

Albrecht arrest sheds light on Stasi-terror tie

Susanne Albrecht, a key figure in the assassination of Dresdner Bank chairman Jürgen Ponto in June 1977, was arrested by East German police on June 6, a few days after her return to East Germany following a two-year stay (she says) in the Soviet Union. For the eight years before that, she had lived under the false name of Ingrid Jaeger in East Berlin and worked as a chemicals specialist in a laboratory.

The arrest of Albrecht, and, by June 15, six other safehoused "first generation" Baader-Meinhof terrorists, sheds new light on the role of the East German State Security police—the hated Stasi—in running "Western" terrorism. It also reopens the file on the targeting of Lyndon LaRouche by Communist secret police for well over a decade.

LaRouche was informed in 1977 that his name was high on the same terrorist hit-list with Ponto, a hit list now revealed likely to have been East German- or even Moscow-inspired. Ponto had been involved in mapping out infrastructure investments in the developing sector in ways that dovetailed with LaRouche's famous International Development Bank proposal of 1975.

Albrecht, a friend of the Ponto family, gained access

to the household for the terrorists. After Ponto's murder she went underground and later was reportedly spotted in the Mideast, at Syrian-controlled terrorist safehouses. It turns out now that she also spent some time in Czechoslovakia, entered East Germany from there in 1980, and applied for citizenship—which was granted her in an unusually short time. This affair alone indicates that the ubiquitous Stasi had an active interest in letting her into the country.

Albrecht rose in the intervening years to the level of the privileged *Reisekader*, who were sent abroad by the regime to work. It is rumored that in fact she has worked in Syria for the past two years, and not in the U.S.S.R., whence she returned to East Germany by plane a few days before her arrest.

For years, the role of the DKP, the West German-based Communist Party, and other front organizations of the East German SED regime, was well known in the radical anti-nuclear movement in the Federal Republic of Germany and in the Berlin-Kreuzberg terrorist scene. It is also well known that selected DKP cadres were trained in secret East German camps in conspiracy and sabotage methods, which are strikingly similar to those of the terrorists. The "first generation" of West German terrorists around Ulrike Meinhof had direct contacts back into the German Democratic Republic, and their rise in the West German radical left enjoyed powerful backing from East Berlin.

fact of real life." Reiterating that the Soviet position is that a united Germany "will not become a military power" and a united Germany must "bear the burden" of East Germany's economic commitments to the Soviet Union.

While claiming he "supports Lithuanian independence," Kononov thanked the West for not coming to the support of the Baltic states, because it would "undermine Gorbachov." This elicited the sharp response from one of the Western panelists, "Do you mean to say that the West let you off the hook?"

Directly reflecting thinking within the Bush administration and the Soviet Foreign Ministry to turn the current Vienna confidence-building and conventional forces in Europe (CFE) talks into a Congress of Vienna-style system, Kononov proposed that such superpower cooperation would help solve the "balkanization" in Eastern Europe, particularly Romania. He concluded by again stating in foreboding terms that the Soviet Union should not be pushed too hard on conventional arms control, because "I am absolutely sure everyone in Europe will enjoy a very dangerous result."

As frequently happens, the most interesting portion of the seminar was during the drinks afterward. The chairwoman, "peace research manager" from the University of Amsterdam,

proceeded to distribute an "International Experts' Statement on German Unification," dated May 25, 1990. Among the "expert" signatories were Dr. Frank Barnaby, former director of the Stockholm Institute for Peace Research (SIPRI); Rear Adm. Elmar Schmähling of the West German Navy, who was suspended for violating the official NATO secrecy codes; Dr. Paul Walker of the Institute for Peace and International Security in the United States; Maj. Gen. Valentin Larionov (ret.), Soviet Academy of Sciences; and Dr. Aleksander Kononov.

The statement, subtitled "German armies must become non-offensive," declares that a united Germany within NATO "can easily be perceived as a grave disturbance of the existing balance of forces on the continent," and proposed that the German army, by international mandate, be converted to a totally defensive force without sophisticated aircraft and other weapons systems considered "offensive." According to the document, this situation would be permanently guaranteed through a Berlin "crisis management center" that would include the Four Powers.

Our "peace research manager" guaranteed that this statement had been given to the highest circles in time for the Washington summit.