

# Soviet domination of Germany threatened

by Rainer Apel

Throughout the postwar period, the cornerstone of Soviet strategic policy toward Europe has been the free western part of Germany, the Federal Republic. In consequence, Moscow empties most of its arsenal of destabilization tactics on West Germany. This includes the well-known repertoire of phony scandals, blackmail and intimidation, a chain of strange deaths and political assassinations, and irregular warfare carried out through the radical ecologist (Green Party) and anti-defense movements. This flank was activated to the utmost during the past year. KGB chief Vladimir Kryuchkov's marching orders, in July and again at the end of September, were that "the minds of the reluctant politicians must be influenced by popular mass movements."

In the Soviet leadership's view, the INF agreement and bilateral summit talks with the Reagan administration in Moscow in May 1988 gave them a claim over West German affairs and the right to interfere at will. The Soviets waited until the beginning of the "hot phase" of the U.S. presidential campaign, the so-called "leaderless period in the West," and then acted to topple the Kohl government.

Inside the political establishment of the Federal Republic, this campaign met weak resistance. The Soviets and their political collaborators in West German politics, the Social Democrats and the Greens most of all, could capitalize on the fact that the foremost spokesman of the German conservatives and the defense lobby at-large, Franz Josef Strauss, suddenly died under peculiar circumstances on Oct. 2, at the beginning of Moscow's destabilization campaign. Only three days before Strauss collapsed during a hunting trip, he almost crashed in his private Cessna plane on the way back from a visit to Bulgaria. And, nearly three months after the death of Strauss, a full report on the causes is not yet available, some say because of official suppression. Poison could be involved, for example.

The death of Strauss came at a most convenient time for Gorbachov, because Chancellor Helmut Kohl was just preparing for his Oct. 24 state visit to Moscow and would have enjoyed the advice of Strauss. Instead, the Chancellor went into his meetings rather unprepared and driven by illusions of a "new openness in Moscow." The trip was a disaster. Gorbachov told Kohl to his face, sources reported, that he should toe Moscow's line, or face overthrow. "You are not the one we are going to make our deals with," Gorbachov is said to have stated.

No sooner had Kohl returned to Bonn than phony scan-

dals exploded in three West German states governed by his Christian Democrats, Lower-Saxony, Hesse, and Rhineland-Palatinate, as well as West Berlin. Within 10 days, the opposition Social Democrats and Greens had launched formal parliamentary investigations in these crisis spots, four cabinet ministers had resigned, and the state governor of Rhineland-Palatinate announced that he would resign soon.

This created a dual-power situation in West Germany, threatening the loss of the Christian Democrats' one-state majority in the Bundesrat, the second legislative body under the federal parliament or Bundestag. Were only one state lost to the opposition Social Democrats, Kohl would be unable to govern, because the Bundesrat, representing the 10 states of West Germany plus West Berlin, has absolute veto rights over all federal legislation. Moscow's challenge to Kohl was on the table.

The next round of destabilization began Nov. 10, on the occasion of Kristallnacht Remembrance. The Greens, the Social Democrats, and their political accomplices among the liberal Free Democrats and Christian Democrats, chose the Remembrance speech of parliament speaker Philipp Jenninger, a conservative Christian Democrat, to stage a scandal in collaboration with the international media and the "Bronfmanite" current inside the Jewish community. The phony scandal was promoted by a spectacular walk-out of opposition Greens, Social Democrats, and Free Democrats on the pretext that Jenninger's speech was a "defense of the Nazis." The text of the speech, actually an attack on the Nazis, was not available to most parliamentarians and the media, because the printer in the parliament, for some reason, broke down the night before.

Pressure built up to such an extent that Chancellor Kohl decided to sacrifice Jenninger, who resigned Nov. 11 and was replaced by Public Health Minister "Condom" Rita Süßmuth. (She had shown her true colors several months earlier, when she called on West German youth to spend their summer holidays in the Soviet Union, to help bring in the harvest and thus support Gorbachov.)

Still ongoing is the third round of destabilization, which aims at ousting Defense Minister Rupert Scholz, one of the few remaining opponents of Gorbachov's arms control propaganda inside the West German political establishment. Both Jenninger and Scholz were close friends of the late Franz Josef Strauss.

Lyndon H. LaRouche identified the phony Jenninger affair as a crucial event in Soviet imperial designs on Europe, and issued an international call for the building of an international resistance movement against Moscow's strategy of world domination. That call, first publicized on Nov. 14, has become a rallying point of resistance in West Germany and Western Europe. To that degree, optimism for 1989 and beyond, almost lost in the course of German events in 1988, has been reestablished. Germany and Europe can still be saved from Moscow's grip.