

Report from Bonn by Rainer Apel

Illegal arms dealers shoot, too

There is more potential evidence of murder in the case of Petra Kelly and Gerd Bastian—and in the 1987 Barschel case.

At least once daily, one of the official investigators into the strange deaths of Green Party founding members Petra Kelly and Gerd Bastian, whose bodies were found in Bonn on Oct. 19, tells the public that everything the police know points away from the “murder” theory, that the deaths were definitely from “suicide.” Yet doubts continue to spread among close friends of Kelly and Bastian, and other people who knew them through their political activities.

At the funeral for Petra Kelly, who was buried near Würzburg Oct. 26, Lev Kopelev, a collaborator of Kelly's for many years and for even longer the senior spokesman of the Russian dissidents' community in Germany, gave the main eulogy. He said: “I don't believe it was suicide. Petra Kelly was capable of dying like Martin Luther King or Gandhi, but not this way. I do not believe that she could pass away this way without leaving behind some kind of explanation to her friends.”

The Kelly-Bastian case was the cover story in the *Der Spiegel* weekly, which hit the newsstands that Monday. *Spiegel* reported that Gerd Bastian—who police say first shot Kelly and then himself—died leaving a letter unfinished in the middle of a word. The letter to Bastian's wife was optimistic and not the type of “testament” usually left by suicides. He had abruptly stopped writing the word *müssen* (must), breaking off at “müß. . .” as if he had unexpectedly been interrupted. Who had entered the room in the very early morning of Oct.

1, when the letter was written?

This is only one of many puzzling new questions that surfaced in the week after the two bodies were found. There is, for example, a strange pattern of car accidents hitting senior members of the Green-Alternative movement that Kelly and Bastian belonged to. On Oct. 24, Vera Wollenberger, who was to address a conference on international relations in northern Germany, never arrived because she and her two children were involved in a serious car accident.

Wollenberger holds a seat in the German national parliament for the joint Greens/Alliance 90 group—composed of former dissidents from east Germany—the only group in the parliament keeping up the pressure on the government to release classified documents about illegal cooperation throughout the 1980s between western and eastern intelligence agencies. The Iran-Contra cabal around Maj. Gen. Richard Secord (ret.) and Lt. Col. Oliver North, and its mostly unknown relations to the East German regime's arms-selling company IMES, is one of the touchy subjects buried in these documents.

Two other senior politicians of the New Forum, which is part of the Greens/Alliance 90 group, were injured in two separate car accidents: Günter Nooke on Oct. 11, and Lutz Thormann three days later. Thormann is still in the hospital under intensive care. Both are members of the Greens/Alliance 90 group in the state parliament of Brandenburg, in eastern Germany, and have played a key role in

efforts to lift the official veil on secret intelligence affairs before, but also since, the East German regime collapsed in late 1989.

Bastian himself had been hit by a car in Bonn weeks ago, receiving a serious knee injury.

Given that the intelligence networks that these German politicians have been targeting had eliminated quite a few people over the past decade, it would be naive to simply buy the “Kelly-Bastian suicide” theory, or the story of “a few coincidental car accidents.”

Official investigators said the death of German Christian Democrat Uwe Barschel, whose body was found under mysterious circumstances in a Geneva hotel on Oct. 11, 1987, was “suicide.” Yet on the day Kelly was buried, Germany's Channel 1 national TV magazine “Report” published a few facts on the Barschel affair that had till then been unknown to the public. It is now taken as proven that Barschel had direct contact with IMES, that he held secret talks at the firm's arms depot in Kavelstorf near the eastern German port of Rostock (a key interlink in the Iran-Contra affair), and that he had close “business” contacts with an officer of the East German intelligence service, Klaus Dieter Junge.

“Report” found out that Junge, who ran the arms transshipment venture Schiffskommerz through Rostock, also owned the firm ICA on Grand Canary island, where Barschel had gone for secret talks Oct. 9-10, 1987, before flying to Geneva, where he was found dead a few hours later. His cousin Bernd Barschel, with whom he often met and who worked at East Germany's leading precision optics manufacturer, Zeiss-Jena, died “unexpectedly” three years later. This was when the first news broke about an IMES facet in Barschel's death.