

time? There can be only one reason: Israel has forgotten nothing and learned nothing after dozens of years of accursed policy blunders.”

A similar view was expressed by Matti Steinberg, an expert on Palestinian affairs who has advised various directors of the Israel Shin Bet security services. Steinberg told *Ha'aretz* that no one should have been surprised at the Hamas victory; he had been warning the government for years that its refusal to negotiate with the Palestinian National Authority would leave the Fatah with only its corruption to offer the Palestinian people.

If I were in power, Steinberg said, “I would stop declaring and hinting at unilateral measures” and present the “Clinton blueprint,” which is the peace plan announced by President Bill Clinton at the close of his Administration, which called for the establishment of a Palestinian state based on the 1967 borders, with an exchange of territories. It called for the division of Jerusalem along Israeli and Palestinian lines, and a negotiated settlement over the holy places.

There is a definite consensus over such a solution among both Palestinians and Israelis. A recent poll showed that a majority of Israelis would support holding negotiations with Hamas over a permanent peace agreement based on a two-state solution.

There are two dangers ahead. One is that neither Israel nor the United States would make such an initiative. The current policy of no all-out peace and no all-out war has led to the collapse of the moderate Fatah and ushered in Hamas. Another round of this policy will lead to chaos and the death of many thousands of Palestinians and Israelis, if not a regional war. “Threats from Washington that they would cut off all funds to a Hamas government, would only hasten chaos and more terrorism,” warned one Egyptian analyst, with close ties to the Palestinian negotiations.

The second danger would be another “political” peace process that will not deal with the fundamental economic crisis. This will lead not only to a catastrophic economic collapse in any new Palestinian State, but would continue to weaken the Israeli economy in which a socio-economic crisis is raging.

Even without Ariel Sharon, if a Kadima-led government were to come to power after the March 28 Israeli elections, it would at best attempt to implement the first option and then fail, because its neo-liberal economic policies would continue the process of collapse.

A Labor-Party-led government might have a chance. Labor Chairman Amir Peretz has called for a negotiated settlement and has committed his party to a socio-economic alternative to the neo-liberal economic policies now dominating Israel. Nonetheless, success would only be assured if the United States, in concert with Europe, Russia, and the United Nations offered a true peace through an economic development program for the entire region, from the Mediterranean to West Asia.

Germany

Youth Candidate: Renew Leipzig's Heritage

by Rainer Apel

The candidacy of Karsten Werner, a 21-year-old member of the LaRouche Youth Movement in Germany, for the office of mayor in Leipzig, is important far beyond the boundaries of the city of Leipzig itself, and also beyond the election date, Feb. 5. The vast majority of citizens in Germany (as elsewhere in the world) are deeply worried about the future of employment, of social security, and of peace. An opinion poll published by the Infratest agency on Jan. 31, showed that 88% of the citizens throughout Germany view the fight against unemployment as the topmost priority; this contrasts drastically with only 5% that view state budget consolidation as a priority. The opinion poll was published just at the time that Germany reported a dramatic increase in unemployment by 400,000, for the month from the end of December to the end of January.

Since Nov. 22, 2005, when the new German government of Chancellor Angela Merkel took office, not a single new job has been created, but more than a half million jobs were lost, simply because the government considers budget consolidation its top priority. The new government stated right from



Candidate Karsten Werner's campaign poster reads: "Hope for the Hero City. 50,000 jobs through new industry. In Saxony, the economy must grow."

Karsten campaign



BüSo/Claudio Celani

This cartoon compares BüSo mayoral candidate Karsten Werner to the five major and minor parties in the campaign, and those who are partyless. It says: "In Leipzig, One plus six equals one!"

the start that the creation of jobs is the responsibility of the free market—which is mainly interested in speculation, as is obvious to almost everybody. A change of policy, away from speculation, toward production, is urgently required. This includes shutting down the Leipzig-based European Electricity Exchange (EEX), a casino-like entity that trades electricity, whether it is available or not, and thereby drives prices up drastically.

The abolition of the EEX was a leading issue in the Werner campaign, as was the LaRouche proposal for a leading German mission in the economic development of the Eurasian Land-Bridge. Only this broader, strategic orientation will create conditions for the re-employment of more than 50,000 citizens of Leipzig, which with its close to 500,000 citizens, is the biggest city of the eastern German state of Saxony, and which also has that state's highest unemployment rate. Any localist approach, Werner continually pointed out in a number of interviews with Leipzig media, will fail to create jobs. The LaRouche Movement's political arm, the Civil Rights Movement Solidarity (BüSo) party, pushed for the re-industrialization of Leipzig, in this broader context, with a special campaign brochure mostly authored by Leipzig members of the LaRouche Youth, including, naturally, Werner himself.

Two other top items in the BüSo campaign, the reference to the great historical past of Leipzig (with Leibniz, Bach, Schiller, Moses Mendelssohn) as a center of German Classical culture, and the continuous updating of the citizens about the struggle against the creeping fascist takeover of U.S. politics by the neo-conservative cabal, in conjunction with the misleadingly named "Federalist Society," were met with great interest by many Leipzigers. The citizenry was greatly

interested in the struggle to prevent Federalist Society member Samuel Alito from becoming a justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, and on the catalytic role of the American LaRouche Movement in this struggle, as was shown by the high attendance at the two main public BüSo election campaign events on Jan. 26 and Jan. 31: The 80 guests at the first event, and the 100 at the second event, put the BüSo on a par with the "established" bigger parties like the Social Democrats, Christian Democrats, or the Left Party (Linkspartei). Both campaign events were addressed by Helga Zepp-LaRouche, national party chairwoman of the BüSo, and by mayoral candidate Werner, as well as by Reinhard Massberg, a leading representative of the BüSo *Mittelstand* organization of medium-size productive firms. The fact that the question and answer periods following the speeches at both events, made the events last for almost four hours, demonstrated an intense and serious dialogue with the citizens, unmatched by any other political party in Germany.

What Is Necessary for Germany

Werner's campaign message was that Germany needs, most of all, real, new heroes of the kind that defeated crucial Synarchist projects twice in history: in 1813, with the "Battle of the Nations" near Leipzig against Napoleon, and again in 1989, when the peaceful Leipzig Monday Rallies mass movement spread like wildfire across eastern Germany and brought down the East German socialist regime and the Iron Curtain. Referring to that, the Leipzig campaign brochure of the BüSo has the title, "Hope for the City of Heroes."

The programmatic input, the references to history, and the mass distribution of campaign material could, however, never have achieved the genuine, high public recognition of the BüSo among the Leipzig citizens, had there not also been the singing by the LaRouche Youth Movement, which presented music at every political intervention. The main campaign song in the Leipzig mayoral election was the melody of the American song of the Union Army during the Civil War, "The Battle Cry of Freedom," with a German text addressing the citizens of Leipzig in particular. They also sang spirituals, Bach motets, and other great examples of Classical music, which stands in stark contrast to the rock-drug counterculture displayed by all the other political parties. If any Leipzig citizen still had doubts as to whether the BüSo really represented a revolutionary change, the singing and the music answered his question. And whereas shortly before the election, it was uncertain how well the BüSo would do in the election, it is certain that this BüSo campaign with the decisive role of the LaRouche Youth, has left a positive, constructive impact among citizens—for whatever will happen after Feb. 5.