



East German intelligence and Ireland, 1949-90: Espionage, terrorism and diplomacy

By Wiel Jérôme

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This book examines in depth Ireland's relations with a country behind the Iron Curtain during the Cold War, the former East Germany. It is based on extensive research undertaken in Germany and Ireland, especially in the archive of the former Stasi. The first part of the book analyses Irish-East German bilateral relations at political, diplomatic, economic and cultural levels, but as is very clear the Stasi was never too far away. The extraordinary story of the repatriation of the remains of IRA-volunteer Frank Ryan from Dresden to Dublin is related in detail. The second part of the book focuses exclusively on intelligence. It shows the activities of the HVA, the Main Directorate of Foreign Intelligence, and reveals the information obtained and the names of East German agents and sources involved. The onset of the conflict in Northern Ireland caught the attention of the HVA but also of Department HA-XXII in charge of terrorism. HA-XXII monitored the Provisional IRA and the INLA's campaign against the British Army of the Rhine in West Germany. It obtained its information thanks to moles deep inside the West German security and intelligence services. The PIRA and the INLA's contacts with West German terrorist groups are examined, so are Soviet and Romanian intelligence activities.

This book makes an original contribution to the much neglected area of Ireland's relations with continental European countries during the twentieth century and also Ireland's position during the Cold War. It will be of interest to scholars, students, the general public and professionals in the field of intelligence and security.

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