

First Installment of Memoirs Published

Bormann a Russian Spy in 1941, Says Gehlen

HAMBURG (UPI) — Martin Bormann, Hitler's top deputy, was spying for the Russians as early as June 1941, when Nazi Germany invaded the Soviet Union.

That assertion was made by Reinhard Gehlen, former head of West German intelligence, in his memoirs, which began

appearing Saturday in excerpt form in the Hamburg daily Die Welt.

Die Welt reported in another story Friday that Soviet soldiers found Bormann alive in Berlin in June, 1945. The paper said that an unidentified female witness, the daughter of a former Wehrmacht general,

told the story to a West Berlin lawyer, who in turn took down the minutes.

The newspaper said the woman acted following press reports on Gehlen's book.

"As the most prominent informant and consultant of the Soviets, he was working for the opposition already at the be-

ginning of the Russian invasion," Gehlen wrote of Bormann.

The claim that Bormann was a Russian spy and died in the Soviet Union two years ago already has sparked controversy both here and abroad.

Earlier in the week a Bonn government spokesman said the retired spymaster and his publishers faced possible legal action if the book — due to come out at the end of the month — contains confidential information.

But the spokesman said the government would not block publication of the 500-page volume.

Several public figures, among them Simon Wiesenthal, whose Jewish Documentation Center in Vienna specializes in tracking down Nazis, also challenged the validity of Gehlen's claim.

Installed by Allies

Gehlen was chief of intelligence for the German armies that occupied the Soviet Union during World War II. Later the western allies installed him as head of the West German intelligence, a post he held until his retirement about three years ago.

In the brief excerpt published in Die Welt Saturday, Gehlen wrote that he and Wilhelm Canaris, over-all head of intelligence for the Nazi German armies, had decided that "the Soviets must have had a well-oriented source of information in the highest German leadership."

That source, according to Gehlen, was Bormann, who variously has been reported living in South America and killed in the final days of the war.

Radio Transmitter

"Independently from one another we (he and Canaris) discovered that Bormann had the only uncontrolled radio transmitter.

"But we also were agreed that surveillance of the strongest man next to Hitler in the National Socialist (Nazi) hierarchy was as good as impossible. Any improvidence would have meant the end of the inquiry and the end of us," Gehlen wrote.

Reports that Bormann was living in Paraguay and Argentina "can be dispensed with," according to Gehlen.

He said two trustworthy sources told him Bormann lived during the 1950s in the Soviet Union as a "perfectly shielded spy."

Claim Bormann Was a Soviet Spy Is 'Two-Bit Fabrication,' Tass Says

MOSCOW (NYT) — Tass, the official Soviet press agency, has attacked allegations that Martin Bormann, Hitler's top lieutenant, was a Soviet agent during World War II as a "two-bit fabrication."

In a commentary, Tass said that this story, reportedly in-

cluded in the forthcoming memoirs of Gen. Reinhard Gehlen, a former Nazi and the retired chief of West German intelligence, was a "hoax" aimed at disrupting moves toward East-West detente in Europe.

The Tass commentary Wed-

nesday night stopped short of specifically denying the particular allegations made in Gehlen's manuscript, which is reportedly due for serialized publication soon in the West German newspaper, Die Welt, edited by Axel Springer, an influential critic of West German moves to improve relations with the Soviet Union.

"Now, when the tendency towards detente is obvious in Europe, certain circles in the West that are not interested in an improvement of the international climate — and the Springer concern belongs to them — would like to impede this process at all costs," Tass asserted.

"They think that all means are good for this: both outright lies and 'testimony' by Nazi criminals," the agency went on. "But the Western propaganda men have obviously overdone things with the 'memoirs' of the retired Nazi spy Gehlen. They have paid thousands for them, while the real price of the fabrication about Bormann is two bits."

The manuscript attributed by Western publishers to Gehlen asserts that Bormann became an adviser on German policy in the Soviet Union and that he died there less than three years ago.

Bormann was officially listed as dead in 1954. But a decade later the West German government posted a \$25,000 reward for his capture.

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