the tradition of Le Carré and Ambler ovel of high suspense and political terror ERWIN FISCHER



THE BERLIN INDICTMENT

by ERWIN FISCHER

Berthold Block is an independent, free-lance political journalist, and his friend, Karl Reisdorf, is a respected and successful colonel in the West German army. Model citizens of the "New Germany," one would think, hardly the likely characters for a high and desperate drama of espionage and intrigue. Yet there are those other "model citizens" in the German Federal Republic who toss and turn in a troubled sleep, those who have problems with the past. Many of them are to be found in conspicuous positions of power in the Bundeswehr, the German government, and industry.

Block and Reisdorf had first met in a Russian prisoner-of-war camp, one a pacifist and idealist who had been forced into the war at gunpoint, the other a professional soldier of unusual integrity. Block, known in the camp as Cuckoo, and Reisdorf, known as Chessplayer, formed a friendship which was to lead, in the peace and plenty of reformed and democratic Germany, to destruction. The scenario is somehow terribly old-fashioned, suggesting a fabric a of motives and instincts similar to that which plunged the "old Ger- x many" into the darkness of the 1930s. But this is the age of the glare of open journalistic inquiry, and Cuckoo is a fearless reporter in search of the truth. He begins . with an exposure of curious, chillingly old-fashioned practices on O

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