

that the city could then get rid of only by paying \$882,353. Those funds ended up, according to *Der Stern*, in Beker's special account number 6-002547 in the municipal savings bank "with the best wishes" of Gerhardt and Müller-Helms.

The 'Israel connection'

The dubious dealings of the city with the crime bosses has been, of course, in the headlines for some time, and yet it was not until a broadcast on Channel 2 (ZDF) on March 5, 1991 that the drumbeat over the "Mafia am Main" finally began. The coverage, with police, prosecuting attorneys, and journalists as witnesses, provided evidence on the structure of organized crime in the city. It extends from large-scale extortion of money through drug trafficking, to murder by contract, to the laundering of drug money in legal businesses. In this connection, the real estate market traditionally plays an essential role. The real "bombshell" from television writer Jürgen Roth exploded toward the end of the program. The millionaire real estate dealer and Joseph "Joschi" Buchmann, who is well known in underground circles, could be considered as the "godfathers" of organized crime.

Roth then documented the participation of Buchmann in Beker's business with the city for the three houses in the train station neighborhood. Also, Buchmann was alleged to be in the background of the Breiten Gasse business. According to ZDF, the Bekers and Buchmann each earned \$2.94 million for a further purchase through District Attorney Meulenbergh. In the telephone book, the latter has the same business address as Dr. Hensel, who represents Beker as well as Buchmann as attorney. With representatives of the city, including city treasurer Gerhardt, Hensel had in 1987 discussed protection of the monopoly for the brothel managers, according to Roth. He is also active in the "Society for the Friends and Supporters of the University of Tel Aviv," which was founded by Buchmann. The honorary chairman is still Gerhardt.

Naturally, those involved were not interested in knowing with whom they were dealing. That cannot be. Frankfurt's police chief Dr. Gemmer, sent in May 1984, according to *Der Stern*, a report from the Israeli daily newspaper *Yedioth Aharonoth* to Wallmann's office, which the latter initialed. Under the headline, "The Jewish 'Bosses' of Frankfurt," the activities of the Beker brothers were documented in detail. Buchmann didn't need this information; he knew the milieu quite well.

The Beker brothers' careers began in the 1960s in Frankfurt. Hersh Beker advanced from doorman at the Imperial Night Club to business manager, and in 1965 took over the New York City Bar, the establishment that formerly belonged to Joseph Buchmann. Brother Chaim got into the Salambo Bar on Elbestrasse. They ran brothels and peep shows, and gradually developed into the kings of the neighborhood. The trajectory of the Bekers was typical of the rise of the notorious Israeli mafia in Frankfurt since the beginning of the 1970s. Police chief Dr. Gemmer said that, in his day, the well-organized heroin busi-

ness was in the hand of "the Israeli gangsters." Thus, the drug gang of "Big Joe" Amiel, which had connections to the influential Jewish mobster Meyer Lansky in the United States, was caught in a police dragnet. Gemmer declared war on the "smart Israeli business people behind the drug trade" by setting up a special commission.

Joseph Buchmann, who is now vociferously defending himself against the suspicion of being the "Godfather am Main," is himself responsible for his reputation. The French author Jacques Derogy described the speculators as a sort of outpost for the Lansky mob after the war. According to Derogy, the Polish-born survivor of Auschwitz first rose in the black market as a young man after the war in Frankfurt and also dealt with underground dollar currency. When the cashier of his organization tried to leave with millions of dollars, he was murdered. Buchmann was arrested, but then released, because a member of the mob took responsibility, according to Derogy.

Buchmann was also successful. He opened bars, including the above mentioned New York City Bar, and witnesses from that time ascribed a leading role to him in the train station neighborhood. An editor of the newspaper *U.S. Over-*

Mayor's wife defends Frankfurt drug lobby

On May 11, days after her husband Andreas von Schoeler became the new mayor of Frankfurt, Ulrike von Schoeler abused her position as a reporter for the Hessischer Rundfunk radio station to defame the Anti-Drug Coalition and the American politician and economist Lyndon H. LaRouche, one of its founders. For 12 years the ADC has been the boldest opposition to drug legalization in Germany, and a sharp critic of Andreas von Schoeler's liberal drug and security policies.

The broadcast by the mayor's wife coheres with an international pattern of attacks by the U.S. drug lobby and CIA circles of the Bush administration against Lyndon LaRouche, who has announced his presidential candidacy against Bush in 1992. His exposure of the big names of the international drug business, since he commissioned the book *Dope, Inc.* in 1978, and his protest against the dirty Iran-Contra "weapons for drugs" deals fostered by then-Vice President Bush, have made him and his associates targets of a violent "McCarthy-style" slander campaign. "Journalist" Ulrike von Schoeler has tarred all probes into the Frankfurt mafia as "conspiracy theory."