
Documentation

European Labor Party calls for defense of constitutional rights

The following declaration was released by the European Labor Party in West Germany on Nov. 22. This version is slightly abridged.

For some time, members of the European Labor Party [Europäische Arbeiterpartei—EAP] have been subjected both to numerous press slanders and to physical assaults by opponents from the ranks of the militant Grünen. The reason is the EAP's public support for economic growth, technological progress, and peaceful application of nuclear energy. In the past week in particular, these attacks have assumed a dimension which now represents a direct threat to the democratic order of the Federal Republic of Germany: EAP representatives, as well as other citizens, have been subjected to a wave of massive threats, including bomb threats and physical attacks, which have injured the basic rights of freedom of expression of opinion and assembly in an intolerable way.

The primary occasion of this escalation was an EAP forum in Neckarwestheim bei Heilbronn, called to give political support for the construction of a second nuclear power plant unit, as well as for the necessity of technological progress. The speakers included Mayor Armbrust of Neckarwestheim, a Free Democrat, his counterpart Alphonse Bohler from Cattenom, France (where a similar fight is occurring over nuclear power), space researcher Dr. Krafft Ehrlicke from California, and Mrs. Helga Zepp-LaRouche, federal chairwoman of the European Labor Party.

Mayor Armbrust was heavily pressured through telephone calls, letters, and a bomb threat, to distance himself from this event, and not to appear. Through rumors and press slanders, an effort was made to intimidate people in the area from attending. And, at the door, a group of masked youths moved to physically prevent citizens from entering. When about 40 of them began to storm the meeting hall, the police had to intervene.

What was the content of this meeting, which despite

the harassment was attended by about 100 citizens, 50 from the heavily targeted Neckarwestheim region? What were the political views expressed there, which at this point cannot be publicly represented in this country without great personal risk?

Mayors Armbrust and Bohler emphasized how nuclear energy is economically necessary; Dr. Ehrlicke discussed its role in the development of outer space, which among other things would facilitate the disposal of nuclear waste. Mrs. Zepp-LaRouche emphasized that nuclear power is indispensable not merely for maintaining living standards in West Germany; sabotaging nuclear energy there would have the effect of condemning some hundreds of millions of human beings in the Third World to death. Halting nuclear development would thus make us responsible for a holocaust a hundred times greater than the one that occurred under Adolf Hitler. It is unacceptable, she stressed, to condemn the Third World to make the transition to development on the basis of its own internal resources; and she condemned the Club of Rome as racist Malthusians who, in concert with certain NATO officials, openly encouraged American soldiers during the Vietnam War "to slaughter as many women and children as possible, so that at least if the war could not be won, the Vietnamese population would be drastically reduced." As an alternative, the EAP chairwoman endorsed the creation of a new world economic order which would enable genuine economic development in the southern hemisphere through application of science and technology. For an export-dependent nation like West Germany, she said, this is the only practicable way out of the current world economic crisis. She concluded with an appeal against the enemies of science typified by Robespierre, who used the slogan "the Revolution needs no scientists" to murder the greatest thinkers in France.

Nationwide attacks

We now document the wave of slanders, threats, and physical assaults which have occurred, noting that the

press has apparently performed a considerable and evil role in this affair. We also note that these attacks are being investigated in the context of a vehicular homicide attack against Mrs. Zepp-LaRouche in West Germany on Sept. 22, 1981.

Heilbronn/Neckarwestheim: Nov. 14: About 15 men attack an EAP literature table in Heilbronn on which are lying invitations to the above event, among other things. The books and newspapers are destroyed. A few days later, Mayor Armbrust receives an anonymous threatening letter which calls the EAP a "fascist organization," encloses a clipping from an old slander against the EAP in *Der Spiegel* magazine, and demands that he not attend the event. Numerous threatening phone calls are also received. The local SPD organization in Heilbronn, a bastion of Grünen ally Erhard Eppler, spreads the slander that the EAP is "a right-wing organization financed by the CIA."

On Nov. 20, the day of the event, the *Heilbronner Stimme* publishes an article headed "Disquiet Before the EAP Event Today—Right-Wing Radical Group or Labor Party?" Physical attack against the event, and in particular against Mrs. Zepp-LaRouche, is virtually advocated. The CDU [Christian Democratic Union] city councilor of Neckarwestheim, Mrs. Widemann, receives threats that if she attends, her windows will be smashed.

On Nov. 20, at 6:45 p.m., a threat is phoned into the *Heilbronner Stimme* that a bomb will explode during the event.

As police are searching for the bomb, 40 militant masked Grünen attempt to storm the meeting hall under paramilitary command. They curse the police as "pigs," "fascists," and "Nazis," and shout "They should have gassed you" and "Pour on the gas," as well as "We want to see Helga."

A half-dozen journalists and photographers on the scene, as a group, take up the cause of the disrupters, with a volunteer at the *Heilbronner Stimme* maintaining contact between the Grünen inside and outside the hall.

Aachen: A Nov. 19 forum held by the Fusion Energy Foundation was presented to an audience of 200 by Dr. Krafft Ehrlicke on the industrialization of space. About 40 disrupters attempted to break into the room, armed with bottles and other objects; the police report that they are "professional demonstrators" from outside the area. Had the police not intervened, the event would have had to be canceled under the threat of injuries.

Hamburg: On Nov. 21, a wall poster was hung in the mathematics division of the university, calling for the break-up of a forum scheduled there two days later by Dr. Ehrlicke.

Wiesbaden: During the demonstration against the nearby Frankfurt airport expansion, a contingent of

demonstrators surveyed the former office of the EAP, whose national headquarters are in Wiesbaden. On Nov. 17, a "spontaneous demonstration" suddenly passed this office again, and had to be disbanded by the police. On Nov. 19, the EAP is informed that the "Runway Opponents Scene" is collecting addresses of EAP members to carry out "a kind of nationwide *Kristallnacht*" against the EAP. (*Kristallnacht* was the 1938 rampage against Jews by Hitler's SA). During the night of Nov. 20-21, the new EAP office is painted over with defamatory slogans.

These brutal methods are being employed in order to achieve several different goals. A climate of heated slanders is being created, endangering the security of the EAP's national chairwoman, who only eight weeks ago escaped a professional assassination hit, as well as that of other EAP members.

Secondly, through intimidation and outright terror, the population itself is to be kept in check. . . . Fifty citizens of Neckarwestheim demonstrated considerable courage, despite threats, and the fact that they had to push their way through a crowd of masked figures. One said, "What happened in Frankfurt and what happened here—these are SA methods." Mayor Armbrust stated that he absolutely refused to be dictated to as to which events he could and could not attend. The CDU councilwoman who had been threatened said that it is perilous for democracy if someone can be stopped from doing and saying what one considers to be right in public.

Call to all democratic parties

The Federal Executive Committee of the EAP hereby calls upon all politicians and democratic parties in the Federal Republic to take the events described here as a warning signal, and act so that the great majority of the population is not brought to silence by a small but violent minority. Each has the right to express his views, to freedom of speech and assembly, even if that person is mistaken or incorrect. However, no one has the right to rob his fellow citizens, through the use of physical violence, duress, and blanket terror, of the basic rights of freedom of speech and assembly. If journalists participate in such actions, they are abusing the freedom of the press.

Unfortunately, we are already well past the point when we could have said, "Halt this at its inception!" In no other [democratic] nation in the world has the terror against political opponents described here already taken on such forms as—now for the second time—in Germany. In a democratic republic, other laws are valid than those of the Hobbesian struggle of each against all. Democratic political leaders must not tolerate such abuses against our constitution for one more day.