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P 2109152 NOV 78
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GERMAN TV REVIEW FOR NOV 28, 1978

WEST GERMAN TV

THE SUICIDE OF 400 MEMBERS OF THE QUOTE PEOPLES TEMPLE CHURCH UNQUOTE IN GUYANA AND GROWING TENSION BETWEEN GERMANY AND YUGOSLAVIA DOMINATED LAST NIGHTS NEWS. OTHER INTERNATIONAL NEWS INCLUDED THE I.R.A. ATTACK ON A CARGO TRAIN IN NORTHERN IRELAND, THE ATTACK ON POLICE BARRACKS IN NORTHERN SPAIN, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CHARGES AGAINST ROMANIA, THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE TALKS, LOCAL ELECTIONS IN NORTHERN ITALY, THE EC-ASEAN MEETING IN BRUSSELS, THE SOVIET-ETHIOPIAN FRIENDSHIP TREATY, DEMONSTRATIONS BY FASCIST PARTIES IN SPAIN, AND THE TRIAL OF FORMER BRITISH LIBERAL LEADER THORPE.

DOMESTIC NEWS INCLUDED MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR [illegible] VIEWS ON COMPULSORY REGISTRATION, NEW CSU SECRETARY-GENERAL EDMUND STOIBER, THE SPD CONVENTION ON SPORTS AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION, A REPORT ON THE EFFECTS OF LARGE-SCALE INDUSTRIAL WORK ORDERS ON THE GERMAN ECONOMY, FDP VIEWS ON THE TAX LAW, AND GERMAN EMPLOYERS ASSOCIATION CHAIRMAN ESSERS THREAT TO RESPOND TO STRIKES WITH LOCKOUTS.

BERLINS LOCAL NEWS REPORTED FACTUALLY THAT THE U.S. CITY COMMANDANT MADE PREPARATIONS FOR THE TRIAL OF HIJACKERS ALEXANDER THIEDE AND INGRID RUSKA. HE CHANGED THE LAW REGARDING U.S. COURTS IN BERLIN IN ORDER TO PERMIT THE PARTICIPATION OF SPECIAL PROSECUTORS. THE ANNOUNCER OBSERVED THAT THE LAW WOULD BE APPLIED FOR THE FIRST TIME.

THE MASS SUICIDE IN GUYANA

BOTH CHANNELS MAIN NEWS OPENED WITH REPORTS ON THE EVENT AND COVERED EXTENSIVELY WITH NBC FILMS THE MURDER OF CONGRESSMAN RYAN. OTHER FILMS PROVIDED DETAILED INFORMATION ON JIM JONES AND HIS CHURCH IN GUYANA AND SAN FRANCISCO.

ON CHANNEL TWOS MAIN NEWS DIRK SAGER (WASHINGTON) SAID: QUOTE THIS MIXTURE OF RELIGIOUS MANIA, CRIME AND POLITICS IS NOT COMPLETELY UNUSUAL IN THIS COUNTRY, ONLY ITS DIMENSIONS HAD NOT YET REACHED THOSE OF THIS STORY OF HORROR. AMONG THE GREAT NUMBER OF RELIGIOUS GROUPS IN THIS COUNTRY ARE MANY STRANGE ONES, AND ONCE IN A WHILE IT OCCURS THAT FAITH TURNS INTO RELIGIOUS MANIA AND INTO CRIME. SELF-APPOINTED BISHOP JIM JONES, LEADER OF THE QUOTE PEOPLES TEMPLE CHURCH UNQUOTE WAS SUCH A GOOD ORATOR THAT POLITICIANS TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE RADIATION OF HIS PERSONALITY. HE FOUND SUPPORTERS AMONG THE POOR BECAUSE THEY THOUGHT HE WOULD GIVE THEM HEAVEN ON EARTH. UNQUOTE

CHANNEL ONES PETER MERSEBURGER (WASHINGTON) REPORTED MAINLY FACTUALLY ON JONES BACKGROUND IN SAN FRANCISCO, EMPHASIZING HIS SUPPORT FOR THE POOR AND UNDERLINING THE FACT THAT THE BISHOPS INFLUENCE HELPED SAN FRANCISCO MAYOR MOSCONE WIN THE ELECTIONS. IN AN INTERVIEW MOSCONE DISCUSSED POSITIVE ATTITUDES OF JIM JONES. MERSEBURGER ALSO REPORTED ON RUMORS ABOUT BLACKMAIL IN THE RELIGIOUS GROUP AND MENTIONED JONES EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN DISCIPLINE ON THE FARM IN GUYANA. MERSEBURGER SUMMED UP HIS REPORT BY SAYING: QUOTE JONES OBVIOUSLY HAD HYPNOTICAL POWERS UNCLN HIS COMMUNITY SUBMITTED WEEKLY TO HIS LEADERSHIP. UNQUOTE

CHANNEL TWOS SECOND NEWS ALSO OPENED WITH REPORTS ON THE EVENT AND HAD ERNENFRIED KLAUER COMMENT WITH AN AMERICAN DOCUMENTARY FILM ON JONES AND HIS CHURCH. THE FILM EMPHASIZED JONES POLITICAL INFLUENCE IN CALIFORNIA, AND THE FACT THAT HE WENT TO GUYANA BECAUSE OF RUMORS ABOUT BLACKMAIL. IN AN INTERVIEW KARL EUNINER (ROME, ITALY) ASKED JESUIT FATHER MICHAEL CAMPELL JOHNSON, WHO HAD VISITED THE FARM IN GUYANA, FOR AN EXPLANATION FOR THE SUICIDES. IN HIS VIEW THE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP WERE FANATICS AND STOOD UNDER HEAVY PSYCHOLOGICAL PRESSURE. IN ADDITION, THE LIVING CONDITIONS IN THE JUNGLE EVOKED FEARS OF RYANS VISIT.

CHANNEL ONES SECOND NEWS REVIEWED THE EVENTS, AND ANCHORMAN ALEXANDER VON BENTKEIN OBSERVED THAT THESE SECTS DID NOT ONLY EXIST IN AMERICA BUT ALSO IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC (MCLN) VARIOUS LINKS CONNECT THEM WORLD-WIDE, AND WORRIED PARENTS FOUNDED GROUPS TO FIGHT THE SECTS.

MIDDLE EAST PEACE TALKS

BOTH CHANNELS MAIN NEWS REPORTED FACTUALLY ON PREMIER BEGINS REMARKS THAT HE WOULD ACCEPT A COMPROMISE AND MENTIONED PRESIDENT SADATS READINESS FOR A NEW MEETING WITH THE ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER.

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