

endorsed conservation, and a wave of confusion has erupted in the SPD's ranks. On April 27-28, party functionaries will be meeting in Cologne for an extraordinary congress on energy policy, and Mattofer has taken a leading role in aiding Carter operatives to turn that congress into a forum for "left-wing" attacks on the federal government. The confusion within the SPD is peaking just as the federal trade union movement has begun to consolidate strongly around a pro-nuclear energy position, and conservative and industrialist-tied newspapers have issued unprecedented attacks on Carter's energy policy.

On April 16, Trade Union Federation chairman Heinz Oscar Vetter endorsed nuclear power development at a meeting of factory councilors in the industrial city of Mulheim. The terms of his endorsement made clear that Vetter — who as a "former member" of the Trilateral Commission has withheld support for nuclear power until now — is under tremendous pressure from the trade union's ranks to support the official government policy. Vetter announced that the trade unions will be opposing the environmentalist movement which in West Germany goes under the name "Citizen's Initiatives," and has documented financial links to the Ford Foundation and National Resources Defense Council in the U.S.

Industrial layers are organizing hastily on an international scale to find means for bypassing and eventually defeating Carter's announced ban on plutonium processing and exports of enriched uranium. On April 21, nuclear producing corporations founded a formal "Industrial Association for the Nuclear Fuel Cycle". The industrial daily *Handelsblatt* has provided consistent coverage to calls issued by Yugoslavia for guaranteed nuclear development in the Third World and new international agreements governing non-proliferation. A chief commentator of the conservative daily *Die Welt* moreover emphasized that Carter and West Germany's conservationist movement had the same exact policy, and noted "the response of the West German government and the U.S. Congress" will determine whether or not

Carter's policy actually goes through.

Thus in industry and trade union layers, backing for an energy expansion policy is so strong that the environmentalists have little chance of awakening genuine support. Carter's operatives are aiming at creating a climate of chaos, a development which meshes with numerous predictions that a wave of "terrorist" attacks, possibly including "nuclear terrorism," is about to erupt in West Germany. Last week, Karl Herold, chief of the Federal Criminal Office, the domestic branch of Rockefeller's private intelligence agency Interpol, reported to Federal Parliament that terrorist attacks on leading politicians are expected in the near future. The terrorist groups are directly connected with the "environmentalists" who have been organizing violent demonstrations at nuclear power plant sites to disrupt the government's energy program.

The regional *Stuttgarter Zeitung* accused Mattofer on April 21 of "being responsible" for a "split between critically minded intellectuals and the trade union organized base" in the SPD. In the latest issue of the trade union weekly, *Welt Der Arbeit*, SPD Business Manager Egon Bahr voiced his "fear" that a split in the party may be unavoidable. Bahr is an intimate associate of party chairman Willy Brandt, the chief linchpin of Rockefeller run networks in West Germany, and presently a close collaborator with Ford Foundation whiz-kid McGeorge Bundy.

The internal destabilization around energy questions is also being fed by disorienting publicity maneuvers further aimed at demoralizing the party ranks. Volker Hauff, Mattofer's state secretary, has just publicly invited Klaus Traube, a nuclear engineer around whom a major watergate scandal erupted earlier this year, to attend the April 27 conference. Government intelligence agencies were accused of unconstitutional activities during the scandal for surveilling Traube who was suspected of maintaining contacts with terrorists. The controversial Traube's appearance will give the "ultra-left" wing of the APD an avenue to attack the government around illegal surveillance activities.

## New Series Of East-West Overtures

A number of public diplomatic feelers are now being exchanged between West European governments and the CMEA countries, indicating the likelihood of upcoming firm agreements in at least some areas of East-West cooperation. Although much of this discussion is flowing through well-traveled channels, the simultaneous negotiations over the expansion of the transfer ruble for use in non-CMEA countries gives the current round a much greater significance than in the recent past.

Helmut Schmidt, West Germany's Federal Chancellor, gave the dialogue its latest push at last week's meeting of the Socialist International in Amsterdam. Referring to the Soviet Union's proposals for establishing pan-European conferences on energy, environment, and transportation questions, Schmidt warned against Western tendencies to "just react to Soviet proposals." He identified

economic policy as the most urgent international issue, and in that light called for the "extension of detente" to third-country sectors. Schmidt's explicit support of the pan-European conferences has been prominently covered in the East German Communist Party newspaper, *Neues Deutschland*.

Schmidt's speech came three weeks after the West's first positive response to the Soviet conference proposal. Herbert Wehner, the influential parliamentary leader of West Germany's Social Democratic Party, had directly connected the question with the necessity for a rapid agreement at the Mutual and Balanced Force Reduction talks in Vienna. Wehner's statement — made just as the Soviet Union was rejecting the Carter Administration's SALT proposals — also included a positive view of the Warsaw Pact's standing proposal to outlaw "first strike"

by strategic and "tactical" nuclear weapons.

This is only one of the many East-West discussion areas showing new signs of life. Polish diplomatic officials, for example, have delivered a note to the British embassy, proposing that the European Economic Community begin formal relations with the CMEA. The proposal is similar to one rejected by the Community six months ago — but that was under very different international political circumstances.

CMEA spokesmen have been repeatedly emphasizing the need for progress on the pan-European conferences, which they hope will be adopted at the Helsinki follow-up meeting to be held in Belgrade this June. East German radio has suggested that the most appropriate form for a broad discussion of the proposal is the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, a body which includes representatives from both East and West Europe. Although it is still unclear whether this is indeed being discussed at the Commission's session in Geneva which began this April 20, the CMEA is using this as a forum for a detailed discussion of long-term prospects for their

five-year plans.

There are also some encouraging signs in relations between East Germany and West Germany. West German government spokesman Klaus Bölling has announced that an 80-point program on cooperation with East Germany would be issued soon. Although the details are not yet known, a further deemphasis of the Berlin question as a point of contention is likely to be one feature.

From the East German side, the *Liepziger Volkszeitung* recently published a response to a letter written by a Leipzig worker asking "Why are there so many capitalist firms settling into the DDR? What is happening to our economy?" The paper replied that these firms, especially the chemical firm Hoechst with its polychloriviny plant, are a concrete expression of détente; they draw the DDR more broadly into the international division of labor. With regards to that Hoechst plant, another newspaper, the *Financial Times*, notes that Hoechst's West German production is now being included in East Germany's 5-year planning books as basic data.

## Mitterrand Declares War On Left Socialist Faction; Union Of The Left Faces Crisis

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### FRANCE

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François Mitterrand, the General Secretary of the French Socialist Party (SP) and leader of the Second International, declared war this week on the pro-Communist faction in his own party, the CERES. Mitterrand's efforts appear somewhat as a desperate gambit in the context of the up-coming renegotiation of the Union of the Left's (Communist, Socialist and Left Radical parties) Common Program. It is well known that these parties hold widely differing views.

In articles in two SP publications this week, Mitterrand declared that the existence of "organized tendencies" in the party will no longer be tolerated, since they increasingly function as parties within the party. Mitterrand called on the tendencies — leaving no doubts that he means the CERES — to commit themselves to self-dissolution before the party's congress takes place in June. The CERES faction is being accused of making "unnecessary" electoral and programmatic concessions to the French Communist Party (PCF).

The leader of the CERES group, Jean-Pierre Chevènement issued his response in an interview in *Le Matin de Paris* April 19: Mitterrand is making a grave error. "I think that if Mitterrand cuts himself off from the most dynamic part of the Socialist Party, far from giving himself a guarantee for the future, he will be sawing off the very branch on which he sits." Chevènement added that Mitterrand's ultimatum to the CERES "is unacceptable."

But Mitterrand is in a dilemma. The longer he waits to purge the CERES group, the more impossible a task it will become; CERES will grow at faster rates than the SP majority tendency as worsening economic conditions in the country draw more and more workers into the PCF and CERES.

Mitterrand's declaration of war on the CERES will correctly be understood by the PCF rank and file and secondary leadership levels as a war cry against them. As the Common Program comes up for renegotiation, the opportunist pro-Atlanticist faction of the PCF centered around General Secretary Georges Marchais is equally anxious to quickly settle the matter lest its base call the unholy alliance into question altogether. At preliminary talks between the leaderships of the parties to set up a date and agenda for final renegotiation talks, Marchais' secretary and Politburo member Charles Fiterman made clear that the PCF will be willing to make certain concessions to meet the SP, provided all the issues can be settled quickly, without much ado and public debate. In a preliminary indication of how the PCF leadership will compromise, Marchais declared this week that the PCF is now willing to accept the creation of a European Parliament, provided its powers are limited. In return, the PCF expects the SP to accede to the PCF's demand that more nationalizations be included in the Common Program, particularly in the steel sector.

The Communist-led trade union, the CGT is adamantly and urgently demanding such nationalizations of the steel sector. Crippled by an overall debt amounting to more than 100 percent of the sector's annual turnover, the steel industry and its workers are faced with the grim prospect of tens of thousands of layoffs in the short and mid-term future.