

Report from Bonn by Rainer Apel

Irangate making headlines, again

Four years later, the big German media begin pointing to real story behind 1987 murder of Uwe Barschel.

One of Germany's biggest weeklies, *Stern*, ran a two-part series on April 8 and 15 speculating why investigations into the death of Uwe Barschel, the German Christian Democrat who died under mysterious circumstances in the bathtub of his room at the Beau Rivage Hotel in Geneva on Oct. 10, 1987, never produced any result. Remarkably, *Stern* declares its own late-1987 coverage of the affair which pushed a "planned suicide" thesis, wrong, and advances the thesis of a "planned assassination," which an *EIR* investigative team was first to pursue four years ago.

A few days after Barschel's death, *EIR* quoted Lyndon LaRouche stating that a full investigation of the Barschel case would help to uncover the truth about Oliver North and his arms deals with Iran. Reliable sources had pointed out that Barschel had "come in the way" of some arms dealers and intelligence agents collaborating in top-secret ventures among the U.S., NATO, and the Warsaw Pact.

In late 1987, a few aspects were already known about a secret "northern route" of the type of North's arms-for-drugs, arms-for-hostages deals. That route ran through some of the Soviet ports on the Baltic, the East German port of Rostock, the West German ports of Kiel and Hamburg, and the Baltic port of Stockholm, Sweden.

Most media—*Stern* included—ran the coverup story of Barschel's "suicide." The decision was apparently taken under the same type of pressure from "above" which an odd report Oct. 15 in the *Baseler Zeitung* said made sure that the truth of the case

would be buried. The daily revealed that the Swiss "political and legal authorities received the message from a high-level source in Germany and through several [other] channels that it would be in the interest of all sides if this case could be declared suicide."

A few days before he died in Geneva, Barschel had stepped down as state governor of Schleswig-Holstein, after a months-long witchhunt by the media and the opposition which had charged him with illegal covert operations, corruption, and public lying. He and his wife left Kiel and were planning to vacation on Grand Canary Island, when Barschel received a message from Kiel on Oct. 9 informing him that his own Christian Democratic party was no longer backing him and was ready to sacrifice him to the media mob and declare him an "unwanted person."

Barschel learned that he had to be back in Kiel on Oct. 12 to testify before an investigating committee. He decided to interrupt his vacation and meet in Geneva the next two days with somebody—maybe several people—who would provide him with information that would improve his position. He sent a telegram to Kiel, declaring that he would "fight so that the full truth comes to light." That "full truth" was what must have sounded like a big threat to many, *Stern* moots.

In October 1982, Barschel replaced Gerhard Stoltenberg, the governor of Schleswig-Holstein who was made finance minister of the new Bonn cabinet of Chancellor Helmut Kohl a few days after the mid-October overthrow of Helmut Schmidt. As governor, Barschel inherited the secret arms

deals of the "northern route" that passed through the port of Kiel with the tacit acceptance of the government there, the government in Bonn, and agencies like the BND, West Germany's foreign intelligence.

Following a high-powered meeting of arms dealers like North, Habib Moalim (Iran), and two Englishmen at the Atlantic Hotel in Hamburg Nov. 20, 1984, there was increased "activity" over several months along the northern route. In 1985 and 1986, Barschel himself crossed the German-German border to meet (as his driver recalls) several men at a well-guarded place near Rostock: Kavelstorf, a secret arms compound run by East German foreign intelligence for arms deals with the Third World. Was Barschel part of the deals, or was he trying to organize his walkout of the arrangement? Or was he trying to cut a special deal?

There never was an investigation of that question. In Part 1 of the Barschel story on April 8, *Stern* wrote that on the Oct. 10-11, 1987 weekend the following arms dealers met in Geneva: Adnan Khashoggi (Saudi Arabia), Alex Illich (U.S.), Mansur Bilbassy (Jordan), Ahmad Khomeini (Iran, son of Ayatollah Khomeini), Rafiq Dust (Iran); furthermore, John de la Rocque (CIA, U.S.), Dirk Stoffberg (Republic of South Africa), Reinier Jacobi (dirty work specialist of the CIA, Australia). There were others, such as Josef Messerer, a Munich-based arms dealer in whose notebook German police later found a cryptic remark on Barschel concerning that weekend. That track was never pursued.

The Beau Rivage Hotel, *Stern* wrote, was known to insiders as "a preferred address of the CIA, used by the U.S. intelligence agency as a lodging for people that they wanted to have under control."