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Snowden Could Assist German Investigation Into U.S. Spying on Merkel

By The Moscow Times

November 01, 2013



BERLIN — Fugitive U.S. intelligence leaker Edward Snowden is ready to testify about the United States spying on German Chancellor Angela Merkel, a German lawmaker said Thursday after a meeting with Snowden in Moscow.

Hans-Christian Ströbele, a representative of the German Green party in the Bundestag, told broadcaster ARD that Snowden expressed his readiness to help an investigation in the espionage allegation.

Ströbele said he and Snowden had discussed the issue in detail, and Snowden clearly conveyed that "he knew a lot."

A recent report in Germany's Der Spiegel claimed that the NSA had tapped Merkel's mobile phone for more than 10 years.

Germany's Federal Prosecutor's Office last week announced that it might summon Snowden as a witness.

According to leaked U.S. government files cited by the Der Spiegel report, a listening station based in the U.S. Embassy in Berlin was responsible for monitoring Merkel's communications.

Der Spiegel said Merkel called U.S. President Barack Obama to seek clarification as soon as she heard about the allegation.

Obama apologized to Merkel but said he did not know about the spying, the report said.

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