

regions are no longer under control of the military, but of the FIS. The war has also gone from the stage of being “pre-civil war,” to being simply a civil war. The Jan. 26 issue of *Le Canard Enchaîné* of Paris cited figures from French military intelligence that on Jan. 18 alone, 250 people died as a result of the fighting. Other sources say there are 350 deaths a week. That is many more deaths than in the end stages of the war of independence with France.

A good number of observers of Algeria consider it a miracle that the military command is still in power. Those who don't believe in miracles attribute it to some 30,000 elite troops trained in France. The situation within the Army itself has deteriorated: Recently it was reported that some 250 officers defected.

While the country becomes further and further engulfed in civil war, the regime not only has no plan to propose for Algeria, but is resorting to little tactical maneuverings. Hence, the government multiplied the lies and low-level manipulations in an effort to bring all the parties into the national conference, including the FIS, all the while ceding no ground to the latter. The parties were all told, in the hope of convincing them to attend, that the FIS leaders in prison—Madani and Belhadj—had agreed to allow four FIS leaders, currently in prison, to attend the national conference. The kindly military, we were told, went so far as to free, just before the conference, 700 Islamic political prisoners, an act which doesn't go very far, considering, according to *Le Canard Enchaîné*, that General Touati had told his buddies that there were currently 15,000 Islamists in prison.

Overall program needed

But the Algerians' salvation lies neither with the present power of the military nor with the FIS, such as it is. Whereas the military in power have been a disaster, even the best people in the Islamic camp complain that the FIS lacks program. Only an overall plan will allow the life-forces of Algeria to come together and lay the basis for the country's future. But, a plan is not an arithmetical callup of forces—two from FIS, plus one from the FLN, plus a half from the military: First, there must be a definition of the Algerian citizen. The great monotheistic religions define man as being made in the image of the Creator, endowed with reason and using his creative powers for creating better moral and material conditions of existence for human beings. These concepts, which inspired the renaissance periods of leading civilizations: Christian, Muslim, Jewish, etc., should be enshrined in the constitutions of nations. Then, an economic program should be defined which will permit Algeria to return to full employment and growth thanks to investment in industry and agriculture. This means a total repudiation of the IMF programs and all forms of economic liberalism. Algerian patriots will find among economists like France's Jean-Baptist Colbert, America's Alexander Hamilton, or Germany's Friedrich List, the models for building national economies.

Swine fever continues rampage in Germany

by Rosa Tennenbaum

Swine fever is still on the march in Germany. While the disease alert was called off in the southern state of Baden-Württemberg, in northern Germany, the heartland of German hog farming, the disease continues to take a toll. There are almost daily reports of new outbreaks, while large tracts of land have been forbidden to have any trading in hogs. And it looks like it will remain that way for some time to come, since the measures taken so far by the European Commission of the European Community are not aimed at halting the march of the disease as soon as possible. Every week, another 2,500 animals, virtually all of them healthy, are killed off. Even though the EC headquarters in Brussels has reduced the radius of the cordoned-off areas from the scandalously large 100 km down to 20 km, such an area is still three times as large as necessary to combat the disease from a veterinary standpoint.

Many might ask why the disease wasn't stopped in its tracks a long time ago, given these exaggerated measures. It is because using the methods being applied under the prevailing policies, it would be impossible to eliminate the disease—even if you eliminated the virus itself by killing off every hog in Germany. And indeed, that is precisely the direction which Brussels has mandated. In November and December alone, over 520,000 hogs were put to death in the state of Lower Saxony. When one considers that all of these animals were healthy, virtually without exception, the enormity of this senseless butchery becomes evident. The hogs are killed as follows: A troop of men comes to the farm and grabs one pig after another with a large electric prod, killing it with a high-voltage shock. The farmer looks on helplessly, and must then pay the men for the job: Each worker gets DM 25 (\$15) per hour, plus free room and board.

'Hog-free' zones

An earth-moving machine is then used to pile up all the cadavers into a heap, where they remain until they are transported for final disposal. After the troops leave the farm, all is deathly still—not a grunt can be heard. After such an action, according to veterinarians' reports, the farmer is usually left in a state of shock, while the family members cry their eyes out over the senseless killing of animals. But there is no mercy: The death commandos proceed to the next farm to continue their gruesome work, until the entire region has been made “hog-free.” The sheer numbers of hogs killed has

turned into a major disposal problem. The disposal plants cannot handle the flood of cadavers, even though they are working around the clock. The state government has had to rent 12 refrigerated warehouses where the cadavers are kept in deep freeze until the disposal plants have free capacity.

And even though not a single hog has been left in areas where once tens of thousands were being fattened, the disease marches on, because the virus has time on its side. It takes three weeks for an infected animal to show symptoms. During this period, the animal could have been put into another stall, or transported into a new part of the country, since hog farming is not what it used to be. A hog today is no longer allowed to remain in the same stall from birth to slaughter, but, according to the current agricultural theory of specialization, it must change its abode many times during its short life. It could have been born, for instance, in Hohenlohe county, which specializes in breeding suckling pigs, after which it may be fattened in the Oldenburg district, the center of hog feeding, then finally to be slaughtered in any one of Europe's various regions, or perhaps consumed overseas.

This "globalization" is highly favorable to the spread of the virus, whereby Germany—the "land of the middle," as Wilhelm von Humboldt called it—offers ideal conditions for its spread, namely, large amounts of goods being transported, especially to and from eastern Europe; open borders; and an agricultural system based on many smaller farms located relatively close to one another. On top of this, the virus can also be transmitted by rats; and this is what makes the kind of campaign being waged by the EC Commission entirely useless. Wild boars, whose population has been growing too quickly recently, are also becoming victims of swine fever. Sick boars often stagger into towns and transmit the disease to domestic hogs.

It is also possible that the disease is being spread via infected pigs and suckling pigs which have been deliberately sent out by hostile trading interests. The war for market share, which is being waged with ever-increasing brutality, along with the fact that the swine fever has enabled Dutch and Danish trading firms to break into regions which were formerly served domestically, has certainly given grounds for such suspicions.

"Isolation and extermination" are Brussels' watchwords for combatting swine fever. But what is being exterminated is not the virus, but the pigs—not to mention the farmers. Many stalls have stood empty for the past two or three months, and have been ordered to remain so until May. That means that for six months, the farming operation has absolutely no income, although the fixed costs remain the same. For the officially ordered killing off of his animals, the farmer receives the current meat price of DM 2.20 per kilogram. He receives no compensation at all for the time he is not permitted to keep hogs.

Even if the quarantines are lifted this May, and given the absurd measures which have been taken, veterinarians think

that is extremely doubtful, it will still be months before the farmer once again can see any money for his efforts. It takes about three years to build up a new herd of sows, i.e., three years of labor and operating costs, and extremely low income. The buildup is shorter for pig feeders, but many of them will not have enough liquidity to survive the blood-letting.

Immunization would work

In fact, a simple method exists to immediately stop the plague dead in its tracks: immunization. The serum is available, and the pharmacological industry already has stockpiles of the vaccine; and yet, it is not being used. The last major outbreak in the early 1980s was stopped in a single week. Infected animals were killed and destroyed, while all the rest in the endangered areas were given precautionary vaccinations. Within days, swine fever was nipped in the bud, and the losses were minimal. But today it is forbidden to vaccinate hogs, even though no one has ever doubted the effectiveness of the treatment. Why? Because Denmark regularly exports pork to Japan, and the Japanese demanded that the animals not be vaccinated because, according to their reasoning, vaccinated animals could be virus carriers and could bring it into Japan.

Such fears have also been expressed by U.S. interests which likewise import pork from European Union members. These fears are dismissed by veterinarians as "completely groundless." They argue that even though in the past millions of animals had been vaccinated, there was not a single case of the disease being transmitted by vaccinated animals. With the current strategy, on the other hand, people are already reckoning on the plague being spread to faraway lands. The risk of transmission today is certainly orders of magnitude higher than it was when stocks were still being vaccinated.

These, however, are ideas which one may not express today without being branded as a kook. German Agriculture Minister Borchert recently issued an explicit warning against bringing up the idea of vaccination. Politicians in Bonn are even balking at vaccinating wild boars, as has been urgently demanded by the state of Mecklenburg-Pre-Pomerania. Borchert is more intent on "structural change" than he is on defending the interests of family farms whose very existence is being threatened. And swine fever has been a big help in implementing this structural change.

Experts say that the strategy of "isolation and extermination" will not only fail to halt the disease, but will do the opposite. Many say that we are on the threshold of an even more massive outbreak, and that the plague will continue its march unhindered, thanks to the measures taken by Brussels. Thus, the plague will not only take hundreds of thousands of healthy hogs and "eliminate them from the food chain," as the bureaucrats pompously describe this senseless killing, but at the same time will wipe out tens of thousands of family farms. And that's what the politicians call "structural change."