German Lawmakers Allegedly Informed for Secret Police

By Marjorie Miller

LOS ANGELES TIMES

BONN, GERMANY

The reformed communist Party of Democratic Socialism, fresh from celebrating its triumph at last week's federal election, was under siege Monday with allegations that some of its recently-elected members of Parliament had been informants for the East German secret police.

The controversy centered on the party's charismatic leader, Gregor Gysi, who, after two months in office, national newspapers reported that newly-discovered documents have revealed that, as a lawyer in East Germany, Gysi informed of his dissident clients and received gifts from the secret police, known as Stasi.

Political opponents, including former Gysi client and leftist Green Party legislator Gerd Poppe, called on the PDS leader to quit his seat in Parliament or clear up the charges.

Gysi has long maintained his innocence when it comes to the Stasi, and a parliamentary committee found no proof of any secret police activities on his part when it investigated Gysi shortly after the 1990 election.

On Monday, he told ARD television, "I have not cooperated with the Stasi.

"I have not betrayed anyone. The formulation of a suspicion cannot be sufficient for me to give up my seat."

Gysi said Dieter Liebenow dismissed the new charges as a tired campaign aimed at discrediting the refounded party.

The PDS won 39 seats in the 672-seat German Parliament on Oct. 16, in large part due to the dynamic style of Gysi, who was voted in for a second term.

"I think this is naturally connected with the election gains," Liebenow said in a telephone interview. "If you want to weaken the PDS, you pounce on the most prominent person."

The scandal arises just days after the PDS pressured one of its own newly elected deputies, Kerstin Kaizen-Niethe, to give up her seat because of Stasi activities.

During the campaign, the 34-year-old Kaiser-Wilhelm-Strasse deputy admitted that she had informed on fellow German students while studying Slav languages at Lessing gymnasium between 1979 and 1984. Eastern voters elected her anyway, but PDS leaders said that she had shown no remorse for her activities and they did not want to work with her in Parliament.

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By John-Thor Dahlburg

NEW DELHI, INDIA

Once again, a suicide bomber may have blown to pieces chances that peace can be restored in the near term to violence-stricken Sri Lanka.

Police and military investigators said they suspect a woman with a bomb hidden inside her jacket or a handbag may have blown herself up at the start of the hour in Colombo, with bail hearings or stripped.

"Violence has struck again in the nation moves towards peace and normalcy," said Prime Minister Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga of the leftist People's Alliance, who has faced a serious challenge from Dissanayake for his party's leadership.

In accordance with Sri Lankan law, Commissioner of Elections R.K. Chandrananda De Silva gave Dissanayaka's United National Party three days to submit the name of his candidate to replace the UNP's flamboyant 52-year-old standard-bearer.

President Dirigiri Banda Wijetunga, announcing the deaths of his fellow UNP members as "cowardly and despicable acts," reproached an 11-year-old state of emergency that has been lifted only recently.

The powerful explosion during an election rally in a marketplace killed the candidate, 17 members of the presidential security division who had been assigned to protect him, and several top party officials, including UNP General Secretary Gamini Wijesekara, two former ministers and the party's top organizer for Colombo, officials said.

Hundreds of other people suffered cuts and bruises, and 75 were hurt seriously, police said. The death toll was put as high as 52, though hospital officials had said some bodies were badly mutilated that an exact count was difficult.

K. Wickremasinghe, said the explosion occurred about 10 minutes after midnight Sunday after Dissanayaka, conscious of the hour, jokingly con- cluded a campaign speech by saying, "Instead of saying good night, I wish you all a very good morning."

He turned to return to his chair.

"There was big flash and a huge explosion, when I looked up there was no one on the stage," remembered a woman who escaped unscathed, but whose skirt was smeared with the blood of others.

Tribe Donates $10 Million to Planned Indian Museum

THE WASHINGTON POST

The Mashantucket Pequot tribe, whose two-year-old Connecticut casino is the largest in North America, Monday donated $10 million to the planned National Museum of the American Indian. The gift is the largest single cash contribution in the Smithsonian Institution's 148-year history.

The 210-member tribe's first gaming ventures did not begin until the mid-1980s, but they have already financed a series of sizable donations, including $500,000 to the Democratic National Committee and $2 million to the 1994 Summer Olympics World Games. The Pequot casino reportedly earns profits of $600 million a year and is the 10th largest in the nation.

The American Indian Museum will eventually consist of three complexes devoted to exhibitions, research and preservation of Native American cultures, a main hall that could be named after Air and Space Museum on the Mall, for which construction is to begin in 1996 with a 2001 completion date; the restored U.S. Custom House in New York, which opens Sunday; and a cultural resource center in Suitland, which is scheduled to open in 1997. That building, expected to cost around $50 million, will be largely paid for by the federal government.

The bulk of the contents of all three museums will come from the 1 million objects collected by George Gustav Heye, a New York banker who founded the former Museum of the American Indian in New York. The Smithsonian obtained the collection, considered one of the finest in the world, in June 1990. Since then, most of it has remained in storage.

Pipe Dream Settlement: $750 Million

THE WASHINGTON POST

Three big chemical companies Monday tentatively agreed to completely reimburse consumers who have defective polybutylene pipes in their homes. A settlement that could cost the companies a minimum of $750 million. The settlement could affect an estimated 6 million homeowners nationally.

If the settlement is approved by a federal judge in Texas, it would be the largest property damage settlement in U.S. history, according to the Trial Lawyers for Public Justice. The settlement calls for the companies to cover property damage, repair and replumbing costs at 100 cents on the dollar.

Monday's settlement involves a Texas class action suit against the three chemical companies — Shell Oil Co., E.I. DuPont de Nemours and Honeywell — that made the raw material in the pipes.

Polybutylene plastic pipes were widely installed in homes beginning in 1981. However, they turned out to be sensitive to concentrations of chemicals commonly found in drinking water. For just that reason, the Pequot tribe's Shakopee Treaty Commission, which now supplies water to Montgomery and Prince George's counties in Maryland, earlier this year banned installation of such pipes in homes in the two jurisdictions, although existing pipes do not have to be ripped out.

Graduate Student Council

FULL COUNCIL MEETING!!
All Graduate Students Welcome!!

Tuesday, October 25
5:30 pm

Discussion includes:
- reengineering
- grocery shuttle update
- department involvement
- upcoming trips

Along with a heartfelt thank you and farewell to our wonderful administrative assistant, YingYing!

Stay informed about all our events! Add yourself to our mailing list by typing blanche gsc-students -a username, or send email to gsc-request@mit. Questions, comments, ideas? Give us a call at 3-2195 or send email to gscadmin@mit.

The Grocery Shuttle Lives On!

Thanks to the generosity of Lavender's and all of you who used the service, the grocery shuttle will continue operation throughout the semester. Look for its regular schedule posted around campus!

In order to ensure the long life of this valuable service, please continue to patronize the Grocery Shuttle!

Questions? Contact pswestbr@mit or gscadmin@mit

The BSO Open Rehearsal

Join us for an evening of fine music at the Boston Symphony Orchestra's open rehearsal on Wednesday, November 16. For $10 you are welcome to a lecture and concert of Hector Berlioz's "Romeo et Juliette.

Sign up starting Wednesday, October 26 in the GSC office.

Questions? Contact pswestbr@mit or gscadmin@mit