

Bonn Trades Soviet Spy For 3 Youths

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BONN, Feb. 14—A Soviet spy sentenced to 14 years imprisonment has been exchanged for three West German students imprisoned in the Soviet Union, the Ministry for All-German Affairs announced today.

Heinz Felfe, sentenced to 14 years imprisonment for treason in 1963, was exchanged for Peter Sonntag, Walter Naumann and Volker Schaffhausen, all given prison sentences for political reasons in Russia.

The Ministry gave no details of where or when the exchange took place, Felfe has already served more than six years of his sentence, the brief announcement said.

The West German government had no official comment on the case. However, Dan Morgan of the Washington Post reported that Bonn sources cautioned privately against drawing a connection between the announcement and the present Berlin situation. Thus, there was nothing to indicate immediately that the release of the spy was part of the present series of top level Soviet-German diplomatic moves.]

The trial of Felfe, who worked for the West German counter-espionage agency, was one of the biggest West German spy cases.

The Federal Court said in its judgment that Felfe and two accomplices had betrayed vital state secrets to the Soviet Union.

There was no doubt that he was a top agent of the Soviet secret service operating in the heart of the counter-espionage agency and had caused considerable damage, the court said.

His chief accomplice, Hans Clemens, was sentenced to ten years and a lawyer, Erwin Tiebel, who acted as messenger, to three years.

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