

Today, public opinion in West Germany seems more skeptical....

Mr. Brezhnev, the first Soviet leader to set foot on West German soil, journeyed to Bonn in 1973, and to Washington only a month later. The political climate was warmer in both places then than it has been in either for many months now.

*Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, May 5:*

In a major editorial, this newspaper warned that it is high time to get rid of all current misunderstandings between Bonn and Washington. America may end up losing all of Europe, and then the Federal Republic of Germany would be standing all alone, helplessly, against the East. This would create a policy vacuum "into which only those who still believe they can follow Bismarck's approach of seeking their future in the East, would stop."

*Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, May 6:*

It was no secret that the financing of the big deals with the Soviets will not be that easy....Even the nuclear cooperation deal, wanted by the Soviets, is not included in the package — the stress is merely on Third World cooperation.

*Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, May 8, "The Myth of Military Detente," by Adalbert Weinstein:*

Detente has been merely a useful play for the Soviets up to now; the East is on the offense, while the West is

still defensive. Kissinger's illusion was that the understanding of détente would be identical in both East and West, but the Soviets understood it as merely a means to achieve generous terms of trade with the West.

*Another article reads in part:*

The Germans would have liked to tell Brezhnev more of what he wanted to hear.... But under present conditions this was not allowed. These conditions began to be created in 1938, when Germany destroyed its neighboring nations which acted as buffer states.... Now we have that uncanny neighbor relationship with a giant continental empire and with its specific political system.... The so-called intimacy of the two cannot get any closer.... For Bonn, the Brezhnev speech did not obliterate the fact that his peace is the peace of automatic killer-rifles placed at our eastern border.

*Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, May 9:*

The behavior of the Federal Republic of Germany was such as to awaken irritating memories of Rapallo....

*Die Welt, May 9:*

Unnamed NATO officials, according to this paper, are "irritated by Bonn's recent behavior." Bonn, they say, seems not to understand what Brezhnev's real intentions are: he is concentrating on the weakening of Bonn's position for the upcoming NATO summit meeting, and is harping on the weakness of the American president.

## U.S. Looks For An Opening

*While Hodding Carter III, the State Department's press spokesman, gave out once, twice, then thrice a "no comment" at press briefings this week on the world-historical West German-Soviet accord, news of the momentous accord drew the following responses in Washington and elsewhere around the country:*

*A top aide to Frank Weil of the Commerce Department:*

This 'is really nothing new.... West German-Soviet economic relations have reached the point where no real breakthroughs are possible.... You can only have the working out of final details of already-concluded deals.... If you write a story saying something significant took place, you'll be misleading your readers.

*An aide to Senator Jacob Javits (R-N.Y.):*

We're too busy here dealing with labor reform and other important matters like that — I couldn't possibly get the Senator's response on this.

*A New York executive connected to the Council on Foreign Relations:*

I can certainly understand why London doesn't like this....

*A business source close to the intelligence community:*

I have the same reaction to this as you do. Brezhnev

has even called for the Warsaw Pact lowering its forces in Europe, which undercuts Paul Nitze and that whole "Team B" crowd.

*A former U.S. Export-Import bank official:*

This must be used as an example of how the U.S. will be left in the dust unless it increases East-West trade.... We must use it against the people who are blocking such things.

*Official at the Commerce Department:*

This is extremely important. I agree about its significance. It must have been stopped "at the top" because nobody in our departments was told about it.

*An assistant to U.S. Special Trade Negotiator Robert Strauss:*

This must be being handled only by the President, because we normally get briefed on things like this — but we don't know anything. It really sounds historic....

*A Teamsters official:*

...This will mean thousands and thousands of jobs, for years and years.

*A Republican Ward Captain in Buffalo:*

This is an opening we must get in on, a new alternative for the world.