

# Soviets and Social Democrats out to neutralize Germany – and Reagan

by Konstantin George in Wiesbaden

Led by W. Averell Harriman himself, the Anglo-American foreign policy elite has raised its voice to demand that a "deal" be struck with Soviet leader Yuri Andropov "while the opportunity lasts." The deal is the neutralization of Western Europe, with a neutralized West Germany as its centerpiece; it has been publicly called for by Harrimanite former U.S. ambassador to Moscow Charles Bohlen, and also by Walt W. Rostow, the Lyndon Johnson-era national security adviser whose major accomplishment of that period was the Vietnam War policy.

The Harrimanites calculate that they have six months to bring this deal off.

The six-month figure is not arbitrary, for as Harriman and his followers repeatedly stress, "the opportunity will not last forever."

Top French sources confirm this time frame. As one of them expressed it, "Soviet generals have given Andropov six months to deliver on the Finlandization of Europe. . . . Ustinov [the Defense minister] and Orgakov [chief of staff] allowed him in, despite their differences." The same sources stressed the continued vitality of Andropov's opponents, led by the Chernenko group in the party, which includes Politburo members Romanov (the Leningrad party boss) and perhaps also Kunaev, the party boss in Kazakhstan. The recent TASS wire attacking the Pope in strident terms is seen by French intelligence sources as having been planted by the Chernenko crowd to keep alive the theme of possible Andropov and Bulgarian secret-service involvement in the attempt to assassinate John Paul II. This Chernenko operation targeting Andropov is already being christened "Sofiagate."

## 1953: Beria-Malenkov, 1983: Andropov

In terms of striking a "deal" with the Soviets, the Harriman crowd sees the current situation as paralleling the spring of 1953. While Stalin was alive, Winston Churchill stoutly resisted the idea of U.S.-Soviet rapprochement. Immediately after Stalin's death on March 6, Churchill demanded that President Eisenhower strike a deal for a reunified, neutralized Germany with Stalin's successor Georgii Malenkov and KGB chief Lavrenti Beria, two of the worst pro-British scoundrels in the heavily factionalized Kremlin hierarchy. Beria and Malenkov, like Andropov now, required a deal to consolidate their shaky hold on power.

The warnings to President Reagan by anglophilic spokesmen not to repeat "Ike's mistakes" are a clear ultimatum to the White House. Walt Rostow was explicit in his recent statement that "Ike's mistake was not to take up British suggestions to have a summit [with Malenkov]. . . . Now, again, timing matters. . . . The opening won't last long." Charles Bohlen on the same theme: "We should have gone along with Winston Churchill's appeal in the spring of 1953 for a summit conference. . . . This would have been very fruitful and might easily have led to a radical solution in our favor on the German question." A deal with Andropov is also being pushed by Helmut Sonnenfeldt and William Hyland, both Kissinger operatives. It is widely acknowledged by U.S. journalistic sources that Secretary of State Shultz and his number-two man, Kenneth W. Dam, share these views.

Sources close to the White House report that the pro-British networks controlling Vice-President George Bush, who is the son of Averell Harriman's banking partner Prescott Bush, are moving the Reagan administration through a combination of blackmail and internal chaos. This network, which includes George Shultz, U.S. Ambassador to Bonn Arthur Burns, and Reagan's Geneva negotiator on the Euromissiles, Ditchley Foundation board member Paul Nitze, is working behind Reagan's back to secure U.S. withdrawal from Western Europe.

Reagan is under intense pressure to decide whether he will run for President again. White House Chief of Staff James Baker III, a loyalist to presidential aspirant George Bush, is trying to convince Reagan that it is "politically impossible" for him to run. The theme of "disorder in the U.S. administration" and "Reagan at all-time low" has now surfaced in the Anglo-American press. Baker has also called for further defense budget cuts, following the \$8 billion in cuts announced in January, when Reagan was forced for the first time to agree to military cutbacks because his "closest friend" in the Senate, Paul Laxalt, abandoned him on the question.

Should Mr. Reagan decide not to run, he would instantly be reduced to a lame-duck President. The administration, by default, would fall into the hands of Harrimanite Bush and George Shultz. The elevation of Bush will occur around his Jan. 30 trip to seven European nations, where he will discuss Andropov's arms-control proposals. Bush is already being

characterized as a "reasonable" man who can deal with the Soviet chief, in contrast to Reagan. One Munich source commented bitterly, "Bush will soften up Europe for Andropov. It looks like Europe has already been delivered" to the British strategists and Moscow.

### **Reunification at any price?**

If one took as a yardstick the words and actions of Social Democratic Chancellor candidate Hans-Jochen Vogel and his leading adviser, parliamentarian Egon Bahr, one would have to concur. Influential circles throughout Europe were struck, though not always surprised, at how Vogel and Bahr were treated in Moscow—as if they were already in power. Andropov's meeting with them was a record two and a half hours, the most time he has devoted to anyone including heads of state. The session included a 15-minute, totally private tête-à-tête between Andropov and Vogel. Other Moscow signals quickly followed. In addition to fulsome praise of the visit in the Soviet media, TASS devoted a separate wire to the theme of the virtues of an article Bahr had just published above his signature in the Social Democratic Party's newspaper *Vorwärts*, in which Bahr hails Andropov's proposals as "sensible and quite justified."

According to high-level sources in Bavaria and Switzerland, Bahr represents a crowd of Thuringians and others who have a high stake in reunification. Bahr is further identified as one of the most powerful men in Germany. Bavarian observers fear that an SPD-Green Party coalition will be the outcome of the March 6 national elections—which would enable the Federal Republic to consolidate the deal with Andropov. Swiss sources say nervously, "Pym and Genscher are supporting Andropov. But the most dangerous figure in Bahr. He wants reunification at any price, and he tells Vogel what to do." In the early 1970s, Bahr worked closely with Henry Kissinger and Willy Brandt on their version of *Ostpolitik*. With all these facts in mind, it ought not be surprising that, directly after the Moscow visit, when Vogel went to Paris to meet President Mitterrand, the anti-arms-control French excluded Bahr.

On Jan. 13, Vogel gave a Bonn press conference which confirmed the convergence of his views with Andropov's. "The Soviet Union is waiting for the West to answer," he said. "Our goal is the radical reduction of Soviet medium-range missiles that would prevent deployment of American missiles here. . . ." The capper: "French and British missiles . . . should be part of the calculation factor."

According to defense and intelligence sources, the "neutralize Germany" operation is also linked into leading elements of the southern German oligarchy and their extensions in Switzerland and Austria. According to these sources, Ambassador Burns is working with family interests such as the Thurn und Taxis group in Regensburg, through meetings of the so-called Finance Club of Munich. Recent meetings of that group were attended by Henry Kissinger, currently a partner in the Kissinger Associates consulting firm with Brit-

ain's Lord Carrington.

These figures are said to be operating on a "Mitteleuropa thesis" which would bring a reunited, demilitarized Germany into close ties, à la Finland, with the East. In their thinking a new partition of Poland is not excluded at some point in the future. A certain rethinking on the "German question" is under way in the Soviet Union, beyond what occurred around the Vogel-Bahr visit. The Western press reported Jan. 14 that Brezhnev ally Valentin Falin, the Soviet ambassador to West Germany in 1971-78, and one of the key policy makers on Germany in the U.S.S.R., has been dropped from

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his function as Central Committee chief for international information. The Soviet official in the Foreign Ministry who handles China, Mikhail Kaapitsa, and his counterpart for U.S. affairs, Viktor Kompektov (who was at the Vogel-Bahr-Andropov talks), were elevated to the post of deputy foreign ministers.

All factional hell is meanwhile breaking loose in East Germany, where Socialist Unity Party Secretary Erich Honecker is reportedly locked in a struggle with Stasi chief Mielke, an Andropov ally. Honecker, a Brezhnev supporter, knows that he and his allies in the ruling party are expendable as sacrifices on the altar of an Andropov deal with the British and the Bahr faction.