

Erich Schmidt-Eenboom:

Western counter-intelligence and security efforts against security threats posed by refugees from Eastern Europe during the Cold War and beyond

In the Autumn of 2015, at the peak of the refugee crisis, I had a disagreement with the German Minister of the Interior. Thomas de Mazière argued that the so-called Islamic state (“IS”) would in no way use the flow of refugees across the Balkan route to smuggle terrorists into Europe.

My point, however, was that the “IS” inherited a very professional intelligence service from the overthrown regime of Saddam Hussein, whose officers had been trained by the KGB, the CIA, and the German Bundesnachrichtendienst (BND); these intelligence professionals would use every route to carry their terror to Europe.

It was initially difficult to go public with my argument because the German media had a double taboo: first, they feared a general condemnation of all refugees. Second, they did not want to pour water on the mills of right-wing propagandists. It was not until December 2015 that I was able to make my analysis public in an interview with the Deutschlandfunk, a German radio station.

Some events meanwhile have confirmed my point of view. Najim Laachraoui, the suicide bomber in Brussels and alleged mastermind behind the Paris attacks of 13 November 2015, and Salah Abdeslam, the main suspect in this attack, were in the same car when they crossed the border from Hungary to Austria in September 2015.¹

In June 2015 the trial against three “IS” terrorists who had planned a bomb attack in Düsseldorf began. During the court hearings, we learned that in April 2014 they were received their instructions from the “IS” leadership in Raqqa to travel to Germany via Greece and the Balkan route. Previously, they had - provided with 5,000 euros – explored trafficking routes from Turkey to Europe. The group was arrested only because its leader, Saleh A., made a confession in Paris in February 2016. At the same time, a case against three other “IS” terrorists who had come to Germany with fake passports took place in Hamburg.²

¹ Conf. www.derStandard.at 22.4.2016: Brüssel-Attentäter Laachraoui bewachte in Syrien französische Geiseln.

² Conf. Der Spiegel 25/2017, p. 40: Kiffend zum Attentäter.

Since the beginning of September 2017 we know that 60 fighters of an Islamic terrorist group of the Nusra Front came over the Balkan route to Germany disguised as refugees from Syria, some using false names. Half of these men have not yet been identified or found. It was the statements of one of those fighters during his hearing in the asylum procedure which brought German investigators on their track.³

Thus it became evident that the Balkan route has been a gateway for terrorists, coming not in battalions, but in small groups. How to find those needles in the haystack in view of about almost one point two million first-time asylum applications in 2015 and 2016 in Germany – 60 percent of which were without personal documents?⁴

My proposal in late 2015 was to re-establish those interrogation centres managed by different intelligence services during the Cold War and beyond, to learn from the failures during this time and to form an improved system also using new technical means to screen refugees. I got no reaction in those months.

Some weeks ago the results of the parliamentary investigation concerning the partly illegal co-operation between the National Security Agency and the BND was made public. One of the recommendations of this report, which also investigated the decline of the Joint Interrogation Centres in Germany from 1990 to 2014, was:

“The readiness of people who had fled to Germany before war and terror to live here in peace and security, to support the work of the German security authorities, is great. This readiness should also be used in the future in order to obtain important and up-to-date findings on the humanitarian situation and development in crises, as well as on migration routes, trafficking in human beings and possible terrorist threats, by means of the interrogation of immigrants. It is therefore necessary to examine what measures are required in terms of human, material and, if necessary, legislation, in order to support and intensify the work of the federal security authorities in this important area.”⁵

³ Conf. Der Spiegel 36/2017, p. 31: Islamisten in Deutschland. Schlächter von Tabka.

⁴ Conf. OECD: International Migration Outlook 2017, Paris 2017, p. 72. Around 37% from Syrian nationals, followed by Afghan (18%) and Iraqi nationals (13%). However, according to the German Ministry of the Interior, 30 percent of people who claimed Syrian citizenship came from other countries. See also: Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung 26.5.2017: Warum hat das Bamf kein Sprachsystem?

⁵ Deutscher Bundestag – Drucksache 18/12850, p. 1296. Our own translation.

This shift was also triggered by two dramatic mistakes in the recognition process for asylum seekers and in the monitoring of a particular potential terrorist.

The first case: The first lieutenant of the German army, Franco A.⁶, had succeeded in registering as a refugee from Syria in December 2015 in Gießen, although he did not speak Arabic and only a little French. This lieutenant, who harbours right-wing extremist views, is accused of having planned a serious criminal offense against the state. He planned a bomb attack, and by registering as a Syrian refugee, he hoped to make the attack look like the act of a refugee. As a result, more than 100,000 previous decisions in asylum procedures had to be re-examined.⁷

To cope with the onrush of asylum applications, hastily trained staff from other authorities and the armed forces were deployed. When I was a captain in the German army, I sometimes was given the order to appoint a sergeant to another unit for a few months. My choice was never my best man; my choice was always a low performer. No wonder then, that the quality of the decision-makers in many cases was sub-par.

The second case is much more dramatic: In the summer of 2015 the Tunisian Anis Amri came to southern Germany via Sicily and was registered in Germany with 14 different identities. From the end of October 2015, he was classified as a potential terrorist and monitored in North Rhine-Westphalia and Berlin. His mobile phone was monitored so intensively that 10,000 telephone calls were intercepted and 8,000 short texts were recorded. Several phone calls with "IS" fighters were intercepted. Nevertheless, he was not taken into deportation detention and on the 19th December 2016 he carried out an attack on the Breitscheidplatz in Berlin, where 12 people died. He then fled to Italy and was shot by a policeman near Milan.⁸

Let me briefly bring the history of the interrogation system in Germany to your attention, especially in regards to the beginnings.

The situation after WWII: Shortly after the end of the Second World War, millions of people flocked from Eastern Europe to the West, including thousands on behalf of various Eastern intelligence services. Only one example (for a second see the Working Paper): The

⁶ In Germany, the media usually refers to criminals only by their initials.

⁷ Conf. <http://www.spiegel.de/politik/deutschland/bundeswehr-und-fall-franco-a-dolmetscherin-fand-offizier-verdaechtig-a-1150477.html>.

⁸ Conf. Der Spiegel 27/2017, p. 50-56: „Ich bin ein Terrorist, haha!“ and Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung 20.6.2017: „Jost vermutet Manipulation“.

Politbureau of the Polish Communist Party announced internally that between May 1945 and December 1946 about 12,000 Communist agents had been smuggled into the American and British zones.⁹

Today we have a similar situation in Europe: millions of refugees and among them dangerous elements.

The divided city of Berlin was the magnet for refugees from Eastern Europe. That is why the British Intelligence Service set up the first interrogation centre in September 1948. In August 1949, the Americans moved in, and in 1952 the French arrived.¹⁰ The emergency reception centre Berlin at Marienfelde was the most important gateway for GDR refugees to West Germany. Inaugurated in April 1953, it processed 1.35 million applications by the time it was closed in 1993.

The UK interrogation system had approximately 500 employees; British refugee processing centres were located not only in West Berlin, but also in Bad Oeynhausen, Herford, Cologne and above all in Friedland. The refugee camp in Friedland was established on 20 September 1945 by the British to assist in the transit and first aid for refugees. By the end of 1945, more than 500,000 refugees, displaced persons and returnees had already passed through the camp. In 1946 and 1947 Friedland was the first stop for almost 800,000 people. In February 1948, the newly established Lower Saxony Ministry of Refugees assumed the responsibility for the

⁹ Smolorz, Roman P.: Displaced Persons (DPs). Autoritäten und Anführer im angehenden Kalten Krieg im östlichen Bayern, Stadtarchiv Regensburg (Hrsg.), Regensburg 2006, p 62. The second example: At the end of the 1940s, the Counter Intelligence Corps of the U.S. Army worried that the Soviet intelligence service sent former members of the SS from Soviet camps to the western zones of occupation. They were to carry out espionage against the U.S. forces, spread propaganda - for example, that the British would send food from Germany to England during these years of famine - and recruit further SS personnel for an underground network. See the file "Alleged Soviet Sponsored Organization to Recruit Former SS Personnel", in: National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) Record Group (RG) 319 (Records Army Staff), Entry 134a, XE 131926.

¹⁰ Schmidt-Eenboom, Erich: Das Notaufnahmelager Marienfelde und die westlichen Nachrichtendienste, in: Zeitschrift für Geschichtswissenschaft 2/2016, p 113-128. See also Allied Kommandantura Berlin 23.8.1956: SUBJECT: Allied Processing at Marienfelde Refugee Camp, Public Record Office Kew (GB), Ref. FO 1003/187.

camp.¹¹ In addition to the British intelligence service, the Gehlen Organisation – the precursor of the BND and operator of a smaller interrogation system - also conducted interrogations there.

In the American occupation zone, the camp at Gießen was set up in 1946 for the reception of those expelled from their own Eastern European countries. The headquarters for all US interrogation facilities was in Camp King in Oberursel from 1946 to 1993. The Defence Intelligence Agency managed several dozen stations from there.

Two years after the founding of the BND, in April 1958 the German interrogation system with their “Hauptstellen für das Befragungswesen” (HBW) was established in the course of the partial takeover of the interrogation system from the Allies and staffed by employees of the German secret services.¹²

From the 1960s up to the 1980s, the BND had twelve main centres for interrogation in Berlin and the entire Federal Republic, five in the camps themselves and seven outside. The partner intelligence services of the three former Allied Powers were integrated into this system.¹³

The construction of the Berlin Wall in August 1961 was a bitter blow for the Western intelligence services. Marienfelde saw a significant decline in refugees: in 1960 there were more than 150,000; but only 3,612 refugees from the GDR came to the camp in 1962. Starting in 1964, a new target group of the intelligence services arrived with 232 emigrants – those people from countries in Eastern Europe which got permission to go to West Germany. In

¹¹ Conf. <http://www.grenzdurchgangslager-friedland.niedersachsen.de/>.

¹² Conf. Antwort der Bundesregierung auf die Kleine Anfrage der Abgeordneten Ulla Jelpke und der Gruppe der PDS/Linke Liste. Deutscher Bundestag Drucksache 12/927 29.7.1991.

¹³ In Munich (Maria-Theresiastr. 16), in Duesseldorf (Immermannstr. 11) because of the transit camp Unna-Massen, in Gießen (Bäue 22) with a branch in Berlin (Sven-Hedin-Str. 11 / Hohenzollerndamm 150), in Hannover (Münzstr. 4) with a branch station in the border crossing camp Friedland, in Stuttgart (Archivstr. 19), in Nuremberg-Zirndorf (Wielandstr. 7), in Mainz (Bahnhofstr. 7), in Kassel (Königsplatz 59) and in Hamburg (Gotenstr. 21) with a branch in Lübeck. See also: Charisius, Albrecht and Julius Mader: Nicht länger geheim, Berlin 1969 (3rd edition), p 266. An example for the integration: In the German Survey Center in Hamburg resided the „United States Army Element Hamburg Befragungsstelle“.

1984 there was an upward trend with about 7,000 GDR refugees and about 1,000 emigrants, in 1989 there were a little more than 50,000 GDR refugees and about 12,000 emigrants.¹⁴ Despite the barriers posed by the Berlin Wall, interrogation of the newly arrived remained one of the most important pillars of BND espionage. In 1984, 164,000 pieces of technical information were gathered, whereas human intelligence amounted to only 105,000 individual reports. Within HUMINT, however, there were 25,000 reports from partner services, 30,000 from operations, and 50,000 – 50 percent! - from interrogations and the border control system.¹⁵

The interrogation of refugees from the East pursued several objectives:

- To collect information about military, economic, political and social affairs in East Germany and other states of the Warsaw Treaty.
- To recruit agents to return to their countries of origin for a limited period of time for espionage purposes.
- To conduct Counter-Intelligence (CI), both to investigate agents and structures of the opposing intelligence services, as well as to expose spies and sleeper agents – those agents to be activated only in case of war – mixed in with the stream of refugees.

Let's focus on Counter-Intelligence: for the Gehlen Organisation we only have figures for the year 1955. The CIA statistics in Pullach near Munich in March 1955 reflect the proportion of reports in the counter-intelligence category for the three months from December 1954 to February 1955. It was between 42.59 and 50 percent of the total volume and thus significantly more than the average of 17 percent from the entire HUMINT (Human Intelligence) area.¹⁶ In other words; the harvest of CI information was vastly more abundant.

¹⁴ Conf. Erinnerungsstätte Notaufnahmelager Marienfelde e.V. (Ed.): 1953 - 2003. 50 Jahre Notaufnahmelager Marienfelde, Berlin 2003, p 42ff.

¹⁵ Conf. BND - Stichwortsammlung zum Jahresbericht 1984 (Collection of key words for the annual report 1984), p 7, Archive Forschungsinstitut für Friedenspolitik e.V. (FF), Weilheim/Obb.

¹⁶ Conf. Chief of Base, Pullach to Chief, EE 30.3.1955: SYNOPSIS: A summary review of ZIPPER's CE Organization and operations, in: CIA Information Management Services: NWCDA 1.2.2011, Box 79, UJDROLLERY Volume 3.

Picking out the agents in the flood of refugees, which was the aim of such interrogations, was difficult. Here is one example (Additional three in the footnote¹⁷).

At the end of 1957 the Latvian Alfred Z. Launags registered as a refugee at the West Berlin police. The US services suspected that Launags had been sent by the KGB when they interrogated a countryman. Further investigations showed that Launags had initially served in a special unit of the Soviet military intelligence from 1942 to 1947 and subsequently in the

¹⁷ In some cases happenstance was helpful. In 1952, a woman from Eisenach, who had fled to the West from East Germany, went to the head of the registry department in the Giessen camp, and identified a certain Mr Schick who oversaw the copies of the interrogation protocols of the Uelzen camp as an agent of the Ministry of State Security of the GDR (SSD), the Stasi. She herself had noticed, she said, that Schick, while Head of the SSD office in Eisenach, had given directions to Giessen in West Germany. Conf. Coburger Tageblatt 30.6.1952: SSD-Spitzel im Flüchtlingslager.

In October 1959, the "Non-German Refugee Panel" of the CIC region XIII summoned a woman who had escaped from the CSR, the former Soviet satellite of Czechoslovakia, to West Berlin for an interrogation. She described her former neighbor, a strict Communist teacher in Hlucin, as a spy of the Czech service, and declared that he had obtained permission to visit relatives of his wife in West-Germany in the summer of 1959, although it was commonly known that such a visit was permitted only if the person concerned was prepared to carry out intelligence missions in the target country. The CIC recorded her testimony and sent her back to the asylum procedure on the same day. Conf. Berlin Station VIII, 513th MI Group vom 2.2.1960: Czech Intelligence Service, in: Freedom of Information Act #444F-05, S. 567ff, Archive FF.

A more recent example: A Polish woman had applied for asylum together with her husband, who was working for the Solidarność trade union movement. While her husband's request was granted, she herself received a refusal notice. She sued at the court at Wiesbaden, winning the first instance. As evidence, she provided the fact that she had been interrogated by both the German Office for the Protection of the Constitution and the American intelligence service at Zirndorf in July 1983. Her lawyer appealed to a statement by the "Federal Office for the Recognition of Foreign Refugees" in August 1983, which explained the purpose of the interrogation by "protecting the Federal Republic from spying on foreign intelligence services and the possible involvement of asylum seekers." Verwaltungsgericht Wiesbaden Urteil 15.5.1985 - XI/2 E 05183/84 0, in: Informationen zum Ausländerrecht 3/1986, p. 91f.

Smersch, the Russian military intelligence, as a case officer, then served from January to May 1948 at the MGB – the predecessor of the KGB - in Riga. In June 1959, the CIA definitively classified him as an operative sent by a Soviet intelligence service.¹⁸

There followed a gradual dismantling of the interrogation system. On 3 October 1990, the German-British-American interrogation centre in Berlin was closed. The French had already withdrawn a few years earlier. The BND took over the building. The Western Allies were still there in a very reduced number.

At the beginning of 2002 only five HBWs existed: Berlin, Nuremberg, Hanover, Göttingen and Mainz. In 2008 there were still stations in Berlin, Friedland, Hanover, Wiesbaden and Nuremberg. The Mainz interrogation centre had been moved across the Rhine to Wiesbaden. In the course of 2012, the station in Friedland was dissolved, 2013 three more. The last HBW in Berlin on Hohenzollerndamm 150 was closed June 2014.

While 300 employees of the BND were employed in the interrogation system during the Cold War, their number dropped to 100 in 2008, then dropped further to 40 in 2014. The partner services employed 300 interrogators after 1990, although they disapproved of the decision to abolish the stations.

In the last few years, only 500 to 800 initial interviews and 200 to 300 follow-up interviews were conducted with refugees. The target groups were mostly Russians, inhabitants of the Balkans, Iraqis and Syrians. A head of the BND's department reported in the Bundestag investigation committee that it was not the task of her unit to investigate terrorist cells, terrorist networks or their members.¹⁹ In the fight against international terrorism, the BND has therefore refrained from interrogating refugees.

Points of special interest and some remarks on the current situation

¹⁸ Conf. Termination of the [CIA] Operation 12.6.1959, in: NARA RG 263 (Records of the CIA) Struebing, Johannes.

¹⁹ For the development after 1990 see: Deutscher Bundestag Drucksache 18/12850 and – from a British point of view – Dawson, Jack: "The BND's Hauptstelle für Befragungswesen and its British Partner", in: Journal for Intelligence, Propaganda and Security Studies, 1/2010, p. 140-144.

The most serious failing of the so-called "Joint (?)" Interrogation Centres was the competition between western intelligence services. The exchange of knowledge was in the early stages extremely limited, later on still limited due to divergent national interests.²⁰ In the early years each refugee was questioned multiple times: by American, British and French intelligence, by the German BND and / or the Office for the Protection of the Constitution, as well as from groups funded by the CIA, such as the „Investigation Committee of Free Jurists“. All services had nearly the same questions, but they didn't share the results in full.

Since the attacks on the World Trade Center (9/11), demands for an improved exchange of information among the intelligence services have become more insistent. The fact that this demand is repeated like a mantra after each new attack, shows that there is still a "culture of distrust" among the agencies (according to the former BND President Gerhard Schindler). Results from the interrogation of refugees in Germany who initially provide leads about a terrorist threat should not only be shared with the European secret service partners. They should also be fed into the Schengen Information System so that the police can have access to them.

In addition to the fixed-point interrogation centres, the German intelligence services used to use interviewers on-site.

On my way to Berlin by train in December 2016 I met a young student from Aleppo. He told me that he was on his way to Bamberg in Bavaria, where he was to check the identities of some Syrian families on behalf of the BAMF (Federal Agency for Migration and Refugees). So there are some limited on-site interrogations again, unfortunately without support from security authorities. In order to expand this system, more assistants would have to be recruited among recognised asylum seekers. It will be necessary to do an intensive security check for the applicants in order to avoid spies of the "IS" or other terrorist groups such as Boko Haram sneaking in.

Behind the backs of their allied partners, and competing with them, the American services maintained a lot of own secret interrogation stations during the Cold War. One example for

²⁰ Two examples: At the beginning of 1968, the CIA headquarters in Frankfurt made an agreement with the BND for the joint use of the interrogation centers. Conf. Neues Deutschland 22.2.1968: Interne Absprachen CIA-Gehlen. Only in 1979, Americans and British merged their interrogation sites in Berlin.

Latvia: In the summer of 1957 the Frankfurt CIA station hired the Latvian Ignaz Apybis to interview re-settlers from the Baltic states as well as travellers to the Soviet Union (Operation AEMANNER).²¹ The interrogation of people from the Baltics was, of course, more difficult because it did not have the advantage of a common language. Intelligence services were dependent upon native speakers.

By the way, regarding language and the lack of reliable translators: In Germany there are currently discussions about using DNA analysis as last resort in doubtful cases in order to determine the true ethnic origin of a refugee. But there is a much easier way: The BND and the NSA co-operate closely in automatic language recognition. A refugee claiming to be from the Iraqi city of Raqua could thus be exposed as having a dialect of a Libyan tribe.

As early as 2016, voice recognition software for the identification of refugees had been offered to the BAMF by German and Israeli companies. The offer had initially been rejected for reasons of data protection. Since May 2017, however, such systems are being tested.²²

In 2015 BND officials gave about 800 to 1,000 numbers of mobile telephones each day from refugees to the TELEKOM - the largest German telecommunication company - at Cologne for monitoring. This strategic telephone monitoring by the BND is legal under German law. Phone connections are recorded according to specific search terms or also numbers called.²³ Monitoring mobile phones – of which potential terrorists are aware – is a double-edged sword. Anis Amri, for example, used a second mobile phone which he had stolen. The new head of the BAMF Jutta Cordt has announced that from September 2017 the mobile phones of refugees will be read out in case of doubt.²⁴ When the last ten phone calls went to Algeria, the refugee can hardly say that he came from Syria. That's what I meant when I spoke of improved interrogation centres using new means for a background check.

Since the dissolution of the interrogation centres, there is only a loose interlinking of the BAMF (Federal Agency for Migration and Refugees) and the Bundesnachrichtendienst: The BND has a liaison officer to the BAMF and the BAMF is represented in the GTAZ (Joint

²¹ Conf. NARA RG 263 Apyrubis, Ignatz.

²² Conf. Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung 26.5.2017: Warum hat das Bamf kein Sprachsystem?

²³ Conf. www.derStandard.at 24.1.2008: BND-Telefonüberwachung nach 11. September war rechtens. (Decision of the Bundesverwaltungsgericht Az. 6 A 1.07)

²⁴ Conf. Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung 1.9.2017: Auswertung von Handy-Daten.

Terror Protection Centre) in Berlin, a co-ordination centre of 40 German security agencies, and even leads one of the working groups.

But there is progress: In April 2017 the former president of the BND, Gerhard Schindler, was appointed an adviser to Frank-Jürgen Weise, until the beginning of 2017 head of the BAMF and since then Commissioner of the Federal Government for the Refugee System. This is a first step towards a better integration of intelligence services into the management of refugee affairs.²⁵

One might think that reading out data from mobile phones and monitoring a lot of them means that it is no longer necessary to set up new interrogation centres. But the contrary is true: In such centres one could – as part of a standard operating system - obtain the telephone numbers of the refugees, filter out the suspicious applicants, and then direct the limited intelligence and police resources to these suspected persons. The re-establishment of improved interrogation centres will not find every needle in the haystack, but some of them and, with luck, the sharpest ones.

Annex: Counter-Intelligence from enemy services (Not part of the short lecture)

To what extent were enemy intelligence services active against the interrogation system? For the East European intelligence services, the interrogation sites of the West were enemy objects. They therefore sent agents there to get insight into the procedures, staff, and intelligence objectives. The Federal Commissioner for the Documents of the Ministry of State Security of the GDR has in its possession six comprehensive studies done by the MfS on these centres.²⁶

²⁵ Conf. Der Spiegel 34/2017, p 30: Ex-BND-Chef berät Flüchtlingsmanager.

²⁶ Conf. Ausarbeitung der MfS Hauptabteilung II zu den Erkenntnissen über die Zentrale Dienststelle des US-Geheimdienstes „Camp King“ in Oberursel 1967 (Signatur Ministerium des Innern 236); Ausarbeitung der MfS HA VII zum „westzonalen Bundesnotaufnahmeverfahren“ Signatur Ministerium des Innern 239 Bd. 1 - 2 1968; MfS Teilvorgang zum Objektvorgang XV 965/71 der MfS HA VII/3 zum „Feindobjekt Notaufnahme- und Flüchtlingslager Friedland und Nachrichtenstelle Göttingen“ 1971 bis 1973 (Signatur Ministerium des Innern 674); Informationen zur Aufklärung und Bearbeitung des „Notaufnahme- und Flüchtlingslagers Friedland/Göttingen“ in der Bundesrepublik „Feindobjekt Friedland“ 1971 bis 1974 (Signatur Ministerium des Innern 313);

In addition, the East European services succeeded in gaining important sources in West German and American intelligence and refugee management. See the case of Götz Schlicht, who worked as a spy for East Germany at the lawyer's office of the "Investigation Committee of Free Jurists" – an organisation set up and run by the CIA - in the refugee camp Berlin Marienfelde from 1957 to 1968.²⁷

The head of the American interrogation centre, the U.S. Army Colonel George Trofimoff, supplied the Soviets with 50,000 pages of top-secret documents over a period of 25 years. In 2000, Trofimoff became the highest-ranking US military officer ever sentenced to life imprisonment for espionage.²⁸

In November 1991 a Bonn government director, who had been spying on the Ministry for State Security of the GDR – the Stasi - since the 1970s, was arrested. Mathias Reichert worked in the Foreigners' Central Register from 1979 to 1987, before moving to the Ministry of the Interior. The interest of the Stasi agent was, however, not only the files of foreigners in the Federal Administrative Office, but also those kept at the office of the BND, which at that time assessed the files of foreigners for their own needs. In particular, all data regarding asylum-seeking foreigners and the travel movements of foreigners resulting from the border surveillance done by the German border police was stored in the BND's database.

Is there a similar risk regarding the „IS“ or other terrorist organisations infiltrating the German agencies? Only a small one, but nonetheless a risk exists. For example: A few weeks ago, a German-Spaniard who had worked as a covert investigator for the BfV (Office for the Protection of the Constitution) to infiltrate the Salafi scene appeared in court in April 2016. Roque M. had betrayed secrets via the internet, including his secret operations, and was even prepared to provide jihadists access to the headquarters of the BfV in Cologne for an attack.²⁹ The Turkish intelligence service MIT is no longer a reliable partner in combatting terrorism. We have only a small number of asylum seekers from Turkey but these are high-ranking officers and former diplomats – about 600 in a total of about 5,000 in 2017.³⁰ The strong

Nachrichtendienstliche Infiltration der Flüchtlinge im Lager Marienfelde. Polnischer Partnerdienst-Bericht 15.8.1979 BStU.

²⁷ Conf. Komets-Chimirri, Arik K. (A former American major in the Berlin Joint Interrogation Center): Götz Schlicht. Im Dienste dreier Diktaturen, Berlin 2014.

²⁸ Conf. Drogin, Bob: Codename Curveball, Berlin 2008, p. 51f.

²⁹ Conf. Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung 6.9.2017: Ein merkwürdiger Maulwurf.

³⁰ Conf. Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung 14.9.2017: Zahl türkischer Asylbewerber steigt.

network of the MIT in Germany could try to infiltrate the interrogation centres with the aim of getting information of the whereabouts of their most-wanted dissidents.

As of 2017, the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution (BfV) is to receive 2000 new employees - an increase of more than 50 percent. In the summer of 2017, the Turkish MIT tried to plant their own spies within the German domestic intelligence service. The BfV's comment: "The BfV, like every other intelligence service, is the target of strategic infiltration attempts by foreign intelligence agencies."³¹

I assume that there are back-up reports from terrorists about the asylum procedure to the terrorist organisations' secret service headquarters. But I do not have a proof for this.

This is why it is only logical that the interrogation centres should have a counter-intelligence unit; they cannot be operated solely by administrative employees instead of intelligence professionals. The BAMF has about 20 security experts at its headquarters³², but CI-experts should also be present at the field sites.

³¹ Conf. Der Spiegel 23/2017: Verfassungsschutz. 2000 neue Stellen and DIE WELT 17.7.2017: Türkei will gezielt Spitzel im Verfassungsschutz platzieren.

³² Conf. Deutscher Bundestag Drucksache 18/12850, p. 1144.