months, because its functions have remained inextricably tied with the Stasi ever since the communists took over in East Germany following World War II.

Markus Wolf under KGB protection

The Stasi's key leader continues to be Gen. Markus Wolf, who remains active despite his formal resignation as head of the Ministry for State Security in March 1987 following a heart attack. On Feb. 12, Wolf sought refuge in Moscow, and speculation is rife about what he is doing there. It is known that when East German caretaker Prime Minister Hans Modrow visited Moscow on March 5, he met with his old friend Markus Wolf.

According to usually reliable information, on March 5-6 a secret staff meeting was held at a location about 100 kilometers southwest of Moscow between leading cadre of all leading Stasi cadre in its Intelligence Department, and members of the Soviet military intelligence (GRU) and secret service (KGB). The main speaker was Markus Wolf. A few quotes from Wolf's reported comments give a clear indication of the current state of mind in the top Stasi echelons:

"Our Soviet Chekists [referring to the old name for the Soviet secret police, the Cheka] have received us here, so that we can successfully continue our struggle. I would like to cite the words of my battle-experienced father: 'There is no greater crime than not wanting to fight when you *must* fight!' The retreat is at an end. Thanks to the selfless sacrifice of our most capable Chekists, all financial and operative battle gear have remained in our possession. All data which would have been important for our opponents, are secure. Everything was transported out according to plan, without the slightest hitch. Battle-tested comrades have their new areas of activity [assigned]. A great portion of our conspiratorial equipment remains with us, and many old comrades remain inwardly faithful to us. Newly created depots have been secured against attack. All collaborators abroad have been comprehensively briefed, have new contact possibilities, and a healthy base of operations. Our most capable comrades have performed their duty to the point of exhaustion; we have thrown off ballast, and are potent and oriented toward the future. Many Chekists are positioned correctly and can be reactivated at the point when that becomes necessary. True to [Cheka founder] F.E. Dzerzhinsky's motto: 'Only he who *is* fire, can spread fire.' "

According to Western estimates, Markus Wolf's department deployed not only about 8,000 agents around the world, but he also had 6,000 Stasi agents reporting directly to him in East Germany alone. His brother Konrad, who until his death was president of East Germany's Academy of the Arts, was likewise Soviet-trained and in 1945 was already actively recruiting former Reichswehr soldiers as spies for the communists.