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INDUCEMENT TO SPYING

Paper Says Russians Blackmailed Bormann

Exclusive to The Times from Reuters

MALMOE, Sweden — Martin Bormann, Adolf Hitler's right-hand man, became a Soviet agent in 1920, a Swedish newspaper reported Monday.

The information was attributed to former Czechoslovak President Eduard Benes' intelligence chief.

The report in the Social Democratic Arbetet by a Czechoslovak journalist, writing under the pseudonym of Pavel Havelka, said Soviet dictator Josef Stalin confided to President Benes that Bormann was a Russian agent.

The journalist said he was given the information by the president's intelligence chief, Josef Bartik, in February, 1968, but did not publish it until now because he doubted that anyone would believe him.

Changed His Mind

He changed his mind when Gen. Reinhard Gehlen, the former West German intelligence chief, claimed in his memoirs that Bormann had spied for the Russians and had crossed to the Soviet Union after the war. Serialization of the memoirs has begun in a number of newspapers.

Bormann was not working for the Russians because of ideological conviction but because of Soviet blackmail, Havelka wrote. He was fighting in a Baltic legion against the Bolsheviks in 1920 when he was captured. To gain his freedom he signed a pledge to become a Russian agent.

When the Nazis attacked the Soviet Union in 1941, the Russians searched their files for potential German agents and found

Bormann's 21-year-old pledge. He was immediately presented with a copy and pressed into service, Havelka said.

Havelka quoted President Benes as telling Bartik in 1946, when the death sentences imposed at the Nuremberg war crimes tribunal had been carried out: "If Bormann is still alive, at least he will not be executed as he is Stalin's agent."

Havelka, who has written for Arbetet several times in the past, said President Benes was flattered that Stalin had confided in him. He believed that he was the only non-Communist leader to have been told the truth about Bormann.

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