

Libya's Qaddafi backs the Greens

The attempted assassination of former Libyan Prime Minister Abdul Hamid el-Bakoush on Nov. 17, 1984, cast unexpected light on Libyan dictator Muammar Qaddafi's favorites in Germany—the Greens. When Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak exposed Qaddafi's failed murder plot against his exiled political opponent, and warned of the existence of a hit list of world leaders that included German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, the Greens leapt to Qaddafi's defense. The Green-alternative newspaper published in West Berlin, *tageszeitung*, commented on Mubarak's warnings in an article with the sarcastic headline, "Qaddafi Unmasked—Kohl Saved," and published a sympathetic review of a book titled *Gaddafi in Selbstzeugnissen (Qaddafi Speaks for Himself)*.

This Green-Libyan fraternization goes back years:

In March 1982 in Vienna, the first official meeting took place between Qaddafi and German, Austrian, Italian, and Swiss Greens and members of the peace movement, at which financial support for the Greens was discussed. Among the participants were the following members of the German Green Party: **Otto Schily**, **Alfred Mechttersheimer**, and **Roland Vogt**.

Schily, the former lawyer for Red Army Faction (RAF) terrorists, became a member of parliament in his capacity as executive member of the Berlin Alternative List, a group which praised Qaddafi as a "philosophical genius." **Mechtersheimer**, a former member of the Christian Social Union party, has contacts, not only with Qaddafi, but also with the Soviet ambassador in Bonn, Vladimir Semyonov, and supports "non-violent actions" against NATO bases. Mechttersheimer maintains contact with Libya through Sepp Auer of the Vienna North-South Society, which has close financial ties to Qaddafi. **Vogt**, also a Green parliamentary deputy, had close relations with both the Libyan and American ambassadors in Bonn. He is a supporter of the Islamic fundamentalist movement of Algerian exile Ahmed Ben Bella.

In May 1982, Libyan Ambassador Mehdi M. Imberesh and other members of the embassy staff appeared at a large gathering of the Greens at the Hambach Festival and embraced Vogt and the militant leader of the U.S. "Plowshare Group," Daniel Berrigan, on the podium.

In June 1982, an 18-member delegation of Greens, anarchists, and separatists was granted an audience with Qaddafi in his bedouin tent. Among those present were again Vogt, Mechttersheimer, and Schily, as well as Gertrud Schilling, who later cheerfully advocated the elimination of parlia-



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mentary democracy.

In April 1983, Qaddafi gave an interview to the right-extremist national-revolutionary rag *Wir Selbst*, in which he boasted of his new allies:

I view the Green movement in Germany very positively. . . . I hope that a movement develops out of the Green movement for the liberation of all of Germany. You must invent new methods of struggle against the oppression of Germany.

Colonel Qaddafi did not hesitate to justify Hitler's seizure of power as a reaction to "foreign domination," which, he said, exists again today because of the Americans.

And so I endeavor to understand the epoch of Hitler's fascism as a phenomenon which was the necessary consequence of the defeat of Germany in the First World War and the subsequent overly harsh peace conditions imposed by the victorious powers. A similar situation exists in Germany today. We again see Germany ruled by foreign *diktat*. Against such oppression of the people by a foreign power, opposition must spring up. . . . In Germany, a movement of emancipation must develop which uses all positive possibilities to eliminate foreign military bases.

Qaddafi did not attempt to hide his goal: the restructuring of Germany with the assistance of the Greens, on the model of Libya:

Germany could also become a *Jamahiria*, a people's republic of the masses. . . . That is your task. . . . The transitional phase to the self-conscious life of the people we call the phase of revolutionary committees. That is the phase of the Green movement.