

# Spione

Story Now in Cold War Berlin

Descriptions of Berlin and espionage  
agencies by decade

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## Story Now in Cold War Berlin

### The 1950s

#### BERLIN

The city is explicitly divided into four sectors, each with a strong occupying presence in the military, police, and governments. However, the “two Berlins” are swiftly gaining political identity of their own and most municipal functions are under local control. The respective governments pay frequent lip service to reunification, but their policies are characterized by bureaucratic obstruction, division, militarizing and posturing. Access to West Berlin via highway, airline, and rail is a constant sore point, frequently stalled by ever-changing rules. Western radio fills the airwaves to the east.

Within the city, the sectors are not physically barricaded, and residents of the Soviet Zone with jobs in other sectors (Grenzgänger) cross daily. Technically, other Berliners should have their passes monitored at checkpoints, but few bother. Foreign nationals need to be more careful, especially as unauthorized presence across the Soviet boundary is treated as aggression. Spies and covert operatives constantly buzz through the city’s geography and culture.

The Federal Republic of Germany, perhaps better called the United States’ homunculus, does not technically include West Berlin, but following the 1948 Airlift and with an economy burgeoning under the Marshall Plan, the city thrives as the western outpost. A certain amount of WWII whitewash overlies the culture, as the city rebuilds and the populace develops a new, defiant culture. East Berlin, or, Berlin, the capital of the GDR, is definitely Stalin’s homunculus, undergoing massive social restructuring and settling out of power-structures. Physically, it’s piled with rubble, depleted by looting and reparations, and suffering an ongoing hemorrhage of persons to the west. The populace strikes and protests, only to be suppressed by Soviet tanks.

#### AGENCIES & TRADECRAFT

**The Central Intelligence Agency** (CIA, internal nickname “the Company”): This is actually two agencies, at this time – the CIA and the Office of Policy Coordination, which are steadily folded together by Director Allen Dulles throughout the decade. The former utilizes embassy cover (“I work for State”) and focuses on HUMINT, especially through the Gehlen Org; the latter engages in all manner of sabotage and paramilitary strikes into the eastern zone, usually via cover organizations, some of them dupes. Given an unlimited budget and practically no oversight, the spying and operations are enthusiastic, wildly improvised, and totally decentralized. The classic example is the Berlin Tunnel, dug beneath the border to tap KGB phone transmissions, considered the ultimate in American audacity and can-do know-how.



*The Cold: The CIA man lives a life of lies and evasive arrogance, forbidden to tell anyone anything, and such secrecy backfires on one’s personal life and command structure. The brash cowboy mentality causes problems with peers, allies, and foes alike. Turf battles*

and clashes of equally-secret, not to say utterly-obscure operations occur constantly with the OPC. Political strife with Hawkish U.S. military intelligence, who resent CIA authority over their information, is equally constant.

**Komitet Gosudarstvennoi Bezopasnosti** (KGB, internal nickname “the organs”): The



NKVD undergoes restructuring as well as renaming following the execution of its brutish leader Lavrenty Beria, after Stalin’s death in 1953. The 1<sup>st</sup> Directorate retains its Chekist traditions of open terror, kidnapping, brutality, and blackmail as principal means of managing its minor spies, and its agents in Karlshorst have no compunctions about heavy-handed methods in and from the Soviet Zone in Berlin. However, its policy also benefits from long-term, well-placed western agents dating back to the 1930s. Therefore it is typically one or two steps ahead of any western agency, at the top levels at least. For instance, the KGB leaders knew all about the Berlin Tunnel before it was ever dug.

*The Cold: The revised KGB suffers from ideological crisis in the face of Khrushchev’s reforms, including yet more purges, which are really excuses for internecine vendettas and for the remaining Stalinists to seize power. The politics are silent, lethal, and contained within the agency itself. A spy might find himself targeted for death only because his success might disadvantage his handler’s rival.*

**Gehlen Org / Bundesnachrichtendienst** (BND): This is the true shadow agency:



ruthless, unknown, and politically connected. It is composed of Wehrmacht veterans who trust no one but one another and their leader Reinhard Gehlen, utilizing pure HUMINT, often powered by blackmail. It is a law unto itself, given its western support, and its reach extends into all levels of the western German government. Its target is the GDR, pure and simple. It is the CIA’s greatest asset in Germany and by extension all of Europe.

*The Cold: Many founding Gehlen Org officers would have received significant sentences at Nuremberg unless protected by the CIA; they are essentially an island of escaped Nazis and must cope with this past both on social and personal levels. Administratively, it engages in constant turf battles with the Verfassungsschutz, and may face conflicts of interest with its nominal master, the CIA.*

**Bundesamt für Verfassungsschutz** (BfV, but “Verfassungsschutz” for short): This new



agency is composed mainly of former Abwehr officers who opposed and even tried to assassinate Hitler, including their first leader, Otto John. Its mandate is internal security of the west German government, but throughout this decade, it flails badly, politically outmaneuvered by the Gehlen Org at every turn, therefore becoming a key target for the HVA.

*The Cold: The Verfassungsschutz agent must cope with marginalized political status, often seeing its operations shut down through turf battles. Political and professional clashes with the Gehlen Org are constant, the extension of the WWII clash between Wehrmacht/SS and Abwehr, made worse by Otto John’s confusing defection to the east and subsequent return.*

**Secret Intelligence Service / MI-6:** The agency that “doesn’t exist” operates closely with its protégé, the OPC and by extension the CIA. It serves



as a silent partner for the Tunnel and many other operations, under little government oversight due to its stellar reputation, presented to a T in *From Russia, With Love*. Its officers and agents fill the Berlin cafes, hotels, and any other public venue where foreign nationals gather, developing HUMINT networks and servicing CIA activities.

*The Cold: The SIS experiences mysterious and constant failure of its operations throughout the decade, as it is badly penetrated by the KGB, through the Cambridge spies, most of whom remain in place following the exposure of Burgess and Maclean. Keeping the troubles secret and resisting MI-5's constant efforts at scrutiny are a top priority for the directors, which gradually fails over the course of the decade. Furthermore, many of its sources are actually useless frauds and paper mills. The SIS spy network is riddled with alcoholism, corruption, and inefficiency, leading to intensive and unwelcome reform under director Sinclair.*

**Ministerium für Staatssicherheit** (MfS; derogatively, “Stasi”): The internal security service unleashes itself onto the fractious East German populace with Chekist fervor, losing no opportunity to establish a constant atmosphere of control through midnight kidnapping and beatings. Its most active commander and later director, Erich Mielke, scoffs at Soviet reform talk, staying true to his Stalinist ideals. Torture and long-term imprisonment are standard operating procedures.



*The Cold: The Stasi officer finds himself with a moral choice – ever-increasing extremism, or accusations of counterrevolutionary tendencies. Purges occur and re-occur, and as with the KGB, afford multiple opportunities for ideological showdowns and personal revenge.*

**Hauptverwaltung Aufklärung** (HVA): After a poor start, the East German foreign spy service finds its feet under its new, young director Markus Wolf, mentored by and tightly linked with the 1<sup>st</sup> Directorate of the KGB. Through the decade, the agency establishes its own methods, characterized by pinpoint penetration of the FRG, moving away from the KGB style. Although it is administratively folded into the MfS, the two agencies' functions are effectively separate.



*The Cold: The HVA as a whole considers itself a cut above the brutish Stasi and primarily allied with the KGB, and bureaucratic, political clashes between the two are an ongoing source of trouble for agents.*

*An HVA operation may well be compromised by the Stasi's deliberate obstruction or interference.*

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## Story Now in Cold War Berlin

### The 1960s

#### Berlin

The city is now truly divided by the Wall in its original cinderblock construction, with a variety of security at different points and reinforced by constant guard. Although West Berlin is the part that's enclosed, the *eastern* city has now become the maximum-security prison. Telephone lines are down and travel across the border is severely restricted and expensive. This decade represents the most extreme physical and social division of the city's history, alleviated only by the constant contact with "forbidden" media.

Dramatic escapes succeed and fail at the Wall and Border. In the city, students and radical organizations help refugees, leading to firefights in the sewers and cellars. Spying, on the other hand, actually diminishes.

Although the city itself is politically frozen and socially boiling over, the superpowers are backing down from their military high-water marks, instead committing to economic support of their respective homunculi. The two Germanys are now in-between, neither occupied states (despite the residual presence of the four powers in Berlin) nor recognized nations.

The stereotypic versions of the city come into existence. West Berlin is a neon-lit capitalist showpiece, as well as something of a refuge for young West Germans as well, thus a double island. It becomes a political and artistic hotbed, including youth protests. Eastern Berlin is dreamy, frozen, still rubble-strewn – surreal, uneventful, terrifying, the "zone" indeed, although its economy finally stabilizes with USSR support.

#### Agencies & tradecraft

**The Central Intelligence Agency** (CIA, internal nickname "the Company"): Most of the agency's spying in Berlin is undertaken by the BND, but its covert operations enter a new phase of intensity and secrecy under Operations chief, later director Richard Helms. The typical operation is pretty wacky, full of ideas and gadgets, dependent on extremist third parties, prone to individually-run, highly compartmentalized actions, including assassinations. Administratively, although the agency receives a high-tech new headquarters in Langley, VA, it seethes with internal turmoil due to Counterintelligence chief James Jesus Angleton's relentless mole-hunt.



*The Cold: Compartmentalization sows doubt and confusion more than it preserves secrecy, as the agency comes under unwanted exposure and critique, and its piggy bank, although still secretly laundered through Congress, is now subjected to accounting. Families suffer from over a decade of secrecy and its resulting conflicts. Administratively, the counterintelligence crisis ruins careers and tears the agency apart, the FBI turf war*

turns ugly, and the State Department is now less cooperative, turning embassies into internecine battlegrounds. Dissent becomes evident within the agency culture, as well as resentments toward the American public.

**Komitet Gosudarstvennoi Bezopasnosti** (KGB, internal nickname “the organs”): The



KGB spying techniques slowly transform from their thuggish origins, branching into TECHINT, primarily bugging. As the HVA’s spying more than meets the agency’s needs against western targets, 1<sup>st</sup> Directorate officers in Karlshorst become complacent with their existing networks. Field agents like hangin’ out in the west, especially when being called home probably means getting a “nine gram medal.” However, the agency is struck hard by key defections (Golitsyn) and internal arrests (Penkovsky), and rival agencies seek to diminish its power.

*The Cold: Soviet politics create constant turmoil and agenda-based operations, including confrontations with the GRU, disagreements with the Supreme Soviet, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Directorate turf battles. The defections and internal arrests (e.g. Penkovsky) lead to quiet but very intense power shifts and disappearances, up and down the hierarchy. As ever, the KGB officer’s worst enemy is just down the hall.*

**Bundesnachrichtendienst** (BND): The former Gehlen Org is now an official part of the government, and the newly named agency must step up to scrutiny and move past its



aging, exceptionally politically-incorrect leader. It spies aggressively, still tightly allied with the CIA and ignoring the Verfassungsschutz to run its own domestic counterintelligence, but it is badly penetrated by the HVA. In fact, its agents sent into the GDR are routinely doubled back on them.

*The Cold: The BND must cope with a new world it doesn’t like very much, including generational conflict within its ranks, clashes with liberalizing politics, and the slowly renewing interest in the Nazi past. Does it serve its own outmoded needs, its government’s new needs, or its old ally the CIA? Every operation forces the choice. Also, within-agency suspicions about moles are a near-certainty.*

**Bundesamt für Verfassungsschutz** (BfV, but “Verfassungsschutz” for short): Finally



more organized and integrated with the government, this agency is active against eastern spies within the FRG and West Berlin, but like the BND, it is also penetrated by the HVA. It is also turned toward civil unrest, such as protesters against U.S. involvement in Viet Nam.

*The Cold: During assignments, in dealing with homegrown Leftist dissidents, the agent must decide – are these criminals or not? Within the agency, the possibility of moles breeds an atmosphere of constant suspicion. Also, as always, the BND exerts political pressure to stay secure from any Verfassungsschutz investigation.*

**Secret Intelligence Service / MI-6:** What appears to be a crowning success, the



acquisition of KGB defector Golitsyn in tandem with the CIA, becomes a series of disasters as the extent of KGB penetration is revealed, and the Cambridge spies’ careers like Blunt and Blake are made known. The exposure of the master mole Kim Philby is undermined by his escape and

the later publication of his scathing autobiography. The agency sees its networks rolled up by the opposing agencies, becomes estranged from the CIA to an extent which never recovers, and falls under constant investigation by MI-5, with revelation after revelation of its penetration and failures.

*The Cold: This period spells nothing but the Cold for SIS officers and their agents, ranging from direct danger from the KGB, to being isolated or cut off from help from CIA or their own agency, to encountering opposition and investigation by MI-5, or even discovering one's entire operation was nothing but cover for a mole, and is now vulnerable to all of the foregoing at once. Psychologically, descending from "Bond, James Bond" to international Prize Espionage Idiot is about as bad as it gets.*

**Ministerium für Staatssicherheit (MfS; derogatively, "Stasi"):** Now that the GDR has effectively become a penal colony, the agency considers itself the supreme civil authority. It begins to penetrate the police and military to establish covert control, and it is now established fully in politics. It is thoroughly feared, using "Green Maria" vans to take people to the Bautzen II, or Yellow Misery, one of the foulest prisons in Europe. Now that Mielke is the director, it also becomes a little strange – prone to weirdly irrelevant or trivial actions, such as running about turning TV antennas away from the west, and bugging anything and everything.



*The Cold: There is no room in the Stasi for anyone but the dullest sort of fanatic, which provides potential for many personal conflicts among more sensible members who are loyal to the regime, but not so sure about Mielke.*

**Hauptverwaltung Aufklärung (HVA):** This is the agency's heyday, when the HVA becomes, along with the Mossad, the most effective intelligence service in the world. His professional, well-trained, and committed agents are further served by the west's relative ignorance of how thoroughly they have penetrated every aspect of the FRG. Techniques typically include placing useful, helpful people into organizations and having them rise to the top through competence, without pushing them into risky situations. By the end of the decade, even the Chancellor's office has its mole.



*The Cold: HVA members are typically more educated, more well-traveled, and more familiar with western-bloc culture than comparable agents – hence they face more complex loyalty issues. Some might object to the Wall and generally with the Stalinist perspective of the prevailing government; certainly confrontations with the parent-agency MfS are common, especially since the HVA's first loyalty (in terms of intelligence) is to the KGB.*

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## Story Now in Cold War Berlin

### The 1970s

#### Berlin

The superpowers turn their primary attention elsewhere, but Berlin is still the point-of-contact for the west/east economies, and reasserts itself as a major world city. The art scenes flourish, and in the west, money booms. Germans surge back into world culture as active participants, not as a military flashpoint or as criminals.

A new German political era has dawned through *Ostpolitik*, which at this point has reduced obstructionism and ostentatious snubbing between the two states, and led to leadership turnovers in both. They are now two nations, recognized as such by the U.N.

Berlin's division remains highly militarized and border control is closely monitored. The Wall and Border are revised into their final, terrifying states, including auto-shooting machines. Physically, the Wall becomes part of the city, a defining feature of life even – or especially – for those who never consciously notice it.

However, passage through the checkpoints is now available to FRG citizens (not necessarily West Berliners) and a few citizens of the eastern city receive limited opportunities to visit on day passes. A constant exchange of pop culture and fashions begins, and the city's neighborhoods take on their modern identities (e.g. Prenzlauer Berg, Kreuzberg). The cross-city telephone lines are restored.

Culturally, the “Wall in the head” phase begins as many people incorporate both halves of Berlin into their lives. The west is most marked by a certain souring of attitude toward the U.S., as the modern political groups take shape. The eastern way of life is now well-established, and within it, nationalism takes hold, especially given false hope by “new” leader Erich Honecker before his true colors become known.

#### Agencies & tradecraft

**The Central Intelligence Agency** (CIA, internal nickname “the Company”): This is a strange and schizophrenic time for the agency, as its operations come under public disclosure and severe political scrutiny by a variety of powerful organizations. Its vaunted secret status disappears. The directorship changes several times, swinging wildly between “insider cover-up” and “outsider cleaner-up.” In the field, the veteran officer is roguish, seedy, intense, and prone to “initiative,” perhaps mixed with crimes like gun-running and smuggling, and often completely disinclined to respect any authority except the agency itself, and sometimes not even then.



*The Cold: This is the era of the true Cold for the Company. The whole hierarchy is wracked by political conflicts of interest. Covert ops are exposed or go entirely underground, massive firings create an underclass of still-active ex-CIA, political shakeups and much ass-covering make policy unintelligible, disgruntled agents turn into*

highly public whistle-blowers (e.g. Agee, Marchetti), and conflicts arise from contrast between veterans (many fired/resigned) and idealistic rookies.

**Komitet Gosudarstvennoi Bezopasnosti** (KGB, internal nickname “the organs”):



Various re-structuring under the new head, Yuri Andropov, leads to significant changes in KGB style and approach. The 1<sup>st</sup> Directorate stereotype is now dispassionate, well-educated, and surgically effective, taking the long view. Killings and kidnappings are out, money and psychology are in, and the result is a new extensive network of well-placed, long-term moles. Domestically, the huge, multi-directorate agency begins to function as a USSR political party and tends to spin its data accordingly.

*The Cold: Ideologically, 1<sup>st</sup> Directorate officers are much like Jesuits – in knowing “heretics,” they become heretical themselves, to the extent of conflict with the overarching authority. This is also an era of opportunistic defection, as officers hit professional ceilings and realize how valuable they might be to the west. Even the most loyal must deal with constant conflicts with the rabidly-Hawkish GRU, and with the political jockeying over who will succeed Brezhnev, as Andropov is a front-runner.*

**Bundesnachrichtendienst** (BND): The agency is now restructured and house-cleaned, having become professional feds rather than shadowy spooks. Their mandate has changed as well, focused mainly on international terrorists, many of whom utilize Berlin as a staging ground. The Munich Massacre puts the agency in the international spotlight, and they must step up to the new scale of the challenge, interacting with Mossad and other politically difficult institutions.



*The Cold: The old guard and new guard represent a major shift in ideology and approaches, leading to conflicts in the office and in the field. No longer subordinate to the CIA, the agency must consider potential conflicts of interests with allying agencies, especially those who regard Germany and/or Berlin as their special domain.*

**Bundesamt für Verfassungsschutz** (BfV, but “Verfassungsschutz” for short): After so many years of turmoil, the agency finally settles into its federal-cop role, dealing mainly with the real threat of violent home-grown protest and terrorism. Also, for the first time, it achieves successes against the HVA, successfully identifying and arresting a variety of moles and agents.



*The Cold: The prevailing agency conflicts concern the changing politics of Germany, including rapid social and ethnic shifts. Turks and punks are now part of the Berlin landscape, and a generally more liberal, more activist generation moves into the power structure. Federal cops tend to be conservative, so officers of the agency often have to make difficult choices in the field.*

**Secret Intelligence Service / MI-6**: The agency recovers from its “poor relation” status, having restructured and altered its mandate toward Middle East and African operations, especially when spying on Soviet targets. Its pretense of “doesn’t exist” remains but only as a pretense, and its role is reshaped as a direct support for British state policy. Its presence in Berlin is now



vastly different from its old role as Cold Warrior ally and mentor to the CIA.

*The Cold: The primary conflicts arise between the old guard, still committed to the old boy network and the notion of the gentleman spy, and the rather militaristic new guard.*

**Ministerium für Staatssicherheit** (MfS; derogatively, “Stasi”): The “sword and shield of the Party” turns toward obsessive surveillance with a massive increase in mandate and manpower, utilizing bizarre gadgets that blanket whole neighborhoods with spy cameras and bugs. Suspected wrong-thinking folks are interviewed for hours in order to collect sweat from the gauze in the seats of their chairs, which is then collected, bottled, and meticulously labeled, for later possible use by pursuit dogs. Also, an entire branch under Heinz Volpert expands the long-standing “skin trade” of dissidents to West Berlin for money into a major source of revenue for the government.



*The Cold: No doubt about it, the Stasi is now irretrievably weird, a perfect blend of banality, cruelty, and obsession. If any of its employees maintain the illusion that it serves a constructive purpose, they almost certainly run into contradicting evidence daily and must cope with that ethically.*

**Hauptverwaltung Aufklärung** (HVA): Although still a premier agency, it bloats with paperwork and careerism, in which generating records of effort seems to promote success more than anything else. Wolf's interest in the work wanes, letting middle management become more powerful. Spying operations continue but with less overall success, despite remarkable penetrations into NATO, for instance. Also, Department XXV begins working with and training a variety of militant, violent action groups.



*The Cold: The characteristic brightness of its recruits begins to work against the agency as the temptation of profiteering and opportunities in the west becomes too available for the enterprising. As promised reforms by Honecker fail to appear, and as Wolf loses interest in the spy game, officers' motivation and loyalty take a downward turn and internecine sabotage of one another's work becomes more common.*

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## Story Now in Cold War Berlin

### The 1980s

#### Berlin

Both superpowers experience political unrest and conflict, as tensions skyrocket to a 1950s level and new allegiances fail to fit well into old patterns. However, Germany is no longer their point of conflict, and as a “divided whole” the regions now have their own economic and political identities, with today’s parties’ roots firmly established

Reunification of Germany has finally vanished as an overt political goal, and the Wall is considered permanent. Berlin is a world center again, even proud of its quirky divided character. Across the city’s border, the westmark is king – the exchange rates, real and decreed, affect everything. The city is now the Hong Kong of European commerce, permitting unofficial-but-significant arrangements between divergent economies.

The western city offers a kaleidoscope of artistic and political ferment, in strong contrast to the relatively staid culture of the FRG proper. “What happens in West Berlin stays in West Berlin.” West Germans and travelers from western bloc nations now easily visit the GDR, and West Berliners routinely cross for the opera and shopping for specialty items. GDR citizens’ travel remains restricted for artists, technical professionals, and politicians who pass Stasi vetting.

East Berlin and the GDR in general are penetrated by the tentacles of its own security service, as the *Inoffizielle Mitarbeiter* program is expanded dramatically. The culture also builds up pressure of activism and protest, unseen except in its attendant urban-dropout culture, rock-and-roll, and church activity.

#### Agencies: tradecraft & the Cold

**The Central Intelligence Agency** (CIA, internal nickname “the Company”): The agency operates in two distinct layers: the overseen, organized, by-the-book spies, whose HUMINT and satellite information undergoes extensive analysis; and the totally shadowy ex-agents and their network of contacts throughout the U.S. military, business, and government. The latter are best described as “not really CIA,” and they are tied into international drug cartels, a variety of fringe political interests around the world, and shady finances. Shifts in U.S. policy and the complicity of director Casey provide multiple opportunities for them, with covert support from military connections and the White House.



*The Cold: The CIA officer encounters evidence that more underlies his agency than meets the eye, and often at odds with either agency or government policy. The alternatives are to challenge one’s agency or to engage in ever-less-tolerable doublethink, and this leads to generational and political clashes at every level. A positive change, however, is improved although not perfect relations with the FBI, including joint operations.*

**Komitet Gosudarstvennoi Bezopasnosti (KGB, internal nickname “the organs”):** The 1<sup>st</sup>



Directorate takes on a two-level identity. The official agents are eery and effective, with extremely high-tech bugging and surveillance as well as maintaining their well-placed moles in the CIA and FBI. The ex- and rogue types become the world’s best-connected and most vicious gangsters, something like old-school anarchists. They casually extort and murder throughout the world, often using East Berlin as a criminal playground.

*The Cold: The overall agency is now officially a major political player in the Soviet Union, as the head gains a chair in the governing council. Accordingly, political implications of intelligence take priority over its content, especially when political turmoil puts every KGB officer into crisis – the rapid turnover of the Premiership and then Gorbachev’s reform policies disrupt everyone’s long-term plans. Loyal veterans clash with criminal veterans, and the ideologically-inclined enter into confrontations concerning glasnost and perestroika.*

**Bundesnachrichtendienst (BND):** The FRG feds are now strongly focused on national interest as government representatives, often for relatively conservative aims. Their spying operations are limited but effective, with the main focus being international cooperation against terrorism.



*The Cold: The agency faces public conflicts familiar to the American CIA and its support of conservative policy during this decade. Officers also must maintain reciprocal relationships with other agencies, now that the privileged role of the Gehlen Org is obsolete.*

**Bundesamt für Verfassungsschutz (BfV, but “Verfassungsschutz” for short):** The agency’s main concern is domestic radicalism from both Right and Left, including neo-Nazis as well as extreme Greens. The long-term rivalry with the BND has settled into standard intelligence-counterintelligence form, no longer a source of dysfunction.



*The Cold: The FRG government’s long-standing skin trade with the Stasi now brings hundreds of dubious-legitimate immigrants into Berlin every year, representing an ongoing threat of penetration. It also offers a range of personal crises about the justice of the program and the role of intelligence in its application. The agency also faces ongoing jurisdiction issues with local law and government, much like the FBI faces during this time in the United States.*

**Secret Intelligence Service / MI-6:** The agency enters a new era with the full support of



Thatcher’s aggressive, pro-military government. It is better coordinated with MI-5 and other branches of British intelligence, with multiple new stations worldwide and highly oriented toward augmenting policy. Its prime target is international terrorism and related organized crime. It is no longer allied tightly with the CIA, working explicitly for British economic and military interests, with excellent technology although limited manpower.

*The Cold: Despite agreements between Reagan and Thatcher administrations, conflicts with American agencies occur regularly in term of sharing information and goals regarding specific*

targets, especially since the SIS power structure is not at all inclined to truckle to the CIA or any other agencies.

**Ministerium für Staatssicherheit (MfS; derogatively, “Stasi”):** The agency becomes the core of government power as the Party leaders become ever more disconnected from economic and social reality. Surveillance and finking spreads through the GDR populace like a virus, mainly due to Stasi control over career and travel choices. However, it also faces real, growing opposition from the same populace, who begin to utilize solidarity and unified non-compliance.



*The Cold: The Stasi officer lives in utter disconnection between professional and real life, mentally trapped in the 1950s. How can rounding up dissidents mean anything, if all that happens is ransoming them to the west? How can*

*that make sense given the intense attention given to preventing escapes to the west? Also, defiance from the population becomes real and unstoppable, as international scrutiny is now a GDR priority and Soviet support is withdrawn. Unless people are afraid of them, the Stasi cannot exist.*

**Hauptverwaltung Aufklärung (HVA):** The agency engages in training Communist states' spy services worldwide, maintaining its own spying, but with less and less effect or relevance. Wolf's retirement spells the last of the agency's elite status, and a number of its spies are caught by the Verfassungschutz or the FBI. Many of the officers are best understood as enjoying GDR privilege and FRG lifestyles, with spying being a means to this end.



*The Cold: Unlike any other authority figures in the GDR, agency officers can see the way the wind's blowing, so the overriding question is, what to do?*

*Fundamentally, it's a choice between privileged oppression for no cause, or anti-government activism for society's sake. Given the HVA man's sophisticated perspective, opportunities are legion, but each has its moral impact, especially in the face of family concerns. The long-term alliance with the KGB is breaking down as well, in the face of rogue or ex-KGB activity.*