

Following is a review of the coverage given the partisan affair in the German press, together with editorial comment.

For specific papers scanned, see Attachment (1).

8 October 1952

[Hessian Minister President Zinn appeared before the Landtag in Wiesbaden and announced that a secret partisan organization was uncovered in Hesse which had been set up and subsidized by American agencies.]

9 October 1952

[Papers all over Germany, West and East, featured the disclosure under banner headlines on front pages and, irrespective of party affiliation, condemned the government and the Occupation Forces. Immediate investigation and publication of the result were demanded.]

Main Points

The Frankfurter Allgemeine (independent, pro-coalition), one of the leading West German dailies, devoted the major part of its front page to an article under large headlines:

A SECRET ORGANIZATION UNEARTHED
PARTISAN MOVEMENT OF THE BDJ
ACCUSED CLAIM AMERICAN FINANCIAL AND ARMS ASSISTANCE

Leaders of the BDJ created a secret organization late in 1950 or early in 1951 which was headed by the second chairman of the BDJ, Erhard Peters. It was to be a partisan group, an armed resistance movement, for the purpose of committing sabotage behind Russian lines in case of a Soviet move westward. Allegedly it was directed against the Communist Party, but it was also anti-Socialist.

On 18 September 1952 several members were arrested during a police raid on the Frankfurt headquarters, but the two BDJ leaders, Paul Lueth and Erhard Peters, could not be found. It was said that Peters was hidden by an American in a requisitioned house out of reach of German police. The arrested were released when they claimed to have acted on American orders.

The group had acquired a property at Waldmichelbach in the Odenwald where partisan training courses were held in secrecy under American supervision. Membership was believed to amount to 1,000-2,000, most of them former Luftwaffe, Wehrmacht and Waffen SS officers ranging in age between 35-50 years. Neo-fascist tendencies were officially denied. The police found arms of German, Russian and American origin, machine guns, explosives and sabotage equipment. Also among the confiscated material were accounts which attested

to ample financial means. Allegedly the organization received 50,000 DM monthly from American agencies via a camouflage business firm.

Further inquiry disclosed that the group had other objectives for which a subdivision, an illegal counter-espionage service (Abwehrdienst) was created. A task of this Abwehrdienst was to classify persons whom they did not consider politically "reliable" in case of a Soviet invasion and who were against ratification of the Contractual Agreements. The leader of this Abwehr confessed that such persons were to be "liquidated" in case of Condition X, if need be by use of arms.

The confiscated material contained files and card-index pages, the latter with names of a few Communists but mainly prominent persons of the Social Democratic Party (SPD).

Minister President Zinn mentioned among them the Hessian Interior Minister Zinnkann, former Ministers Koch and Wagner, Hamburg Mayor Brauer, Bremen Senate President Kaisen, Bavarian State Secretary Dr. Koch, the chief editor of the German Press Agency, Fritz Saenger, and many more.

It was reported that the Bonn Government had had advance notice of the police action against the secret organization of the BDJ, but that it considered the matter a local (Hesse) affair.

The American High Commissioner's office disavowed any knowledge, expressed regret over the allegations and promised all possible cooperation in the investigation.

The BDJ leadership stated that no secret service had been created by it and that Erhard Peters had resigned as second chairman in June of last year.

[This coverage was a fairly typical example of press comment on the first day after the disclosure.]

Editorial Comment

The Frankfurter Allgemeine on 9 October carried the first editorial. Under the headline

OMINOUS TWILIGHT

it expressed the shock and bewilderment everywhere. It called the revelation of plans for liquidation of leading personalities, mostly from the ranks of the SPD, sensational and disturbing and demanded enlightenment of the public and immediate investigation into the role American officials played in the affair. "This ominous twilight must be dispelled."

10-15 October 1952

[The partisan issue remained front-page news and an avalanche of assertions and counter-assertions, acknowledgments and denials, demands and appeasements ensued which was reported and commented on according to the political orientation of the papers. SPD and KP excited; others interested, but not alarmed.]

Main Points

The Neue Zuercher Zeitung, the leading German-language paper in Switzerland, stated that the American High Commission has admitted Zinn's information to be "on the whole apparently correct," but that it does not know which American agency had supported the partisans.

The Frankfurter Rundschau, most widely read paper in Hesse (independent, but internally SPD), said that the Bundesregierung had subsidized the BDJ, that the U.S. High Commission knew about the German partisans but not about the murder list.

The Muenchener Merkur cited the Manchester Guardian as the first paper to connect the disclosure with the impending Bundestag (lower house) elections.

Chancellor Adenauer is quoted as saying that he could not imagine responsible Americans to be connected with the affair and that he was concerned over reported arms caches on German soil.

Federal Minister of Justice, Dehler, said at a press conference that Zinn's disclosure was a maneuver of the SPD to agitate against the foreign policy of the Federal Government and against the signing of the Contractual Agreements. Paul Lueth, first chairman of the BDJ, threatened to sue Zinn for slander.

Large headlines announced the formation of a German-American investigation committee.

The SPD press depicted the BDJ as a corrupt demagogic setup which damages German reputation at home and abroad.

Bavarian Interior Minister Dr. Hoegner (SPD) instituted a court procedure against "unknown" charged with murder, and informed the Bavarian Landtag that in spite of rumors no "liquidation group" of the BDJ had been discovered in Bavaria.

Norbert Hammacher of the Executive Committee of the BDJ told the press in Berlin that the BDJ knows of 10-15 such illegal organizations in West Germany and that it has expelled some 50 members for connection with such groups.

Many provincial papers of SPD orientation demanded a strict accounting and the head of the SPD press, Fritz Heine, branded the anti-democratic character of the BDJ.

SED papers in the Soviet Zone had a heyday as the affair gave them unexpected propaganda material which they used to justify the so-called security measures in the zone. Examples of headlines:

MURDERERS IN YOUR MIDST, FASCIST MURDER PLANS, etc.

Editorial Comment

[Editorials began to catch up with the news. Most papers, including some which generally support the Adenauer government, had worked themselves up to a high pitch. The majority of the press was extremely critical of the BDJ. Though some satisfaction was expressed over the prompt reaction of U.S. authorities, the unspecified Americans who had supported the "Apparat" - as it was often called - came in for harsh criticism, both in the CDU (Christian Democratic Union, government party) and the opposition press.]

Typical is an editorial in the (independent) Berlin Abendpost, entitled

THE BETRAYED BETRAYERS

which said that the Americans who had supported the BDJ had betrayed the best interests of the American and the German peoples, but that they in turn had been betrayed by the BDJ which got money from them under false pretenses.

Another editorial in the Frankfurter Rundschau, 14 October, by Fritz Saenger, entitled

PARTISAN ACTION BACKGROUND AND VICTIMS

questions whether the "Technical Service" was organized against Communist penetration and points out that the men on the black lists, irrespective of their different political tendencies, had one thing in common: their hatred of National Socialism. They remember from a bitter past what such groups stand for, Freikorps, cliques of former officers, etc. They have one sole enemy: social democracy. Then the author retraces the steps that led to the German disgrace under the Nazis and says: "It began just like this; then came assassinations (Erzberger, Rathenau), Feme murders, Freikorps against Bolshevism, decapitations, gas chambers to the accompaniment of 'Heils.' Will we follow this road a second time? Can we, will we, wait until it is too late?"

The Spiegel, sensational weekly, brought a long article in its 15 October edition entitled "All for Germany," in which it described with bitter

sarcasm all that its reporters had dug up in Frankfurt and in Waldmichelbach.
[A complete translation is in Attachment (2).]

16-22 October 1952

[The issue was no longer front-page material.]

It soon became obvious that the SPD was anxious to tie up the affair with the press and propaganda policies of the Federal Government. There was definite confusion in Bonn. While the Chancellor and the Kaiser and Lehr Ministries desired to minimize and play down developments, others went into great detail about the danger to democracy such things as the Apparat represented.

A thorough investigation of the entire BDJ was demanded and statements indicated that the affair was developing into a political football between government and opposition.

Less emphasis was placed on American involvement. Some moderate papers even admitted that military necessity had forced the Americans into unorthodox measures after the outbreak of the Korean War.]

Main Points

The Nuernberger Nachrichten on 17 October featured the discovery of a "Shadow Army" in Bavaria, called "Shocktroop against Bolshevik Subversion," and concluded that the Hessian partisans were no single case.

All papers announced a discovery in Hamburg where seven partisans were arrested.

Articles depicted increased tension, especially between Minister President Zinn and Interior Minister Lehr who declared in a public statement that he would prefer not to reveal his opinion of Zinn's motives for the disclosure. Headlined articles cited Lehr demanding to see the black lists. Where were they? On this subject the press evidenced great discrepancy. Zinn claimed that he delivered to the Federal Court in Karlsruhe what was left of the material after the Americans had intervened. Against this, the Americans demanded insight into Zinn's sources.

The integrity of Paul Lueth is shaken by evidence of his fraudulent assumption of a "Dr. med." title and his former membership in the KP.

High Commissioner Donnelly is quoted as saying that he never saw the liquidation lists and that the Americans ended their interest in the Technical Service in the spring of 1952 when the political situation had cleared up.

Editorial Comment

Many editorials on the subject appeared. Some outstanding examples:

Sueddeutsche Zeitung, 16 October:

HOW FAR CAN FREEDOM GO?

Excerpt: How free is the so-called "free" world? Fear of Communism drives democracy everywhere to the adoption of panic measures (investigations, boycotts) that threaten the rights and freedom of the individual everywhere. In America the struggle is only against Communism. In Europe the threat comes from two sides, from Communists and from the extreme right (neo-fascist) parties; let us remember the Weimar Republic! It started on the basis of a broad, middle-of-the-road party and was corroded and undone within ten years by extremists from the right as well as the left. Must a democratic state go so far in safeguarding the principles of freedom as to allow itself to be undermined by its enemies?

Neue Zuercher Zeitung, 16 October:

THE PARTISAN ORGANIZATION IN WEST GERMANY

Excerpt: Long discussions took place in Bonn between Federal Minister of Justice Dehler and Minister President Zinn. After insight into the testimony Dehler had to retract his remark that Zinn's exposure was "bunk." Official comment and press reports confirm it in every respect.

Members of the T.S. cannot be prosecuted in so far as they acted with American approval, but the authors of the proscription lists are fully answerable to German law. Peters had destroyed part of his documents and handed the rest over to his American employers.

Stuttgarter Zeitung, 22 October:

THE TECHNICAL SERVICE
by Oscar Reinfeld

Excerpt: It is an old truth that men of criminal, adventurous, sadistic or megalomaniac tendencies are attracted by anything mysterious, be it a mysterious man or a mysterious organization. This holds good for the American occupation forces as well.

Unfortunately, Bonn seems to think less of the danger to democracy than of possible damage to election prospects of the government parties. The consequences are clear: There must be no more mystery, but instead the greatest possible publicity. The Federal Government's demand not to dramatize

the affair will not do. Germany should have learned by now that matters which were not taken seriously at the outset are apt to take a tragic course.

Die Zeit (Hamburg), 23 October:

LITTLE PARTISAN, POOR PARTISAN
GOOD AND BAD MONEY

Excerpt: The fog is lifting. What remains is painful for Americans and Germans alike. After the shock of Korea, some Americans gave certain Germans good money and bad advice.

Who were these foolish Americans? A Mr. Shephard Stone, chief of public relations, gave good American money to West German newspapers. The bad American money for the partisans was paid by a Mr. Garwood, the most foolish of Americans.

This reminds us of an old song hit from after the First World War - "Poor gigolo ... remember your gold-tressed uniform, etc." The same sort of people followed the foolish Americans today and played "partisans."

Sensible Americans - thank Heavens they are the majority - know that the military value of such an organization is small and that the moral damage can be very great. So they planned a European Defense Community and said: "Partisan, go home." This lost some German hopefuls their job. So one of them, Hans Otto, went straight to Zinn to "tattle." He headed the section that set up the black lists. More than that: some resentful partisans started the old pot boiling again. In Hamburg they took an oath on Hitler's "Mein Kampf." Uncontrolled by Germans, uncontrollable by American agencies, a Nazi ulcer broke open.

Der Fortschritt, 24 October:

EXPLOSION IN THE UNDERGROUND
CIVIL WAR IN THE DARK

A survey of underground activity which draws the following conclusion: "If there must be an underground, it should be led by experienced men. There must be no bungling! Can we permit private agencies from abroad to plan activities uncontrolled by the German Government?"

23 October 1952

[The SPD announced that it would bring up the whole matter before the Bundestag. A debate on 23 October was to give all parties the chance to present their position.]

24 October 1952

[All important papers in Frankfurt, Muenchen, Hamburg, Berlin, as well as the entire provincial press, brought prominent front-page coverage of the Bundestag debate on the partisan affair.]

Main Points

Attachment (3) is a copy of the press review of some fifty daily papers.

Excerpt: In a turbulent session the Bundestag took up the partisan issue. Speakers were Dr. Menzel (SPD) who attacked the government and called the affair "the greatest political scandal since 1945," Interior Minister Lehr who said that in view of the Communist threat all collaboration in the fight against it must be accepted, Chancellor Adenauer who asserted that "as soon as we join the European Defense Community our country will be defended in a way all Germans would desire and demand," and Minister President Zinn who refuted the government statements point by point and presented new evidence.

25-31 October 1952

Main Points

Former High Commissioner McCloy declared at a press conference in Washington that he had no knowledge of the Technical Service of the BDJ. He admitted knowing about a list containing names of SPD members, as well as those of prominent men of all parties and professions, who might be open to retaliatory measures in case of a Russian invasion and whom the Americans would try to evacuate.

The Frankfurter Neue Presse, 29 October, and many other papers announced that the German-American investigation committee, which had adjourned pending the arrival of an American representative from Washington, would resume its work shortly. The Washington delegate, S. H. Gaines, is now examining the documentary evidence. So far only Germans have been heard.

Justice Minister Dehler regretted in the press that the partisan affair has been made a political issue by the SPD.

Bavarian Minister Hoegner (SPD) said before the Bavarian Landtag that it was intolerable for the Bundesregierung to subsidize secret organizations without informing the "Laender" governments, and attacked the Americans violently for sponsoring the T.S. (he calls it enlistment of Germans in a Foreign Legion). Such organizations smack of the para-military unions and Feme murder bands at the time of the Weimar Republic.

1-12 November 1952

[Interest in the partisan issue is abating and press references finally become sporadic.]

Main Points

An identical report from Brussels was carried by many papers, entitled

PARTISAN ORGANIZATIONS ALL OVER EUROPE

It claimed that Americans have set up similar groups in France, the Benelux countries, Italy, and even behind the Iron Curtain.

Die Gegenwart, a magazine appearing every second Saturday in Frankfurt, published in the 8 November issue a comprehensive article, entitled

CITIZENS AND PARTISANS
REVELATIONS ABOUT THE TECHNICAL SERVICE OF THE BDJ

The title is taken from a publication by Paul Lueth in which he gave detailed instructions on measures to combat internal disturbances. "Early blood may save much blood later!"

13 November 1952

[A new flare-up in the press centers around the release of the last three "partisans" from arrest.]

Main Points

Among many others, the three leading Frankfurt papers - Frankfurter Allgemeine, Frankfurter Rundschau and Frankfurter Neue Presse - brought articles headlined

LAST PARTISANS RELEASED

and stated that the Federal Court in Karlsruhe found no confirmation of offenses against the Penal Code.

Bonn received the announcement with satisfaction and it was said that this court judgment made Zinn's accusations even less comprehensible. Zinn branded the release of the last three partisans "a lost battle for democracy," and headlined articles with the same title were widely published. He criticized the handling of the case by the Federal Court: "We are asked to put up with the fact that political adventurers in the pay of foreign powers collect uncontrollable information from dark sources for their own use."

Minister of Justice Dehler replied that the task of the Court was merely to decide whether there had been an infringement of the Penal Code, not to pass on political consequences, and that the investigation by the Federal Court had his full approval.

Zinn announced that a "White Book" is being prepared by the Hessian Government and that after its publication the world will be able to pass its own judgment on the case.

14 November 1952

Main Points

In an article entitled

GERMAN-AMERICAN CONFLICT OVER
INVESTIGATION OF PARTISAN AFFAIR

the Frankfurter Rundschau states that an open conflict has arisen between the German members of the investigation committee and the American delegate. The investigation had made good progress up to a certain point. Difficulties then arose from the American contention that the Technical Service was a military organization which they were entitled to set up under the Occupation Statute and the German standpoint that it had assumed functions beyond military scope which they consider a threat to internal peace.

15-19 November 1952

[The Wiesbadener Kurier (SPD) on 15 November devoted a full page to a review of the entire affair drawn from material in the hands of the Hessian Government. The Kasseler Post (extreme nationalist) replied on 18 November.

Otherwise there was little attention in the press.]

Main Points

Articles announced the complete breakdown of the German-American investigation committee, a head-on collision between Mr. Gaines and German delegate Manek. Contributing was the American rejection of the German demand that the involved Americans should also be made to testify.

Announcement was made of High Commissioner Donnelly's invitation to SPD leader Ollenhauer and Minister President Zinn to confer with him in Bad Godesberg on the issue.

20-21 November 1952

Main Points

Donnelly and Zinn issued a joint statement that "by mutual consent the German-American commission has suspended its examination." They concurred that American authorities had been unaware of the illegal activities of the Technical Service.

Over the Bavarian Radio Network Zinn asked for legislation against secret organizations. "Today Germany resembles a 'jungle' in which all sorts of

agents and counter-agents, camouflage organizations, etc., flourish." The Occupation Statute has favored their development.

Editorial Comment

Frankfurter Rundschau, 21 November,

BETWEEN THE LINES OF THE PARTISAN STATEMENT

by Hans Henrich

Excerpt: The wording of the joint statement by Donnelly and Zinn betrays how difficult it must have been for them to agree. In contrast to the BDJ, the High Commissioner does not deny the possibility of illegal activities by the Technical Service, but stresses that American agencies - he can vouch only for those under him - were unaware of them and did not support them.

Hence it must be concluded that the T.S. acted on its own authority and in full knowledge of their illegality. Though Bonn and Karlsruhe refused to accept this conclusion, the facts should have been investigated objectively.

A disciplinary investigation might still promise success, if Justice Minister Dehler were strong enough to undertake it over the opposition of the Cabinet.

A last article in Der Spiegel, 3 December, commented in acid terms on the Gaines-Manek controversy. It went on to say that little clarity was achieved in regard to the proscription lists and that the Frankfurt committee has not been able to get at the root of the problem.

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[This concludes coverage of the partisan affair in the West German press up to 31 December 1952.]

Attachments:

- (1) - List of papers scanned
- (2) - Translation of article from Der Spiegel
- (3) - Press review of Bundestag debate

LIST OF PAPERS SCANNED

Aachener Nachrichten
Abendpost
Badische Neueste Nachrichten
Badische Zeitung
Braunschweiger Zeitung
Christ und Welt
Das ganze Deutschland
Der Fortschritt
Der Kurier, Berlin
Der Mittag
Der Spiegel
Der Stern
Der Tag, Berlin
Der Tagesspiegel
Die Gegenwart
Die Neue Zeitung
Die Rheinpfalz
Die Welt, Hamburg
Die Zeit
Deutsche Soldatenzeitung
Deutsche Zeitung
Flensburger Tageblatt
Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung
Frankfurter Neue Presse
Frankfurter Rundschau
Hamburger Abendblatt
Hannoversche Allgemeine Zeitung
Hannoversche Presse
Kasseler Post
Kasseler Zeitung
Kieler Nachrichten
Koelnische Rundschau
Muenchener Merkur
Nuernberger Nachrichten
Passauer Neue Presse
Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung
Rheinische Post
Rheinischer Merkur
Sonntagsblatt
Suedkurier
Sueddeutsche Zeitung
Schwaebische Landeszeitung
Schwaebisches Tageblatt
Stuttgarter Nachrichten
Stuttgarter Zeitung
Telegraf, Berlin
Weser-Kurier
Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung
Westdeutsche Neue Presse
Westfaelische Rundschau
Freies Volk
Neue Zuercher Zeitung

From Der Spiegel,
15 October 1952

Partisans

ALL FOR GERMANY

In some places people say "You must come from the moon"; in Hesse they say today "You must come from Waldmichelbach." Sixteen curving kilometers of road separate Weinheim on the Bergstrasse from this quiet little spot high up in the Odenwald. It numbers about 3,000 inhabitants, and is governed by a CDU mayor. The inhabitants of the little Hessian town cannot yet understand why their little Waldmichelbach has become famous all over the world.

Over the last weekend they sat around shaking their heads and reading reports about the alleged partisans of the BDJ who were supposed to have been trained in secret arms in the villa of Kammerzaenger Wagner at the upper end of the Hammegasse. Up there, where the renovated house of the Berlin Kammerzaenger is located, the Hammegasse is only a steep path through the woods, hardly recognizable from the street below because it leads through the property of the hauling firm Hoffmann. Two hundred meters above the Hoffmann place, directly behind the little property of the farmer Wilhelm Diehm, lies the neat little white house with four rooms on the second floor, a roomy attic and two adjoining garages, surrounded by a fence of natural wood. It is hidden deep in the woods. The doors are closed, the curtains let down; nothing stirs there anymore. "Twelve to fourteen men in a private automobile or in VW buses used to come up here every week. But if they had shot off guns I would have heard it." This was the sworn testimony of Wilhelm Diehm last weekend. His house lies about 50 meters away. "That is pure nonsense," said Hoffmann last Friday, two days after the announcement of Hessian Minister President Zinn about the "Technical Service" of the BDJ. "Where are they supposed to have fired guns?"

In the restaurant of Philipp Lammer, near the railroad station, and in the Restaurant Roeth near the church, there was not a single inhabitant of Waldmichelbach who disagreed that evening. "This cannot be true. We would have noticed something."

Inhabitants of Waldmichelbach began to have their doubts only when Der Spiegel showed them a handful of used small-caliber ammunition. It came from the back garage of the partisan house.

The people could not understand: "We were always told that that was a recreation home." Diehm up there near the partisan villa was speechless at first. Then he said: "I would never have thought that, but if those people had been left-wingers I would have been even more disturbed. Since they are right-wingers, I don't care. Since we are told that what they did up there had something to do with

a Russian invasion, then everything must have been for the good of Germany. More was found at that time in the new garage near the earth-covered back wall of the Wagner house: an empty cardboard box which had contained 500 small-caliber shells. The inscription read "Winchester Super Speed, 22 Long Rifle, 50 Long-Range Rim Fire Cartridges. Made in USA." A strange structure, this back garage. It was long enough for two cars end to end, but the floor of the remote half was 30 cm higher and covered with sand. The back wall is riddled with shots. It was a real firing range and the U.S. cartridges found imbedded in the sand were fired from pistols with silencers which the "vacation guests from Frankfurt" used here during the summer for secret target practice.

When shown the USED CARTRIDGES, the mason Georg Hering from Waldmichelbach, who had constructed the garage and the dining room above it, said: "The long back part of the garage was my own idea. I did it because it gave the dining room more air from below."

When Hering received the order for the reconstruction and renovation in April 1951 Kammermaenger Wagner from Munich had just rented his house for two years to 1 April 1953 to the wood merchant Emil Peters of Lorsch near Bensheim. Nobody ever saw Peters in Waldmichelbach. The work was supervised by his son, the former second chairman of the BDJ, Erhard Peters. This Peters told attorney Wilhelm Saeger in Waldmichelbach (Saeger was the agent for the transaction) that he wanted to use the villa as a recreation home for employees of his "wholesale wood concern in Neu Isenburg," near Frankfurt.

Instead of tired employees, Erhard Peters appeared with an American, Sterling Garwood, accompanied by his wife, two sons and a lot of luggage. They moved into the newly renovated house. "I have seen Peters with the Ami repeatedly on their way up there," recalls Hoffmann. "The Ami seemed to like to paint. I thought he had moved up there to paint." In the late summer of 1951 Mr. Garwood packed up his belongings and moved to the nearby Odenwald village of Steinbach near Fuerth, where he had bought a two-story house in the main street from painter Hollacher on 1 August. "He was here very rarely; usually he stayed only one night," said the people in Steinbach.

That Garwood was home so rarely had its reasons. Most of the time he spent the day in Peters' villa in Waldmichelbach to take care of the employees of Peters' wood business who had moved in and were in need of recreation. For that purpose he had left with them a 4-mm pistol with silencer, as well as U.S. ammunition, a 15-cm bomb thrower of Russian origin for theoretical training, and also explosives and sabotage equipment.

Nobody knew that bullets were flying in the strange garage in the cellar that mason Hering had built. All that Hoffmann could say was: "Off and on I have seen strange American automobiles on their way up, but I believed that they were going on hunting trips." Waldmichelbach people noticed that on almost every Sunday a relay of ten to fourteen new men arrived at the Hammergeasse. They usually departed

the next Saturday - to make room for another group - in private cars and small buses bearing Frankfurt license plates. The only permanent residents were caretaker Kuhn, his wife and a man called Landgraf. BDJ man Erhard Peters also stayed there at times.

They were the only ones that sat around in the village inn at night and spread the myth about the "recreation home." "Those were 'prima' people that payed well," said innkeeper Roeth at the church square. The wood employees, officers between 35 and 50, were only allowed to walk in the woods above the villa when they left the house.

A Bundestag delegate of the CDU-CSU was told a while ago that in the partisan home in Waldmichelbach a former German officer - probably a retired colonel - had been disposed of in a "Feme" murder early in the year because the other trainees accused him of being an "Ost-West Brueckenbauer" (East-West mediator).

The delegate presented this information to the Federal Bureau for the Protection of the Constitution. There the fact was confirmed. He was further told that investigations begun at that time had been discontinued by order of the Americans. These had declared that the property on which the act occurred was extraterritorial because it had been requisitioned, that is, rented, by Americans.

Several other delegates who had also heard about this murder and the existence of the partisan school expressed great concern about the choice of the trainees. They feared that in an emergency the partisans would be used primarily against "unpopular" German politicians. The American High Commissioner's office stated at the time - about June of this year - that the establishment of this school was not approved of by the High Commission, but that forces in the Pentagon, the American War Ministry, were backing it against which the High Commission was powerless at the time.

A Bavarian journalist who likewise reported on the murder in the partisan school to the Federal Bureau for the Protection of the Constitution, received a confirmation of these events; but he was urged not to publish anything about it.

During the time of their stay in Waldmichelbach the "wood merchants" had to surrender their identification cards. "We thought that those 'dice-throwers' were queer people," said the policemen in Waldmichelbach. "But we couldn't touch them. When we came near their house at night a watchdog barked at once and all lights were put out."

All of this had been well planned in the villa. The people outside were not to know when the "recreation guests" went on secret missions and when they were not at home. For three times during the summer of 1951, they were hauled off in a truck and taken to the parade grounds in Grafenwoehr. A few kilometers before Grafenwoehr they got out and were given American fatigue uniforms and forged identification papers. Three times those Peters-Partisans, in American garb, participated in a training course in light infantry weapons and explosives in Grafenwoehr.

Though these training courses were discontinued in the summer of 1952, American secret funds continued to go to the German future partisans - first they were called "Technical Service of the BDJ," then only "Technical Service," and finally only "Organization" - up to the amount of 50,000 DM per month.

Wages (500-1000 DM) for the employees of the partisan organization were still paid on 1 September. German officials in Hesse believe that the Americans would have given money up to 1 October.

"But in the meantime, one of their people had qualms of conscience," said Minister President Zinn today. On 9 September the Criminal Commissar of the Frankfurt Police, Joseph Ross, had the whole affair dished up to him from A to Z.

Dr. John, Federal Protector of the Constitution, sat in Zinn's office in Wiesbaden when the "Landes-Kripo" (criminal police) landed their great coup on 18 September. At 1700 hours partisan leaders Kaufeld, Kleff, Rietdorf and Rademacher were arrested. All of them were BDJ functionaries. Peters hid with U.S. friends. Garwood had not been seen in Steinbach for a month.

In Waldmichelbach only separate parts of guns were discovered, but in the Neu Isenburg "wood wholesale firm" of Erhard Peters and in the residences of the arrested functionaries, stacks of material lay around. Also found there were the liquidation lists against "unreliable persons" from the KPD and SPD.

"Saxer GmbH" was the sign on the door of the Neu Isenburg "wood wholesale firm." It was a branch office of "Saxer GmbH" in Lorsch near Bensheim, which acted as distributors for a plywood firm in Worms.

Rarely was a piece of plywood discovered in the Neu Isenburg office. Its real purpose was to serve as a camouflage organization "Saxer GmbH," the hiding post for the courier and mail service of the Technical Service. "Partner" of the firm was Peters' father, Erwin Peters in Lorsch. The BDJ office in Liebigstrasse and the Technical Service had a common mail channel.

The State District Attorney in Frankfurt transferred the case "BDJ Partisans" to the Federal Attorney, Dr. Carl Wiechmann, in September. After he was told by a "responsible official German agency" that further arrests "did not seem necessary," Wiechmann ordered the release of the arrested on 1 October. To this Zinn declared: "The only legal explanation for these releases can be that those people have declared in Karlsruhe that they acted on American orders." On 3 October Federal Chancellor Adenauer conferred with High Commissioner Donnelly. On 7 October Donnelly spoke to Ollenhauer: "Ollenhauer is sure to have told him then and there that we would bring the affair to public attention." The next morning Donnelly's deputy, Samuel Reber, went to see Zinn at the Hessian Chancellery; but Reber was unable to prevent Zinn's public announcement about the entire partisan affair the same afternoon.

Now a commission of three, consisting of a representative of Hesse, of the American High Commission, and of the Federal Bureau for the Protection of the Constitution, will try to throw light on the Waldmichelbach affair.

The Chief of the Security and Police Department of the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Dr. Egidi, told the press that Bonn had started an investigation of mysterious partisan preparations after appearance of an article entitled "Waffenfunde" (weapons discovered) in Der Spiegel of 28 November 1951. At that time Der Spiegel had reported that men in American uniforms had buried explosives, arms, ammunition and medicines near Marktschorgast in Oberfranken and Wilhelmsfeld near Heidelberg. Later on these had been discovered by Germans. In both cases, the German criminal police could not conclude investigations because American agencies took possession of the data. To this Egidi added last week that the mentioned places had been closed off as military grounds.

In vain did the head of the BDJ, Paul Egon Lueth, try to convince authorities in long "dementis" that the BDJ had no knowledge whatever about the partisan organization. In the Richard Wagner Hall of the Bonn Citizens Union he declared that the coolness between the Americans and the BDJ was evidenced by the fact that Mr. McCloy had given a farewell breakfast for everybody except the BDJ.

However, sufficient documents attest to the fact that Lueth was completely informed on the aims of the American-financed "Technical Service."

As early as 6 April 1952, during a session of the Schleswig-Holstein BDJ district leaders in the Hamburg BDJ office, Michaelisstrasse 21, preparatory measures were discussed for the emergency of a march of the Red Army into Western Germany. Lueth was present. The report of a participant at that session says: "The district leaders were asked to find out where automobiles in large numbers are stationed. These are to be confiscated in case of Condition X summarily, and if necessary by force, by specially instructed members and driven to meeting places of the BDJ members in different cities. Then they are to be used to transport members to a rendezvous point in the Lueneburger Heide (Luneburg Heath). The separate district leaders were to be notified in due time which roads to use. From this rendezvous point the members were to be readied for action.

"It must be established what sort of vehicles are parked in such lots, so as to facilitate procurement of ignition keys. It has also been considered to establish gasoline supply depots. Radio equipment is to be installed in the district leaderships for quick transmission of news. It has been suggested that the districts provide their own equipment."

The possibility of arms procurement was also discussed.

The BDJ work plan for 1952 will certainly be an interesting document, interesting reading for the investigation committee. "We have won the victory over the KP, the FDJ, the Neutralists of all shades and descriptions, as well as over the 'ohne uns' healers," they declare in retrospect; and after that the BDJ calls for an espionage service in the not-even-existing new German army.

"Members of the BDJ who will be drafted must form the political backbone of the new troops. Since we have heard that no volunteer army will be set up but that

instead a universal draft will take place, and since in view of the high percentage of men unfit for active service about every fortieth German will have to be drafted, it is evident that many Communists, FDJ fellows and other Stalin agents will penetrate the new German contingent. This imposes a double task on the BDJ:

"1. To indoctrinate its members with their philosophy, to enlighten them on the necessity of European defense, to influence them constantly in line with our political thought.

"2. To use the utmost care to discover and unmask bolsheviks in the ranks."

Behind closed doors on the first floor of the Frankfurt Police Presidium, the German-American investigation committee is in session. It had already been planned before Zinn's announcement. Its first task will be to find out in how far American officers and officials were informed about the political aspirations of the "Technical Service." A German member declared on Saturday: "That the President of the United States knew nothing about this is clear."

Knew nothing, at any rate nothing recent and no details; this held good likewise for Dr. Egidi of the Federal Ministry of the Interior last weekend. The Chief of the Federal Bureau for the Protection of the Constitution, Dr. John, had not had time to get information in Wiesbaden and to send a report to Bonn.

At the moment, he is a witness in the Huppenkothen trial in Munich.

PRESS REVIEW OF BUNDESTAG DEBATE

In one of the noisiest and most turbulent debates in its history, the Bundestag took up the "partisan affair" on 23 October during a four-and-one-half-hour session which revealed to the outside world the antagonism between the government and the opposition parties. The Social Democrats desire that every detail be brought to light, while the government parties do not hide their regret over the alarm that the continued disclosures are causing. Distrust is evident on all sides and is a measure of the hostility between the government coalition and the Social Democrats. This dissention has caused the suspension of the German-American investigation committee.

SPD delegate Dr. Menzel opened the debate on "the secret organization 'Technical Service' of the BDJ in Hesse" with a sharp attack on the Government. He called the affair "the greatest political scandal since 1945," and demanded in the name of his party a most thoroughgoing explanation of the case and the strictest punishment of the guilty with no regard to the occupation power involved. He called the plans of the T.S. naive, amateurish, even criminal; and said that the Americans had forfeited a great part of their repute in Germany by backing it.

He took exception to Dr. Lehr's attempt to belittle the affair, and criticized the Kaiser Ministry as well as the Interior Ministry for not having looked into the BDJ before subsidizing it.

Then Interior Minister Dr. Lehr took the floor. His statements were interrupted repeatedly by loud protests from the ranks of the SPD and KPD. He stated that the Federal Government had learned about the existence of the T.S. only about the middle of September 1952. Dr. John, head of the Federal Bureau for the Protection of the Constitution (BfV), had told him on 1 October that liquidation of political personalities was planned, but Dr. John had known as early as 1951 that Allied agencies were preparing measures against the eventuality of a Soviet attack. This was corroborated by the discovery of arms caches in Bavaria.

In answer to questions, he said that the Federal Court in Karlsruhe has concerned itself with the case and that an investigation has been in progress since the middle of September to establish whether there is a connection between the T.S. and the BDJ. The T.S. has never received government subsidies, while the BDJ was granted 10,000 DM for its Whitsuntide rally in Frankfurt. He further contended to have learned about the training of partisans only after the exposure of the T.S. in Hesse and expressed regret that Americans had set up such an organization behind the back of German authorities. He continued that there are about two hundred Communist camouflage organizations in the Federal Republic, which proves the threat Communism presents; and that in consequence it is necessary to accept the collaboration of all willing to fight against totalitarian methods within the framework of the Constitution.

As to the "liquidation lists," he added that so far there was no indication that physical annihilation had been planned. A difference must be made between liquidation lists and indexes. The lists before the Federal Court mention not one Socialist but only names of members of extreme political parties, while the card indexes are a

record of data which any paid information service can supply. Therefore, he called Zinn's statements an irresponsible act and requested that the results of the investigation be awaited.

Chancellor Adenauer was the next to take the stand. He also begged the house not to draw hasty conclusions and stated that he had immediately contacted High Commissioner Donnelly, who had expressed his disapproval of American participation in the affair and offered cooperation in the investigation. The reason for the temporary adjournment of the investigation committee had been Zinn's refusal to hand over data in his possession. He, Adenauer, had seen the lists today and also found that they contained not one SPD name; consequently, Zinn's statement must be based on an error.

There was no foundation to the assumption that the Americans would abandon the Federal Republic in case of an attack and "as soon as we join the European Defense Community our country will be defended in a way all Germans would desire and demand."

Minister President Zinn's reply was the high point of the debate. He contradicted the government statements point by point and declared that the BfV had been informed about the T.S. long ago. He complained that the Federal Attorney had released the arrested without a hearing, without insight into the evidence and without a report to the Federal Minister of Justice. The fact that a secret organization collects personal data and sets up card indexes cannot be interpreted in any other way than that the material was to be used for special purposes, such as prescription lists.

Dr. Adenauer left the hall during Zinn's speech.

The debate ended with the resolution to request the government to keep the BfV currently informed on developments.

Before adjournment Zinn had presented new evidence, among it a document entitled: "Measures to Combat Internal Unrest." He contended that contrary to the assertion that the partisan organization was organized solely in preparation for Condition X, proof has now established the fact that it had additional aims. He cited directions for street fighting, the use of explosives and immediate arrests of "opponents" for the time before Condition X, and cited from the document: "All measures taken must be stern and resolute. Early bloodshed may prevent much bloodshed later."