

west germany

Strauss to Visit Peking; West German Maoists Activated

August 3 (IPS) — Arch-reactionary Franz Josef Strauss, chairman of the Bavarian Christian Social Union (CSU) recently announced that he and Helmut Kohl, head of the CSU's ally the Christian Democratic Union intend to visit Chairman Mao in Peking. Soon after, the West German Maoist cult, the German Communist Party-Marxist-Leninist (KPD-ML) publicised its plan to run its first electoral campaign ever in the state of Bavaria.

Is there any connection between these two unprecedented events on the German extremist political scene?

Strauss has acted consistently as a spokesman for the most virulent, anti-detente, anti-Russian sabre rattlers' clique in the Western governments and NATO. His plan

to visit Peking is a depressing confirmation for the Soviet bureaucracy of an anti-Soviet accord between Mao and the radical right parties of the West, directed against the USSR's "big power politics."

Chairman Strauss' determination to wreck detente with the USSR and his willingness to join hands with the Red Chinese in this effort were clearly demonstrated by his speeches at the mid-July conference of the CSU in Munich. One of Chariman Strauss' main themes was the necessity of "taking a hard position" towards the USSR, by such means as cutting off any new flows of credit as well as by imposing an import ban against low-cost Eastern Bloc goods into West Germany.



Left to Right:
Mao, Kohl, Strauss

Peasant Exploitation

Strauss has more in common with Mao than a certain porcine physical similarity. Both have made their political fortunes by exploiting the backwardness of their respective peasant bases. The KPD-ML not only agrees with Chairman Strauss' views on the Soviet Union; their surprise electoral announcement clearly is intended to play into Strauss' current efforts to build a mass-based fascist farmers movement in southern Germany, directing the farmers' unbridled anger about their collapsing incomes against the Social Democratic government and industrial workers.

While Strauss' CSU organizes large farmers' demonstrations in Bavaria, demonstrations which are to be consolidated in late summer and fall as a unified movement under the sign of the "Green Fist," the terrorist Chaoten of the KPD-ML are being brought in to ensure that Strauss maintains total control of farmer unrest. Until this year, the KPD-ML (which from all indications has closer political ties to the CIA than to Peking) consistently rejected electoral campaigns, favoring violent confrontations as the way to "raise the

consciousness of the masses." Now the KPD-ML campaign can be used to provoke such "revolutionary violence" around Strauss' farmer movement, providing an excuse for massive police intervention. Most important, the KPD-ML campaign can be used to discredit the efforts of serious working-class organizers who are now being rallied by the European Labor Committees to pull farmers out of Strauss' Long March to nowhere and into a European-wide political alliance with industrial workers. KPD-ML goons already have been used against the Labor Committees in Europe, and the KPD-ML acts as a conduit for CIA slanders against the European Labor Committees.

The Soviet press agency Novosti made the following suggestive comment on Chairman Strauss' planned tour of Red China: "The astounding similarity between a whole series of Strauss' foreign policy conceptions and those of the Maoists was detected long ago."

The Soviets should open their eyes a bit wider. It appears that a united front formation is developing between the Bavarian right-winger and the maniacal ultra-lefts — a combination of forces reminiscent of the radical Nazi Sturmabteilung.

EPA: Psywar Against SPD and Soviets

August 2 (IPS) — The recent brouhaha around the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) office established in West Berlin by the West German government represents a psywar provocation directed both at the Soviet Bloc and the Social Democratic Party (SPD) sponsors of West Germany's foundering Ostpolitik. Coming on the heels of the Cyprus war, the EPA events are a further test of just how much the Soviet Union will tolerate in order to maintain detente.

The EPA, a federal agency of the West German government, was set up in West Berlin, which, according to the Four Power Agreement is not a part of West Germany. Thus the Schmidt government, under the prodding of Foreign Minister Genscher of the Free Democratic Party, violated the Agreement. The USSR protested in one weak-kneed article in Pravda and then firmly closed its eyes again. But the East Germans, alarmed by the recent Genscher-Kissinger discussions about "changing the borders of Europe," reacted with open hostility.

Starting July 27, East German border guards began stopping traffic into West Berlin and quizzing passengers on their relationship to the EPA. When EPA official, von Nieding, was discovered at the checkpoint, he was turned back.

Claiming violation of the agreements made by the East German government last year, the United States suspended the nearly-completed negotiations in Washington on diplomatic recognition of the GDR.

Meanwhile the West German press has used the GDR's defensive measures as an excuse further to attack detente, and blame its breakdown on the East Bloc. Over

the past week, leading West German papers have run editorials condemning East Germany's violation of the Four-Power Agreement, huffing that "The limits of tolerance have been reached and overstepped." The conservative Christian Democratic Union (CDU), which wants to discredit the SPD and its detente policy as part of its strategy to get a place in the government, has been having a field day. Its parliamentary head Reddemann warned that both West Germany and the European Security Conference should decide "whether at present it makes sense at all to negotiate new treaty agreements with the Soviet Union and the GDR, if both governments won't hold to the Berlin agreement."

The EPA events were engineered largely by the "liberal" Free Democratic Party, the SPD's coalition partner, which recently has been debating publicly whether the SPD should be junked from the coalition in favor of the CDU. Now Chancellor Schmidt and the rest of the right-wing SPD "Sewer Faction" are in a bind; their cooperation with the FDP's anti-Soviet maneuver has eroded their already flimsy working-class cover and brought them into conflict with the Party's base, which predominantly favors Ostpolitik. In the midst of the EPA affair, Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko announced July 29 an upcoming visit to Bonn. The Frankfurter Rundschau crowed that the USSR apparently had been conned into swallowing the EPA provocation, for "Gromyko would certainly not announce the trip...if he had serious differences with Bonn in mind."