

LL  
16 June  
III-EG.417

EAST GERMANY

NO FATTED CALF FOR THIS PRODIGAL DAUGHTER.

SOURCE BERLIN: 1. Official of the West German Ministry of  
All-German Affairs, West BERLIN;  
2. East German newspaper "Freiheit."

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Current.

EVALUATION COMMENT: Of purely anecdotal value. Little  
needs to be said about the mixture of confusion and corrup-  
tion which must be the determining factors of the H-O admin-  
istration.

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How easy it is to change in no time from a cele-  
brity to an agent in the view of Communist functionaries, has  
been told in many a story. Much rarer are the instances in  
which persons are declared agents prior to becoming celebri-  
ties just to be declared agents again. The following in-  
cident happened in STOLBERG (Harz region) and it may serve  
as a typical demonstration of the difficulties facing Commu-  
nist propagandists in the German Democratic Republic today.

It was late last year when the chief of the  
special H-O store for toys in STOLBERG/Harz, Martha KARTHEUSE  
came to West BERLIN and began asking West BERLIN authorities  
for recognition as a political refugee.

She was a Socialist Unity Party member, agreed,  
she argued. Never, however, she said, had she harmed anyone  
or done any wrong. Instead, she had been charged with being  
an agent just two weeks ago when taking stock she had dis-  
covered and reported that the store was short of money.  
In fact there was a lot of money missing and she did not know  
where it was gone or who might have it.

That was all her story, she said. Being asked  
for more detailed statements on the missing money, pretty  
Martha KARTHEUSE soon revealed that a sum of more than 20,000  
east marks was involved. And because West BERLIN authorities  
did not feel sure that Martha was actually as honest as she  
said she was, she was -- as a matter of precaution -- refused  
recognition as a political refugee.

(Over)

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Of course, no Western official asked her to return to the Soviet Zone. But life as a non-recognized refugee in West BERLIN is unpleasant and Martha soon began to think of the good old days in STOLBERG where she was one of the city's big shots. When Communist propagandists again and again assured former refugees that they could and should return to the GDR and that "no one need fear punishment if one has a clear conscience," Martha KARTHEUSE went back to STOLBERG.

On her arrival, propagandists at once began feeding themselves on her alleged experiences in West BERLIN. It took but one month and SED prosecutor HEISE (fnu) on 25 March 1954, published an article in the Saxonian paper "Freiheit," picturing KARTHEUSE as a victim of an imaginary agent in West BERLIN. "Colleague KARTHEUSE, however, clearly recognized the infamous game played with her. Thus she did not stay in West BERLIN but returned to STOLBERG," HEISE wrote.

Those reading the same leading Communist newspaper of HALLE County about three weeks later became greatly surprised.

The repenting returnee, the democratic celebrity KARTHEUSE, was suddenly exposed to severe criticism culminating in the charge that she were "an agent of a Western spy center." And, of course, the never-sleeping security organ of the Party and the government had "already caught up with her." The very same prosecutor who three weeks ago had hailed her for her courage to resist tempting offers of West BERLIN agents, had her arrested instantly at a meeting in STOLBERG.

Records of the meeting are in the hands of the West German Ministry of all-German Affairs. These records show that there was a detailed discussion about the maladministration in the local H-O organization. Martha KARTHEUSE felt an expert on such questions. Obviously attempting to change from a repentful sinner to an ever-active participant of Socialism, she sharply criticized the fact that prices for items sold in STOLBERG H-O stores were much higher than prices charged for the same items in H-O stores in nearby SANGERSHAUSEN, for instance.

Instead of being awarded the medal "for good knowledge," she was thereupon arrested. What KARTHEUSE had not known was the fact that H-O director REUSS (fnu), the new boss of the H-O organization in STOLBERG, is the son-in-law of the prosecutor HEISE.

The "Freiheit" the next day nevertheless commented  
(Over)



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KARTHEUSE's arrest with the words: "It can be assumed with certainty that KARTHEUSE is an agent operating in the interest of Western agents who sent her back to STOLBERG with certain orders."

End.