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Sept 14
III/E.G. 493EAST GERMANYRED GOTHAL ALMANACHSOURCE BERLIN

1. Clippings
2. From the files of the West BERLIN Investigation Committee of Free Jurists.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: August 31 1954.

EVALUATION COMMENT : This is a very revealing report. Unfortunately it may serve only for information, since its publication or broadcast could bring tragedy to some of the decent people mentioned in it. If used in RFE broadcasts, it ought to be done only with extreme care and circumspection. The imprisonment of Josef REIMANN and the alleged virtual abduction to the USSR of Micha BENJAMIN are known from earlier reports. At any rate, it is good to know that the insidious poison of Communism is not always effective.

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Only about two weeks ago, the public heard for the first time that the twenty-seven year old son of the West German Communist boss Max REIMANN, Josef REIMANN, had been sentenced by a Soviet-zone court to fifteen years of hard labor because his attitude toward life was incompatible with the wishes of his father who wanted his son to become a good Communist like himself.

The Sons of Max REIMANN.

Josef REIMANN may serve as a symbol to the fact that children of Communists do not always take after their parents. A study of the genealogical registers of German top Communists reveals that there are a good number of young East Germans who turned against or even left their parents for the mere reason of thus escaping the Communist party machinery.

Max REIMANN, the West German CP chief, has a second son called Hugo REIMANN. He lives in the Soviet-occupied

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zone but is no longer on speaking terms with his father. Ever since Hugo refused to join the Socialist Unity Party, father REIMANN and son Hugo have even stopped writing letters to each other. More than a year ago, Hugo REIMANN was accused of having embezzled a rather large sum of money. REIMANN junior has never faced a court though, and thus the matter has never been cleared up.

The thirty-eight year old son of Soviet Premier Minister Otto GROTEWOHL, Hans GROTEWOHL, also avoids seeing his father whenever possible. Just like Hugo REIMANN, GROTEWOHL junior lives in East BERLIN as a non-party member. He is an engineer by profession and has obstinately refused all attempts of his father's functionaries who wanted to make him join the SED. Hans GROTEWOHL has thus lost the friendship of his father while gaining the respect of his colleagues who for obvious reasons greatly distrusted the name of GROTEWOHL at the time they made its acquaintance.

The construction bureau for which Hans GROTEWOHL works is subject to orders of Professor HENSELMANN, who became famous as the architect of the East BERLIN Stalin Allee. HENSELMANN's son, Michael, as early as in 1953 fled to West BERLIN.

The Grandson of President EBERT.

As little as Friedrich EBERT, non-elected mayor of East BERLIN tried to become an honest politician like his father, the former German Reichspräsident, as little was Kurt EBERT, son of the Communist mayor, inclined to please his father by becoming a Communist. In fact, while Friedrich EBERT lends all his power to the support of the regime, Kurt EBERT suffers from it. The Soviet friends of his father sentenced him to twenty-five years of hard labor on charges of having allegedly engaged in espionage. That is why Kurt EBERT is today an inhabitant of the TORGAU prison while Friedrich EBERT, enjoying the life of a Communist privilege, hurries from dinner to dinner to make propaganda speeches for the party and his great friends, the Soviets. East BERLINERS who know Mayor EBERT personally, strongly contest the suspicion that father EBERT at any time violated the Communist party discipline by sending food parcels to his hungry son.

Liv HAMANN, daughter of the former East German Minister of Trade and Supply Karl HAMANN, still stands a good chance to get acquainted with Kurt EBERT in one of the East German prisons. She cannot entertain any pleasant thought about how well her father might live, it is true, for father HAMANN and she were

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arrested at the same day in December 1952; but Liv may dwell calmly on the conviction that she did everything in her power to make her father leave the German Democratic Republic in time. Week after week, Liv, assisted by her mother, had tried to persuade father HAMANN to break with the Communist system of injustice. Week after week, Karl HAMANN had refused. When members of the East German State Security Service came to arrest the Minister, it was too late for Liv herself to escape from the Soviet zone. Thus ex-Minister HAMANN, who lent his hand to the devil, as well as the Minister's daughter who constantly warned her father against making a pact with the Communists, received long terms of hard labor in a closed court session during this summer.

The Unfortunate Son of the "Red Guillotine"---Hilde BENJAMIN.

The little BENJAMIN, son of the East German Minister of Justice Hilde BENJAMIN, is somewhat better off, indeed. He is not free by any means, but his cage appears to be golden. Micha BENJAMIN is nineteen years old and probably the only living person who can rightly claim to be loeved by Hilde BENJAMIN who because of her harsh sentences imposed on alleged East German political criminals is generally called the "red guillotine" in Germany. Ever since he was born, Micha was idolized the Western world. How strong his love for the West is, can only be measured by the fact that his Communist mother after months of argumentation was finally ready to give in to his longing to study in Switzerland and in LONDON. But suddenly here came an invitation for Micha to study in the Soviet Union. Hilde BENJAMIN is quoted as having surprisingly exclaimed: "Impossible!" Yet Micha had to go. Before he left for MOSCOW, he told his mother that he would never forgive her that. Micha apparently did not believe that his mother was unhappy about it too.

Other Non-Communist Offspring of Communist Stooges.

Eighteen months have passed since then and Micha is still in MOSCOW. If anyone profited from this, it is the Soviet government for as long as Micha is studying in the USSR, Hilde BENJAMIN can be counted upon to remain a willing tool of the CPdSU.

There are also other examples speaking for the tense relations occasionally developing between Communist parents and

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their children. As early as in 1949, Wolfgang LEONHARDT, son of the party-poet Rudolf LEONHARDT who died recently, fled to West Germany. Only three weeks later father LEONHARDT was called to account by the Communist Central Party Control Commission. His son, it was explained, had become guilty of deviating from the party line. What had father LEONHARDT to say to this? And father LEONHARDT answered: "I no longer have a son, comrades." Repentfully he added a number of self-accusations as to the way he had brought up his son who "choose to become a traitor of the working class by hailing Titoism."

Early in 1950, Ralph KASTNER, son of Hermann KASTNER, who at that time was deputy minister President and chairman of the East German SPD party, fled to West BERLIN. From here he called his father on the telephone: "Have you been following the development in the (Soviet) Zone lately? Can you take upon what happens around you?" he asked his father. Father KASTNER appeared rather helpless when he asked back: "What can you do about it?"

And there is Stefan BRECHT, son of the well-known German poet and author Bert BRECHT. Father and son have completely broken with each other. Stefan studied in PARIS. An enemy of tyranny, Stefan until 1953 refused to follow various invitations of his father's who wanted him to visit the German Democratic Republic. But when STALIN had been dead for some months and when the New Course had been proclaimed, Stefan agreed to make a short visit. He was hardly impressed by what he saw. On the contrary. He found harsh words of criticism after talking to exhausted German workers serving their Communist masters. The State-owned HO stores, Stefan found just as bad as the frequently praised Stalinalee, the Potemkin facade of the Communist regime in East Germany. BRECHT junior soon returned to PARIS and has since gone to the United States. His feelings toward his father are characterized by the fact that during his stay in PARIS he refused to make use of money which his father had earned from his Communist publications in France and which father BRECHT had offered to his son. Stefan refused to accept the money although he was financially badly off at that time.

John T. BECHER is the son of party poet laureate Johannes R. BECHER "the great poet of the working class." Except for his surname, John BECHER has nothing in common with his father. When he was ten years old, John saw LONDON for the first time. He went to school there and after the war he began working as a machinist. Only twelve years later, in 1952, he should again

meet his father who urged him to stay in East Germany where "life is going to be better all the time." John BECHER, however, went around East BERLIN talking to the workers, looking at the shop windows and visiting meetings of the National Front.

And while his father was told by the Central Party Control Commission to forward to the son that he was unacceptable, BECHER junior already wrote to his father from LONDON: "Do I have to tell you that you are being used as a tool? Reading your works, I believe to notice what you intended to plant and to tend. When I see, however, what is coming from your work - darkness, threatening Europe anew - I am glad that we have choosen different roads."

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