

Violence and support for terror: the record

The Times of London, in an editorial statement two days before the March 6 West German elections which brought the Greens into the parliament for the first time, expressed the view that the radical party "could be a valuable new element in West Germany's parliamentary life. They represent a genuine force in German society, and would probably benefit from parliamentary experience."

While *The Times*, which supported Hitler editorially before his seizure of power, has its own reasons for promoting the Greens, the illusion which the paper seeks to promote has become a common one now in the Federal Republic and abroad: that the Greens can be drawn into the parliamentary system and distanced from the "radical fringe groups" with which they have previously charged the barricades of the legal state.

After the first press conference of the newly elected Green members of parliament, there can be no doubt that these individuals see themselves as the "legal arm" of a movement which includes also an illegal, underground component.

The Bundesverband Bürgerinitiativen Umweltschutz (BBU, the Federal Union for Citizens' Initiatives for Environmental Protection, an organization which overlaps with the Greens) expressed it this way: "One constantly meets up with the seemingly ineradicable prejudice that non-violent action is limited to protests, demonstrations, and legal proceedings, that it always moves within the framework of legality. Whoever reads the Action Catalogue of the BBU will immediately realize how absurd this objection actually is."

Petra Kelly, former national head of the party, declared that "nonviolent resistance itself cannot risk less than we require of people in the street." Kelly had just been charged with violating the security zone around the Bundestag (parliament) building on election night, when the Greens held an anti-NATO demonstration there.

Just who are these "people in the street" whom Kelly does not want to let down? They are the numerous ecologist, Maoist, Communist, and "peace movement" groups with which the Greens march in their—frequently violent—demonstrations against nuclear power and all forms of industrial development.

At one meeting of "peace groups" on April 2, 1982, attended by Petra Kelly and Roland Vogt of the Greens, the groups demanded the recognition of the Red Army Fraction (RAF, or Baader-Meinhof gang) as "an integral component" of the peace movement, and supported the attacks of the Revolutionary Cells terrorists against U.S. General Kroesen

and the Ramstein U.S. Army base. None of the Greens present expressed disapproval.

In the final analysis, for them there is one common enemy, the "nuclear society." The Revolutionary Cells issued a statement explaining their actions against the construction of the fast-breeder reactor in the town of Kalkar: "Our conception is to attack the nuclear mafia wherever the nuclear program is conceived or prepared for scientifically, prepared for with propaganda and carried out materially."

When the declaration was published in the *Göttinger Atomexpress*, the editorial office was raided by police and the edition confiscated; the editors were brought to trial for propagandizing for a terrorist group. Martin Mombaur, a leading member of the Greens in Lower Saxony, called the police action "a colossal bit of swinishness" and a typical attack by the state on freedom of opinion.

In sum, the Greens do not merely tolerate the use of violence; they consider it necessary to break criminal law. For the past six years, they have been involved in large-scale demonstrations which have often degenerated into violence. The events were planned in advance at meetings in which the Greens participated. Commented Petra Kelly to *Der Spiegel* magazine: "I cannot constrain in advance certain groups which will eventually become violent; I cannot box them into a corner."

In the conflict over the Frankfurt airport expansion, Greens took part in numerous illegal actions, and since the middle of 1981 violence has been the frequent outcome. Millions of deutschmarks of damage has been caused, and for a time there were almost daily riots in the center of Frankfurt. After the illegal squatters' village on the site of the proposed runway expansion was cleared out by police, the most severe riots occurred in the center of Frankfurt. A bomb was exploded in the railway station underpass, arson and bomb attacks followed against the Austrian consulate, various banks, and construction firms. Alexander Schubart, a leader of the anti-runway group and collaborator of the Greens, announced that the legal decision by a Hesse state court to proceed with construction of the third runway would not be accepted, but that the struggle would escalate.

Schubart, who had called for the blockade of the runway during a demonstration during which 101 police were injured, was sentenced to two years in jail for violation of the court order. The Greens declared themselves to be in full "solidarity" with him. The use of violence is avoided by the Green movement only when it is not sensible tactically.