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ACTION

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7308
INFO RUFHFT/AMCONSUL FRANKFURT 7401
RUFHSG/AMCONSUL STUTTGART 4510
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UNCLAS BONN 00791
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TAGS: PINR, GW, UR

SUBJECT: INDUSTRIAL ESPIONAGE IN FRG
SUMMARY: FRG PRESS CARRIED FRONT PAGE ARTICLES ON THE
JANUARY 15 PRESS CONFERENCE OF CHIEF FEDERAL PROSECUTOR
SIEGFRIED HUBACK, WHO ANNOUNCED THE ARREST OF NINE
PERSONS CHARGED WITH INDUSTRIAL ESPIONAGE AT THE
BEHEST OF QUOTE AN EASTERN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE UNQUOTE.
END SUMMARY

1. CHIEF FEDERAL PROSECUTOR, SIEGFRIED HUBACK, HELD
A NEWS CONFERENCE ON JANUARY 15 TO ANNOUNCE THE ARREST
OF NINE PERSONS, WHO ARE ACCUSED OF PASSING IBM
COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY TO AN EASTERN COUNTRY. IN FRONT
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PAGE STORIES THE FRG PRESS EMPHASIZES FOUR POINTS: THAT THE ACCUSED WORKED FOR AN EASTERN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE -- PROBABLY THAT OF THE SOVIET UNION, THAT THE ACCUSED WERE WELL PAID FOR THEIR ESPIONAGE, THAT NO NATIONAL SECRETS WERE INVOLVED, AND THAT LAND AND FEDERAL OFFICIALS COOPERATED FULLY IN THE INVESTIGATION.

2. THE ORIGINAL INVESTIGATION FOCUSED ON TWELVE PERSONS SUSPECTED OF INDUSTRIAL ESPIONAGE. ELEVEN PEOPLE WERE DETAINED FOR QUESTIONING, AND NINE ARE CURRENTLY BEING HELD. THE FIRST ARRESTS WERE MADE ON DECEMBER 22 IN FRANKFURT WHERE ~~TWO PERSONS WERE~~ ~~ARRESTED IN FLAGRANTE AS THEY WERE TAKING MICROFILM PICTURES OF MAINTENANCE MANUALS FOR COMPUTERS.~~

3. ~~AMONG THOSE ITEMS WHICH THE NINE UNDER~~ ~~ARREST ARE ACCUSED OF HAVING PASSED TO THE EAST ARE~~ ~~PROGRAMMING SYSTEMS, CIRCUITRY, INSTALLATION TECHNIQUES,~~ ~~MAINTENANCE MANUALS, AND MAGNETIC TAPES.~~ DETAILS RE THE TRANSFER OF SUCH MATERIALS HAVE NOT BEEN REVEALED. THOSE ACCUSED ARE STRONGLY SUSPECTED OF HAVING ENGAGED IN INDUSTRIAL ESPIONAGE SINCE THE SPRING OF 1973.

4. THE PRESS COVERAGE PAYS PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE HIGH REMUNERATION THE ACCUSED ALLEGEDLY RECEIVED FOR THEIR SPYING. ONE INDIVIDUAL HAD DM 86,000 IN HIS PANTS POCKET WHEN ARRESTED; ANOTHER HAD DM 78,000 IN A SAFE DEPOSIT. BUBACK STATED THAT AT LEAST DM 272,000 HAD BEEN LINKED TO THE ESPIONAGE EFFORTS OF THE NINE.

5. AMONG THE PIECES OF EVIDENCE SEIZED IN THE HOMES AND OFFICES OF THE ACCUSED WAS A HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED MINATURE SOVIET CAMERA.

6. THE NINE WERE EMPLOYED IN FRANKFURT, DUESSELDORF, STUTTGART, SOLINGEN, AND KREFELD.

7. FEDERAL PROSECUTOR ERWIN FISCHER PRAISED THE EXTRAORDINARY DEGREE OF COOPERATION EXHIBITED BY FEDERAL AND LAND OFFICIALS DURING THE INVESTIGATION.

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