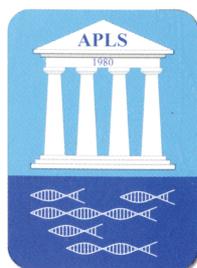


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On the cover

A Stasi officer eavesdropping at his workstation, circa 1985. "Stasi" was a nickname, an abbreviation of *Staatssicherheit*, meaning "State Security." The Ministry of State Security of the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) came to be credited with successful creative and operational roles in an AIDS disinformation campaign, the "HIV-from-Fort-Detrick myth." This issue's lead article shows a different reality. The Stasi learned of the myth through routine surveillance and coincidental harassment and neither shaped nor managed it. Source: BStU (State Security Archive of the GDR), MfS, HA III, Fo 0299, Bild 24. Reprinted with permission.

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