

# Brandt faction mounts offensive against West German government

by Susan Welsh

With the death April 16 of an imprisoned hunger-striking German terrorist linked to the Red Army Fraction (Baader-Meinhof Gang), law enforcement officials in the Federal Republic are braced for a new explosion of terrorism expected to escalate throughout the spring. When Baader-Meinhof supporters issued a leaflet April 12 prematurely claiming that a striking terrorist had died, 500 people rampaged through the city of West Berlin, smashing shop windows over a 3-kilometer square area and causing over a million dollars worth of damage. Such riots, bombings, and sabotage of military facilities are becoming virtually a daily occurrence.

This is the "spring offensive" against the progrowth government of Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, prepared by the Socialist International at meetings throughout the winter. The aim is either to topple the Bonn government or to immobilize it and set it on a "left-wing" confrontation course with the Reagan administration.

Willy Brandt, the chairman of the Socialist International as well as Schmidt's Social Democratic Party (SPD), is fostering the conspiracy against Schmidt, as are key individuals in the Free Democratic Party (FDP). The FDP is West Germany's traditional "swing party," Schmidt's coalition partner, which received 10 percent of the vote in last fall's parliamentary election. The party's honorary president Walter Scheel, former president of the country, announced in an interview to the daily *Bildzeitung* April 16 that he no longer believes the present coalition to be viable. The present government has lost its ability to make decisions, he said, and frictions are increasing between the SPD and FDP, while the FDP finds itself more and more in agreement with the opposition Christian Democratic Union. Scheel cited his experience with the weak government of Chancellor Willy Brandt during the 1970s as evidence of his qualifications for judgment on the matter.

More dangerous than Scheel, however, is FDP Interior Minister Gerhard Baum, who is currently supervising the destruction of West Germany's intelligence services. Sources in the law enforcement field report that the police are totally unprepared to deal with the new explosions of violence, because Baum has restricted their

counterterror capabilities.

Brandt, Scheel, Baum and the young rioters share a devotion to the ideology of zero growth and the postindustrial society. They have vowed to bring down Schmidt's government, as 1968 student protesters bought down French President Charles de Gaulle.

Said Richard Barnet of the Washington, D.C. Institute for Policy Studies, in an interview made available to *EIR*: "Germany will start to resemble Italy. The collapse of Schmidt will strengthen the left and make it impossible for anyone to rule. . . . The chaos is already building, and at some point, with the economy getting worse, it will overtake Schmidt."

Barnet's Institute for Policy Studies is one of the chief outside controllers of the German left/terrorist scene. Set up in 1963 by Marcus Raskin, aide and protégé of National Security Adviser McGeorge Bundy, IPS became the center for the pro-Brandt faction of the American intelligence community. Richard Barnet, a member of the New York Council on Foreign Relations, was brought in from his post as Deputy Director of Political Research for the U. S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA), along with Gar Alperovitz (State Department Policy Planning Department) and other "ex-Establishment" figures. IPS collaborators included leading members of the terrorist Weatherman group, Bernadine Dohrn, Bo Burlingham, and Mark Rudd.

Barnet recently spent a month in West Germany, meeting with top SPD officials including Brandt and his sidekick Egon Bahr. He spoke at the Frankfurt Institute for Peace Research, the Hamburg Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies, and the West Berlin Berghof Foundation (founder of radical lawyers' collectives and similar leftist projects). These institutes are the coordinators of West Germany's born-again "peace movement."

Barnet predicted: "This is not a fringe movement. It is supported by the leadership figures in the SPD. . . . The demonstrations that will be held this month will be quite impressive. But this is only the beginning. They will target U.S. bases. The demonstrations are anti-American, more precisely anti-Reagan. They will add weight to the people like Brandt who are arguing for a break with

the White House," he concluded.

Barnet, along with Brandt and "several friends in the U.S. embassy," intend to force this break. While Schmidt now "leans toward collaboration with the Reagan administration," he said, the leftist activation should turn Reagan against the Bonn government, if Schmidt caves in to their demands. Barnet also spread the lie in West Germany that Reagan is behind the plot to topple Schmidt: "I told people that while I couldn't confirm a direct plot against Schmidt; if there was one, it was coming from the Reagan White House."

### **Brandt's role**

Willy Brandt, whose control of European terrorism during the 1968-1971 period was first exposed by French and Italian intelligence sources in the "San Marco Dossier" published in 1974 in the Italian magazine *Il Settimanale*, has now mobilized his radical supporters. Since the Schmidt government was re-elected last fall, Brandt's actions have included:

- He helped engineer crisis in the government in West Berlin, his own base, soon after the federal elections. West Berlin mayor Dietrich Stobbe was forced to resign by a scandal over mismanagement of city funds. New elections will be held May 10, with a possibility that the SPD-FDP coalition will not survive which could undermine the stability of the Bonn coalition.

- Brandt's supporters in the state of Hessen mobilized against the progrowth policies of SPD Governor Holger Böner, Schmidt's only remaining ally among the SPD-governed states. In March elections in Hessen, the SPD lost heavily in areas dominated by Brandt's environmentalists.

- In Hamburg, Brandt's supporters voted against the planned construction of a nuclear power plant at Brokdorf, and SPD officials there announced they will campaign against both the Christian Democrats and the chancellor.

- Whereas Schmidt has wanted the SPD to orient its policies back toward its traditional working-class base, Brandt recently called for the party to open its doors to the new "alternatives" groupings and environmentalists. It is an illusion, said Brandt, to think that in a society where the percentage of workers is shrinking one can forget about the "intelligentsia."

- Brandt toured SPD locals in the Saarland during April, putting himself forward as the spokesman of the peace movement. Egon Bahr, the architect of Brandt's famous *Ostpolitik* issued a call April 14 for the SPD to "open a dialogue" with the peace movement—who have vowed to overthrow Schmidt.

- Institutions Brandt is associated with like the Washington, D.C. German Marshall Fund finance the environmentalists, "squatters," and other counterculture gangs rampaging throughout West Germany.

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## The Interior Ministry

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# FDP's Baum wrecks counterintelligence

West German Interior Minister Gerhard Baum, under the liberal cover of preventing "Gestapo-style" centralization of the country's police apparatus, is out to wreck West Germany's republican institutions and leave the country helpless before a new explosion of violence and terrorism.

Baum is systematically dismantling the tightly coordinated counterterrorism apparatus built up in the Federal Republic to cope with the terrorism of the 1970s. He is spreading the lie that terrorism is a "sociological phenomenon" which cannot be eliminated by law enforcement agencies. Under the guise of "dialogue" with and "rehabilitation" of terrorists, Baum is working with radical antipolice leftists to create a state of "Italian-style" chaos that will collapse the government of Chancellor Helmut Schmidt.

Baum is a leading representative of the Free Democratic Party (FDP), coalition partner of Schmidt's Social Democrats. The "liberal" FDP is backing Baum's gameplan to the hilt, amid widespread predictions that if Schmidt falls before the end of his four-year term, FDP Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher will become chancellor and Baum will replace him as FDP chairman and foreign minister. FDP General Secretary Günter Verheugen warned in an interview in March that law enforcement authorities should not "criminalize" the antinuclear "greenies," since a major part of the German population allegedly agrees with them that nuclear energy is dangerous and cannot be controlled by man. FDP members figure prominently in the radical criminology groups supporting Baum's destruction of the intelligence services.

### **The FDP's role**

The role of the Free Democrats is not surprising, given the party's history. Its prewar predecessor, the German Democratic Party (DDP), was the vehicle for the political ambitions of Hjalmar Schacht, the czar of German deindustrialization during the post-World War I period, following the Versailles Treaty, who later became Hitler's finance minister.

According to one source active in the antipolice campaign, the plan is to turn the FDP into an "Italian-