

Report from Bonn by Rainer Apel

Policy grows Kissingerized

The U.S. State Department gave the green light to Genscher's public Eastward turn.

The past month has seen a drastic shift in German foreign policy, as shown by the 11 hours of discussions between Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher and his Soviet "colleague" Andrei Gromyko in Vienna over the weekend of Oct. 15-16, which produced a new agreement concerning "consultations on long-term policy aims" between their two ministries on the planning staff level.

Genscher shed some light on this agreement when telling the press with amusement, on his return to Bonn, that Gromyko responded to his proposal by saying: "But this does not mean the coordination of the foreign policies of our two governments, does it? How would the world public take that?"

Note too that the head of the planning staff in Genscher's ministry, Konrad Seitz, is a Kissinger-bred diplomat. Trained at the Fletcher School at Tufts University, he attended Kissinger's "Strategic Seminars" at Harvard. Seitz will fly to Moscow the third week in October to start the consultations.

There are other profound changes, too: the West German ambassador to Moscow, Andreas Meyer-Landrut, who has the reputation of being "the key expert on the Soviets" among Bonn diplomats, will replace the highest-ranking undersecretary in the foreign ministry, Bernt von Staden, who is considered "the key expert on the Americans." Von Staden won this reputation as Bonn's ambassador to Washington from 1973 to 1980.

Meyer-Landrut will be replaced in Moscow by Hansjörg Kastl, who served until recently as Genscher's man at the Madrid CSCE talks, the Pugwash-inspired "Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe" which includes all the East European countries and the U.S.S.R. Kastl is said to have won "respect among the Soviets, if not even trust" in Madrid.

The meeting between Genscher and Gromyko in Vienna resolved on "mutual interest on either side in continued economic cooperation," translated by Genscher as meaning that "economic cooperation will have to continue beyond the stationing of the missiles." West Germany's minister of economics, Otto Graf Lambsdorff, will travel to Moscow for talks on new projects and extended cooperation on Nov. 16-17.

Alois Mertes, another undersecretary in the Genscher ministry, had previously noted that "German-Soviet economic cooperation was developing and expanding even during the period of the Cold War and during the Berlin Crisis of 1958." In other words: a deal between Bonn and Moscow. The deal is closely coordinated between Genscher and Kissinger via George Shultz, whom the West German foreign minister had consulted and whose support for the deal with Gromyko he had received before he went to Vienna.

The range and possible contents of Lambsdorff's talks was indicated by Otto Wolff von Amerongen, the most

important mouthpiece of German industrial interests in the East. Amerongen, who is a member of the Trilateral Commission and of the oligarchic Bilderberg Society, as well as the only European on the board of directors at Exxon Corp., gave the keynote address to a gathering of the German Society for East European Studies in West Berlin on Oct. 13.

Amerongen spoke of "new prospects for economic cooperation with the Soviet Union" and mentioned "joint ventures in the field of energy, finance, and agricultural development," referring to the "good experiences made with similar cooperation projects in the 1920s"—the Rapallo Policy co-launched by his father—and listing two advantages which he said made the Soviet Union especially attractive to German industry:

First, the fact that Siberia "possesses most of the world's raw materials which just have to be explored"; and second, the "fact" that the Soviet as well as the other governments in the East bloc "have shown their ability to guarantee adjustments in their economic policy," which he said enabled them to "meet credit liabilities better than most of the Third World countries."

At the same time, Amerongen accused the United States of "misusing trade and commerce as an instrument for carrying out East-West conflicts in foreign policy"—referring to U.S. attempts to apply sanctions against the Euro-Soviet natural gas pipeline project.

Amerongen, the acting president of the influential "Eastern Policy Committee of German Industry," is also said to be one of Kissinger's best friends in West Germany. The outline he gave for a pro-Soviet future of German industry provides the economic underpinning for Genscher's "back-channel" diplomacy with Moscow.