

Bodyguards For U.S. Generals

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LONDON—For the first time since the occupation of Germany began, top-ranking American generals are being assigned bodyguards. The step has been taken reluctantly by the American command, which has no wish to emphasize any anti-western feeling among the Germans.

Now, however, the Americans believe that the Communists have decided to set their all-out hate campaign in motion. Within the last few weeks, incidents between Germans and American troops have mounted disturbingly, with threatening letters being received by U.S. High Commissioner John J. McCloy and top military commanders.

At the same time, German crowds have staged a series of high-pitched demonstrations outside the European Command headquarters in Heidelberg. At night, bands of Communist Germans are working in gangs in the occupation

centres of Frankfurt and Heidelberg, slashing the tires of American cars, and chalking anti-American slogans on the walls of American-occupied homes and buildings.

Once upon a time, in the early days of the occupation, such incidents would have brought swift retaliation from the American authorities. Now, with the new western policy of looking to the Germans as allies, the American command finds itself in a tricky position. It either can gloss over the attacks, retaliate as before, or take precautions.

That the command has decided to take "precautions" is proved by the new "bodyguard" move. Typical of the tough G.I.s being picked to guard the generals is M/Sgt. Charles C. Polacek, a Korean war hero, twice wounded, and four times decorated, who has been chosen as bodyguard to Maj.-Gen. Withers A. Burrows, commander of the U.S. 7th Corps in Germany.