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EAST GERMANY

Present Pursuits Of The SED "Conspirators."

SOURCE BERLIN: West BERLIN Press

DATE OF OBSERVATION: 15 October 1953

EVAL. COMMENT: This information, although extracted from the West BERLIN press, is repeated here for its general interest. It must be regarded as UNCONFIRMED.

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Wilhelm ZAISSER, the deposed head of the security services of East Germany, is at present living in his home in East BERLIN under the guard of the very secret service forces that he once commanded. "Die Neue Zeitung" reported on 18 October 1953. The West BERLIN newspaper adds that he is regularly being examined by the Control Commission of the Socialist Unity Party.

The same newspaper states that Rudolf HERRNSTADT, the former chief editor of "Neues Deutschland," organ of the Central Committee of the SED, who is now charged with having conspired with ZAISSER to bring about the fall of Walter ULBRICHT, the Party's first secretary, is at present director of the MERSEBURG branch of the POTSDAM Central Archives. He is under police surveillance and may not leave the MERSEBURG city limits.

Meanwhile, Franz DAHLEM, the third member of this conspiratorial group who was deposed in May as chief of the West Department of the SED Central Committee, is also reported to be working for the Party archives. He has, according to the "Neue Zeitung," been rehabilitated to the point that he is now again being admitted to discussions of the SED West Germany commission, since many of the measures which he ordered regarding Communist activities in West Germany and which were declared last spring to be contrary to the party's directives, have since been proved to have been correct. The examination of him by the Party Control Commission is now mainly directed toward investigating his actions during the time of his exile in PARIS and the Hitler era.

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