

# Silence covers East Berlin bloodbath

by Konstantin George

According to reports from the West Berlin based West-Ost Nachrichtenagentur (WONA), on May 7, a group of 10-12 East Germans, some of them armed, failed in a dramatic attempt to escape to West Berlin. They were either betrayed or spotted beforehand, and the attempt ended in the worst bloodbath seen in an East European satellite country since the Hungarian Revolution. All the participants were either killed on the spot, or soon thereafter executed by firing squad. As a sign of the "New Yalta" epoch, even though the facts are known to the governments of the United States, Great Britain, France, and the Federal Republic of Germany, not one government spokesman or member of parliament has uttered a word of protest. The West German government has gone out of its way to deny the story as a "fabrication."

The facts of what transpired and the scandalous responses by the West German government and the three Western Allied Powers are chilling testimony to how far the West has plunged toward concluding a "New Yalta" sellout of the West to the Soviet Empire.

The escape plan involved driving an East Berlin eight-car subway train, which was lying in an unused side-tunnel, running southeast from the Alexanderplatz subway station and junction, towards the abandoned Jannowitzbrücke subway station which lies inside East Berlin on the tracks of the West Berlin subway Line No. 8. The subway Line No. 8 is one of two West Berlin subway lines running under East Berlin for part of their route.

Something extraordinary did happen on May 7 in that tunnel. The East German News Agency ADN, on May 9, reported that a major "electrical" fire had erupted in a subway side-tunnel, somewhere between the Alexanderplatz subway station and Klosterstrasse. ADN reported that the fire completely burned out an eight-car idle subway train in the side tunnel, and caused sufficient damage to halt all subway service between Alexanderplatz and Klosterstrasse, with passengers forced to take a shuttle bus service. The description of the fire and its effects is inexplicable, when matched with any normal electrical-failure fires (large amounts of smoke and relatively little fire damage) among idle subway trains.

On May 7, a French military patrol was in East Berlin near Alexanderplatz—such patrols occur daily by the rights accorded the three Western Allies under Berlin's Four-Power

Status—and reported that the entire area had been sealed off, not only by police, but by hundreds of East German armed secret police from the Ministry of State Security (Stasi). Such a deployment would never be ordered for a mere subway fire. The July 6 *Bild am Sonntag* mass-circulation newspaper reported that U.S. military monitoring and interception in West Berlin of East German radio communications confirmed that a mass escape attempt had occurred and failed.

Until the Wall was built in 1961, the tracks of the side-tunnel used in the escape attempt linked up with the tracks of the West Berlin subway system. Then, a nine-inch-thick slab was placed in between. The plan was to drive the train up to this slab, and then leave the train and run the last several hundred meters along the tracks into West Berlin.

According to WONA, the group included six former East German soldiers, who had received paratroop training during their military service; the nephew of an active Stasi official; and the son of a retired Stasi major-general. One of the group was said by WONA to be a Bulgarian officer, who had been serving as the aide to the Bulgarian military attaché in East Berlin. *EIR* has confirmed that a Bulgarian first lieutenant, Nedelin Makedonski, serving as assistant to the military attaché at the Bulgarian embassy in East Berlin, has indeed been missing from the embassy since May 7.

## Call for investigation

After the WONA story broke in the major press, the general secretary of the Berlin (West) Christian Democratic Union (CDU), Klaus Rüdiger Landowsky, called for a "joint expert commission of the Four Powers" (U.S., Britain, France, U.S.S.R.) to investigate what occurred in the East Berlin subway tunnel on May 7. Landowsky said that if the East Germans had nothing to hide they would agree to such an investigation. He added, however, that if indeed a mass escape had failed and ended in a bloodbath, then, referring to the postwar history of Soviet and satellite puppet mass executions, it is "a case not seen in Central Europe since the Hungarian uprising of 1956."

Landowsky's call has provoked rage and hysteria from East Berlin. The East German foreign ministry issued a statement, calling Landowsky's remarks "stinking fabrications." The East German News Agency, ADN, raved about a "hair-raising wild west story cooked up in the dirty poison kitchen of Landowsky," and denounced Landowsky as a "notorious liar" and "sabre-rattler."

The West German newspaper, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, supplied an appropriate commentary, in an editorial on July 2: "Germans attempting to escape from East Berlin and East Germany are gunned down like rabbits by the authorities." The editorial denounces the reluctance among politicians to take up any issue like the Berlin subway affair, which they fear would conflict with the general détente mood: "It is unwelcome here . . . to pose any questions on affairs which, if confirmed, would disturb the so-called détente."