

W. Germany — The Present Battleground For NATO Strategy

This week's resignation by West German Defense Minister Georg Leber over a continuing series of wiretapping scandals involving military counter-intelligence (Militärische Abwehrdienst, MAD) is the result of major factional warfare in West Germany over NATO's future strategy.

WEST GERMANY

One faction, centered around certain West German Bundeswehr generals, and linked to Leber, wants to define NATO strategy as coherent with the mutual desire of both NATO and Warsaw Pact countries to live in peace.

Leber's opposition, headed by NATO Supreme Commander General Alexander Haig, and West German Christian Democratic defense spokesman Manfred Wörner, are calling for wonder-weapons, such as the cruise missile and the neutron bomb, and a heightening of the Cold War against the Warsaw Pact. These provocations are the very tactics that Britain, the "sick man of Europe," wants NATO to adopt to isolate Western Europe from the East bloc, thereby insuring British hegemony on the continent.

Both factions met in a head-on confrontation at the

annual Wehrkunde defense conference held in Munich Jan. 29-30.

Wörner tried to control the direction of the meeting in his Jan. 29 keynote address, demanding that Europe have the American cruise missile to offset the Soviet SS-20 missile. He also demanded the neutron bomb, and insisted that West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt should be the first European to call for the neutron bomb publicly. "Western Europe is the nuclear hostage of Moscow," was Wörner's justification for a Cold War attitude toward the Soviet Union.

General Haig followed Wörner, and to further the momentum for the arsenal buildup insisted that although the West still had an advantage over the Warsaw Pact, that advantage was small and diminishing.

But a group of West German generals attending the conference told *Süddeutsche Zeitung* military correspondent Christian Potyka that Haig and Wörner's attitudes were not really indicative of strategic perceptions inside NATO. West German general Bennecker said that the kinds of weapons they were recommending were *Wunderwaffen* — a reference to Josef Goebbels, the Nazi Propaganda Minister, who claimed in 1945 that the victorious Allies could be stopped by secret German wonder-weapons. Bennecker also criticized the cruise missile and neutron bomb as being offensive, not defensive weapons, and in addition, weapons that the Soviet Union could easily duplicate.

Teller Calls For U.S. High Technology Push

Reprinted below is part of an address by the renowned nuclear physicist Edward Teller, which appeared in the Jan. 22 issue of Welt am Sonntag:

The question is often asked: can we still catch up with the Russians in the arms race? What we usually call the "arms race" is in fact no race at all. Such a race occurred at the beginning of this century between England and Germany. The English had so many battleships, and the Kaiser had so many. The battleships slightly differed from each other, of course, but a battleship was always a battleship.

In the present, rapidly changing technological scene, however, an aircraft carrier is not just like another aircraft carrier, an atom bomb is not like another atom bomb, an airplane not like another airplane, and especially a laser beam is not like another laser beam. What really counts is technological innovations, and not more numbers. These technological innovations are not only kept secret, they are worse than secret, since the effects of these new weapons are virtually unknown even to their possessors. The effect of a technologi-

cal innovation can only be measured after it has been used in actual battle.

The fact that the arms race is a competition for technologies and not simply of weapons, could be grounds for us to be optimistic. American technology is certainly superior to Russian technology. This was so in the past, and it is definitely so today in the civilian sector. Possibly it is also true in the secret military field. Whatever we are lacking in quantity, we are presumably making this up through superior quality. It should nevertheless be cause for concern that everything we can count favors the Russians. We hold the advantage only in the incalculables.

Luckily there is one important field in which we are much better than the Russians: electronics. Why is this so? Because our consumer society operates everywhere with electronics — with televisions and ingenious watches, which are not only insurpassably exact, but are produced on an assembly line. The Russians will not be able to learn the complicated tricks of electronics, and cannot learn them, even if we invited them over and gave them instructions.