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DAILY NEWS

NATO SECRETS SOLD TO SOVIET FOR A DECADE, OFFICIALS SAY

Conrad served 20 years

By NORMAN BLACK
The Associated Press

Ex-G.I. accused as spy-ring head

By KEVIN COSTELLOE
The Associated Press

FRANKFURT, West Germany — A former U.S. Army sergeant arrested in West Germany is accused of being part of an international spy ring, officials said yesterday.

They said the ring sold NATO defense secrets to the Soviets at high prices for 10 years.

"We can't exclude the possibility that millions of dollars are involved," said Alexander Prechtel, spokesman for the chief federal prosecutor of Frankfurt.

A second American soldier who was not identified received a "five-figure sum" of money for supplying the ring with military secrets, said Chief Federal Prosecutor Kurt Rehmann.

Prechtel said two Hungarian-born brothers, arrested Tuesday in Frankfurt with cipher keys, coded messages and radios, were a part of the ring.

It was too early to know how much damage was caused to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Prechtel said.

But the ring is believed to have stolen documents concerning NATO defense plans for Europe and U.S. Army contingency plans for a ground war with the Soviet Union in Europe.

'Especially grave'

Clyde Lee Conrad, the former sergeant, was arrested Tuesday. A statement from the U.S. military said he was charged with "compelling suspicion of espionage activities in an especially grave case."

Conrad was born in 1947 in Ohio and worked for the U.S.

military for 20 years, Prechtel said.

The spokesman said Conrad worked with classified military defense plans for seven years. The U.S. Army base in Bad Kreuznach in central West Germany and had access to secret documents.

Conrad allegedly continued espionage work after he left the service in 1985, Prechtel said.

Rehmann said Conrad had turned over the most recent batch of information to his Soviet bloc contact in Vienna just last month.

In Washington, the State Department acknowledged West Germany had made an arrest but refused further comment.

Rehmann said the West German-based spy ring started in the late 1970s and used couriers from Sweden.

In Göteborg, Sweden, authorities said the two Hungarians, their mother, they detained had confessed to working for the Hungarian secret service.

The two men were physicians who immigrated to Sweden in the 1960s, authorities said. Their names were not released.

Sven-Olof Hakansson, chief prosecutor of the Göteborg district, said the two had traveled several times to West Germany and had been under surveillance for several years.

He said the wives of both men were detained for questioning. One has been released.

The U.S. Army has about 250,000 military personnel in West Germany at more than 200 installations.

Just, er, kidding around

PICKING the right pocket? Dobbin catches youngster by surprise but isn't likely to get rich this way. Kids got to meet animal in vacant lot on 179th St., Bronx, as day-care center held Lots for Tots program. This lot will be converted to a playground before long. ANTHONY CASALE/DAILY NEWS

Bats driving them, er . . . batty

By DON FLYNN
Daily News Staff Writer

Steve and Lorraine Disbursger are going batty. They would have bats in their belfry if they had a belfry. As it is, they have them in their house.

The New London, N.Y., couple has been driven from the two-story frame house where they had lived 15 years by thousands of brown bats.

"My bats . . . my friendly little bats," Lorraine sighed yesterday as she waited for state Health Department zoologist Steve Frantz to "assess the situation."

Steve, 48, both state employees, fled their home July 15 when the bats spread from the unfinished second bedroom into the house itself.

Flew into kitchen

"One was flying around in the kitchen at 2:30 in the afternoon," Lorraine said yesterday.

"I never forgot the night we left," Lorraine said. "I couldn't sleep. I was too scared. You could hear them. It was like the house was breathing."

"We had the lights on bright. The bats were right in the next room."

Returned in spring

Every spring there were more. This year, there were thousands.

"They look like about the size of a

it. We went outside and slept the rest of the night in our camper. The next morning, I begged my mother-in-law to take us in."

"We had been around five or six years since that nested under a peaked roof behind a wall in a second, uncompleted, bedroom. They came and went. 'We didn't know they migrated,' she said. 'Every spring, they came back.'

But when flying—their wingspan is 6 or 8 inches—they look huge."

The Disbursgers plugged up holes in the house. "We used smoke bombs and a propane tank—and this little box you plug in and it's supposed to drive the bats crazy," said Lorraine. "It didn't do nothing."

The Disbursgers have been told it would cost \$4,000 to get rid of the bats and put on a new roof. They don't kill them themselves because at least one species, the Indiana brown bat, is protected.

"I just want my house back," said Lorraine.

—By DON FLYNN

Photo by DON FLYNN