

# Willy Brandt tells 'Pravda' he'll help

by Rachel Douglas

Even as Soviet-linked terrorists assail West Germany with scores of bombings, vandalism against industrial facilities, and riots, the Soviet Union has swept up the country's politicians in a whirlwind of diplomacy. Cultivating leaders of the opposition Social-Democratic Party (SPD), the Green Party, the government coalition member Free Democratic Party (FDP) and Chancellor Helmut Kohl's own Christian Democratic Union (CDU), Moscow has prepared the ground for planting the "offer they can't refuse"—the offer of German reunification, under a special relationship with the U.S.S.R.

On Sept. 12, *Pravda* used a quarter of a page to display an interview with Willy Brandt, the chairman of the SPD and of the Socialist International, on how West Germany and the rest of Western Europe should unhitch from the United States and direct joint efforts, with the Warsaw Pact countries, to stop the Strategic Defense Initiative. "I do not exclude," said Brandt, "that under the influence of serious opinions in Europe and other parts of the world, it will be possible to some extent to get the United States to change its policy."

Brandt pledged that an SPD-led government, should the party be victorious in the national elections in January 1987, would quickly go far beyond the several schemes of "nuclear-free," "chemical-free," and other "zones" in Central Europe, on which the SPD has been collaborating with the Soviets and their allies. In *Pravda*, Brandt talked about this "future government," as a foregone conclusion.

"There are a great number of things which we [Europeans] could do," said Brandt. "Take the question discussed between the SPD and the SED [East Germany's ruling Socialist Unity Party], about freeing a part of the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic from nuclear weapons—very close to what the Palme Commission proposed a few years ago. Or the question of a chemical-free zone, encompassing the territory of both German states and Czechoslovakia.

"I think that the role of Europe ought to be supplementary to the role of the great powers. And I am convinced, that the Social Democratic government of the F.R.G., if our party again comes to power, would go even further in the two areas I have mentioned, and in concrete steps, not just plans. . . . The Europeans can do a lot. . . . We can make our contri-

bution to the cause of removing intermediate-range rockets from the continent. . . . There are other aspects, which don't have a direct relationship to security, but help consolidate peace—cultural, economic, technical, ecological and, of course, political."

In all of this, Brandt promised, "I have in mind, that the future federal government should . . . seek new approaches . . . seek untapped reserves, whether these be bilateral or regional forms of cooperation. . . . It is well understood in the F.R.G.—and the SPD government will be aware of this, too—that our country cannot play a leading role on the world scene, but within the groupings of which it is a member, it could be active. . . ."

## Coordination with the East

The diplomatic chronicle of Brandt's cohorts in the SPD over recent months, would strongly suggest that the Warsaw Pact is one of the "groupings" in which they are anxious to be active.

Not only has the SPD held party-to-party talks with East Germany's SED on the "dechemicalization" of Central Europe. In June, the party also set up a special panel for the coordination of foreign policy initiatives with the ruling Polish United Workers Party; the working group's proceedings would be kept confidential, in order to avoid undue controversy, but, reported SPD leader Horst Ehmke, West Germany's foreign minister, FDP leader Hans-Dietrich Genscher, would be "informed regularly."

Genscher said June 13 that he welcomed "the comprehensive character" of Warsaw Pact disarmament and cooperation proposals, for "we have noticed with great interest that the states of the Warsaw Pact defined the overcoming of the partition of Europe as an aim. . . ."

So far in 1986, Moscow has played host to a half-dozen SPD individual guests and delegations. In May, SPD executive member and governor of the Saarland Oskar Lafontaine had talks there with the Soviet Central Committee's foreign policy chief, Anatolii Dobrynin. The next month, the SPD's chancellor-candidate, Johannes Rau, was received by party boss Mikhail Gorbachov and a host of other officials, with the honors usually accorded ruling parties. Brandt's close associate, Egon Bahr, made the trip in July.

Dobrynin and his staff also found time for talks in Moscow with an FDP delegation in August and to set up permanent inter-party ties with the Greens. Representatives of all these parties, as well as Trilateral Commission member Kurt Biedenkopf of the CDU, have flocked also to East Berlin and back during this summer. Bavarian (state) SPD leader Karl-Heinz Hiersemann, visiting East Berlin in June, endorsed not only the chemical-free zone, but also a "nuclear free zone," for Central Europe.

*Izvestia* commented hungrily on May 28, "If an SPD government takes office in Bonn . . . next January, all U.S. medium-range nuclear missile weapon systems will be removed from West German territory."