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New York Times article dated
15 January 1953 relating to
arrest of NAUMANN and six others
by British.

NAZI'S CASE ENDS; DECISION PUT OFF

Naumann Is Sent Back to Jail While 2 Appeals Are Heard In Habeas Corpus Action

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

BONN, Germany, Feb. 21.—Dr. Werner Naumann, leader of the band of Nazis, accused of plotting the overthrow of German democracy, is back in Werl prison tonight and the three-day legal fight to win his release under a habeas corpus petition is over.

The case for the petitioner and for the British High Commissioner's office, whose police arrested Naumann on Jan. 14, ended in Bielefeld today, but Sir Norman Edgley, the judge, has postponed a decision until the British court of appeals in West Germany has heard two appeals made by counsel for the High Commissioner's office and counsel for Naumann.

These appeals arise from an order given by the Judge yesterday permitting Naumann to talk to his lawyers, John Scott Henderson, a Briton, and Dr. Ernst Achenbach, a Right-wing lawyer and politician who is suspected of having close contacts with Naumann and his group.

British authorities expect that it will be at least a month before the court is ready to hear the appeals. In the meantime Naumann will be out of circulation and the loved and important investigation of his group's activities and connections can continue without interference.

It is likely that by the time the appeals are heard the investigation will have been completed and a formal indictment of Naumann and his fellows will have been presented by the High Commissioner's Office. German newspapers are already beginning to clamor for further details of why the seven Nazis are being held.

Maurice E. Bathurst, legal adviser to the High Commissioner's Office, in his summation of the legality of Naumann's arrest and detention, described the extensive power held by Sir Ivone Kirkpatrick, the High Commissioner, under reserve clauses of the occupation statute.

The High Commissioner, he asserted, has power to amend or suspend his own laws if he wished and is both the legislative and executive power in the British zone of occupation as far as his reserve powers were concerned.

Judge Edgley agreed, adding that Sir Ivone was not responsible in this sphere to anyone or to any court in Germany but only to the government that appointed him.

7 EX-NAZIS SEIZED BY BRITISH FOR PLOT

West Germans Held Include High Hitlerites—Sought Power Through Party Ties

By DREW MIDDLETON

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

BONN, Germany, Jan. 15.—The first known serious plot for the restoration of Nazi power in Germany has been broken by the British who have arrested seven once prominent members of Hitler's National Socialist party.

The seven, headed by the ring-leader, Dr. Werner Naumann, a former State Secretary of Dr. Joseph Goebbels Propaganda Ministry, were taken politely, almost casually by unarmed Public Safety officers of the British High Commission last night and today.

The prisoners were being interrogated tonight by specially briefed teams and it is expected, according to the British, that "now that we have lifted the stone we will find out a good deal more from the creatures underneath."

The Federal Government's immediate reaction has been surprise, chagrin and a lukewarm attempt to associate itself with the British action.

The second party in the Government coalition, Vice Chancellor Franz Blücher's Free Democrats, has been hotly embarrassed by the relationships that existed between some of the arrested men and members of the party and its spokesmen have been busy all day disowning any but the most tenu-

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Former Nazis Seized in British Zone



The New York Times

Dr. Gustav Scheel, right, one of the seven men arrested yesterday, as he appeared in 1939 at a student rally with the late Dr. Joseph Goebbels, German Propaganda Minister. Scheel was then Reich student leader; later he was gauleiter for Salzburg.

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ous connections with the former Nazis.

Party Infiltration Charged

The seven men had been plotting to regain power in Western Germany, according to the highest British sources, by infiltrating into the three respectable right-wing parties: the Free Democrats and the German party, both members of Chancellor Konrad Adenauer's coalition, and the All-German bloc, formerly the Refugee party.

Like many German plotters, they found it necessary to write a good deal down. Their intentions apparently were to win control of these parties and, once in control, defeat both the European Defense Community Treaty and the Bonn peace contract and plan for the restoration of an independent, nationalist and Nazi Germany.



Associated Press

Dr. Werner Naumann, described by British authorities as the ring-leader in the plot to seize power in West Germany.

The British expect that interrogation, plus the information collected previously, probably will provide them with enough evidence for the trial of the seven arrested men in British courts.

If evidence is not forthcoming, the seven would be released and British, and indeed all Allied, prestige would suffer a heavy blow in Germany.

It is doubted, however, that the British High Commission would have ordered so drastic a measure unless it was pretty certain of the ground on which it stands.

Sources in the French High Commission feel certain, "on the basis of some of our own reports," that the British have good reasons for their action and although they concede that this may strengthen opposition in the French National Assembly to rearming of West Germany, they believe it is best to look at the facts in Germany, not avoid them.

Italian, Argentine Links Seen

In the field of foreign affairs, the British said the arrested group was concerned principally with the propagation of anti-Western ideas and policies.

The British already have traced connections between the group and former Nazis now residing in Argentina and Italy and expect to find some connection with the Russians in East Berlin. It has long been suspected that the Russians have financed right-wing groups in West Germany, although the connection has never been proved.

Sir Ivone Kirkpatrick, the British High Commissioner, went to London last week and received Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden's approval of arrests, which were made to ascertain to what extent the activities of the Nazis and their contacts inside and outside Germany represent a threat to the security of the Allied forces.

The information that British intelligence groups had amassed during their investigation was such that, according to one official, "we would have been guilty of a gross dereliction of duty if we had remained passive."

"We do not expect bouquets," he added, "in fact, those that howl the loudest probably would be the first to be strung up if these men came to power."

The seven men arrested are:

DR. WERNER NAUMANN—He was State Secretary in the Ministry of Propaganda under Hitler and was nominated in Hitler's will to succeed Dr. Goebbels as Reich Propaganda Minister. He is the manager of a chemical works near Neuss in Rhineland.

DR. GUSTAV SCHEERL—He was a Reich student leader, a Gauleiter of Salzburg in Austria, and was named in Hitler's will as the new Minister of Culture. He is a doctor in a hospital in Hamburg.

PAUL ZIMMERMANN—He was a brigade commander of S. S. (Elite Guard) and an official of the Elite Guard Economic and Administration Department which was connected with the administration of concentration camps.

Dr. HENRICH HASELMEYER—According to the British, Dr. Haselmeyer was associated with Hitler's Munich putsch of 1923, but his wife asserts that he did not join the party until four years later. He became leader of the National Socialist Students League in Hamburg and has published books on "Racial Science" and the sterilization of the unfit. He practices medicine in the Hamburg suburb of Bergedorf.

HEINZ SIEPKE—He is a former Nazi Ortsgruppenleiter (party district chief) and Land (State) Councillor and is now part owner of the Funktal Steel works at Sollingen.

Dr. KARL SCHARPING—He was

a former official of the radio department of the Reich Propaganda Ministry.

Dr. Karl Kaufmann—He is the former Gauleiter of Hamburg and his arrest was announced this evening. He was appointed Reich Commissioner for Shipping by Hitler in 1942.

Although various excited reports about the arrests are already circulating, they were carried out with a minimum of difficulty. The blue-uniformed Public Safety officers were armed only with warrants and the British military police who accompanied them were kept in the background.

Searches, especially in the Scheel and Haselmeyer homes, produced a good deal of "interesting" material.

But in any case, the British "had substantial grounds to justify their action" before the raids took place, it was stated.

The arrests centered in Hamburg and Dusseldorf.

Thus far the British have not announced any connection between the men arrested and the known neo-Nazi groups in the United States and French zones of occupation. The two other occupying powers were informed of what was taking place and Walter J. Donnelly, former United States High Commissioner, was told more than a month ago that the British were not "happy" about Naumann and were investigating him.

The Federal Government did not learn about the arrests until Sir Ivone told Dr. Adenauer about them last night shortly before they began with the taking of Dr. Naumann at 9:15 German time.

Dr. Adenauer thus far has made no comment. However, Dr. Robert Lehr, his Minister of Interior, scoffed at the idea that the seven men constituted an underground movement. Dr. Lehr asserted that his ministry had been observing the group for weeks but that it could not arrest them since arrests in the Federal Republic are on a basis of deeds, not opinions.

The British have been watching Dr. Naumann and his friends for nearly two years. The arrests were made under the powers reserved to the occupying power under the revised Occupation Statute.

The dominant question in the minds of Dr. Adenauer and his Cabinet and among American officials is how the arrests will affect ratification of the European Defense Community Treaty and the Bonn peace contract both in Germany and abroad.

The British see no reason why ratification should not proceed, arguing that the arrest of Dr. Naumann and his cronies is guarantee that German democracy rather than German reaction, will be in charge when the Federal Republic is armed.

This strikes others, particularly Americans and Germans, as sophistry. They think the British action will damage the chances of ratification here as well as France.

The Socialist Opposition already has taken the arrests as evidence of the manner in which the "neo-Fascists" are infiltrating the parties to their right and the trade unions are angry. The Socialist opposition to the treaties, it may have a much more solid political basis in the working class than it has had so far when the Bundestag considers the pacts in their third and final reading next month. The West German Trade Union Federation, which has 3,000 members, angrily reminded Government that it had war it of the "dangerous" activities the Nazis in the past and expected it, rather than the British, take measures "for the protection of the people."

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