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'CIA Agent' Given Life as Spy in East Zone

CPYRGHT

Reuters

EAST BERLIN, Aug. 10

The East German High Court today sent a self-confessed agent of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency to prison for life on charges of spying.

Günter Laudahn, 36, who admitted trying to lure an East German pilot to fly a MIG-21 supersonic jet contain-

ing secret equipment to the West for the CIA, bowed his head as the sentence was pronounced and turned his back on the Court.

Laudahn told the Court yesterday that the CIA recruited him through misuse of his personal problems.

Two other men tried with Laudahn, Hans-Juergen Hanke, 22, and Werner Baecker,

29, said they worked for West Berlin escape organizations.

Hanke, who said he was involved in plans to get East Germans to the West via the West German, Czechoslovak and Bulgarian borders, was sentenced to ten years.

Baecker, arrested on the Bulgarian-Turkish border while trying to smuggle an

East German scientist and his wife to the West by car, was sentenced to six years.

Political observers here said they believed the 5-day trial, which was given massive publicity in East Germany, was timed to coincide with the first public celebrations by the Communists Saturday of the anniversary of the building of the Berlin wall in 1961.