

Report from Bonn by Rainer Apel

A step closer to the truth

New evidence sheds light on the assassination of public figures, confirming what EIR reported four years ago.

In most of the big cases of political assassination of the past 10 or more years, *EIR* has stood alone in its effort to cut through the blather of the “experts” and, based on independent investigation, provide the strategic background to these acts of “terrorism.” Finally, some other journalists have concluded that, indeed, the truth is quite different from what the “experts” have said.

For example, a television special on the death of Detlev Karsten Rohwedder, the director of the Berlin Treuhand agency which oversaw the reorganization of the state sector industries of East Germany after reunification, was recently produced by a team of Germany’s WDR-3 station. (Rohwedder was killed by a sharpshooter on April 1, 1991.)

Although the incident had all the characteristics of a professional contract killing, the authorities and the media blamed it on the leftist terrorist group of the Red Army Faction (Baader Meinhof Gang). What remained mysterious, however, was the fact that, among the core RAF terrorists put on trial, none was ever charged with the assassination of Rohwedder.

The WDR-3 special, aired on April 18, for the first time buried the “RAF terrorist” theory before a broader public audience. It presented a story that might not be true on all accounts, but definitely is much closer to the truth.

According to the documentary, Rohwedder was killed because he fell in with powerful, intelligence-related underground networks of the former East German regime. Sources told WDR-3 that in trying to gain an over-

view of the state sector properties in the turbulent weeks after the collapse of the East German regime, Rohwedder’s Treuhand staff had come across evidence that Socialist Unity Party (SED) and state security apparatus (Stasi) members had been involved in illegal transfers of upwards of DM 500 million (\$310 million) to bank accounts in the West.

Threatened with exposure, the sources said, these networks deployed specialists from a former Stasi *spetsnaz* (special forces) unit, belonging to the Willy-Sänger paratroop special forces regiment that operated out of a remote military base in Lehnin, near Berlin. This unit was trained in the use of NATO high-precision weapons of the type used in the attack on Rohwedder.

Experts of the West German BGS (border police, which also commands special anti-terror units) told WDR-3 that Rohwedder was killed with the first shot, fired through the window of his house—something that only a sharpshooter of special forces quality, not the RAF, could do.

After the collapse of the East German regime, “western” firms hired members of the Lehnin-based special unit, and some of them were stationed in the Düsseldorf region, where Rohwedder lived in 1991.

This may lead to the doorsteps of certain British-linked agencies, which *EIR* has always suspected to be involved in Rohwedder’s death.

It is known, though not proven on all accounts yet, that the SED and the Stasi used banks and investment funds in London for illegal money transfers. There were secret mutual

“business” interests between British investors during the late-Thatcherite period, and East German leaders, not only to sabotage reunification, but to smuggle huge sums of money out before the integration of the eastern economy with the western one was completed. In this context, Rohwedder came under attack in the British press for his plan to slow down the privatization of the East German state sector industry, and instead to preserve production and jobs, stopping the sell-out of properties to “free market” interests.

Also, a Monitor TV special on the national ARD TV channel revealed on April 20 that there are secret files in the archives of the Russian military intelligence agency GRU in Moscow, that back the hypothesis that West German Christian Democrat Uwe Barschel did not commit suicide in Geneva on Oct. 11, 1987—as official analysts would like people to believe—but that he was killed by arms-dealing networks operating between the East and the West. According to this report, Barschel had made contact with a special section of the U.S.S.R. Defense Ministry as far back as 1979.

In particular, Monitor mentioned a GRU file that reports that on June 6, 1984, Barschel paid a considerable sum of western hard currency to an East German intermediary, to enable Moscow to secretly purchase then-embargoed western high-tech equipment. In return, the Soviets sold arms via East Germany, to select Arabian regimes where direct western arms sales were too delicate.

This refers to the arms-peddling cabal of Oliver North and George Bush which, in the early 1980s, operated covertly between the East German port of Rostock and the Persian Gulf. The program didn’t name these names, but its revelations are directly related to the North-Bush affairs.