

Report from Bonn by Rainer Apel

A polarization over Grenada

Genscher is blasting the United States while Franz-Josef Strauss warns about Soviet intentions.

Under the auspices of Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the first authorized official statement from Bonn on the intervention stressed that "the comments from all parts of the world are predominantly critical and negative," and that "the [West German] cabinet has . . . emphasized . . . that if we had had the occasion to do so, we would have advised against the intervention." Genscher added that "international law must not be applied selectively."

People in Bonn remember, however, that it is Genscher who has displayed a double standard. In the controversy over who should be recognized as Kampuchea's legitimate government at the United Nations after the fall of the genocidal Pol Pot, Genscher decided in favor of Pol Pot's representative. Then there is Genscher's patronage of Khomeini's Iran (see article, page 30).

Bonn's comment on the Grenada mission was followed by a fierce debate in the West German parliament over a motion put forward by the Green Party on Oct. 27, a debate which featured perhaps the most anti-American statements ever given in Bonn. The nadir was reached, not by the Green Party, whose spokesman Josef Fischer termed Reagan a "club-swinging politician" and a "celluloid cowboy set for shooting," but from the Social Democrats.

Their foreign policy spokesman, deputy Horst Ehmke, termed the Grenada intervention "an act of violence committed by the United States

against international law" and added that by "showing its muscles rather than its brains," the United States had lost trust not only among its NATO allies, but also in the Third World as a whole. He added that "this policy of confrontation . . . will also have negative effects on the situation in Europe."

Another prominent SPD foreign policy spokesman, Hans-Jürgen Wischniewski, introduced the "future of NATO" issue which is being debated inside the SPD in terms of a choice between "dying with the United States or living in neutrality with the Soviets in Europe." Wischniewski, his party's expert on Central American affairs, called the Grenada intervention "a black day for the 'NATO' alliance. . . because our most important ally has committed an act of severe violence against international law, against the right of nations to self-determination, and against the charter of the United Nations." He added that the intervention "proved that there was good reason for our rejecting the stationing of new missiles."

Hans Apel, the former SPD defense minister under Helmut Schmidt, termed Reagan's moves "an imperial policy" in an interview with *Der Spiegel* of Oct. 31, and went so far as to state: "This gunboat policy of the U.S.A. is of such a stupidity that it can hardly be surpassed."

While the SPD whips up its campaign for a non-American solution to Europe's defense problems, there is something quite similar on Gensch-

er's agenda, and his own image is not improved by the fact that all the other Western European foreign ministers were on the same anti-Reagan line. Quite the contrary: There were rumors that the construction of the airfield on Grenada had been funded by the European Commission's FECOM program, and that the Cuban "construction workers" had been employed by the British company Plessey. The FECOM program usually allocates funds for projects of regional development within the EC, but it also extends to non-European countries associated—like Commonwealth member Grenada—with the EC via treaties covering about 60 African-Caribbean-Pacific countries.

Franz-Josef Strauss, the Bavarian Christian Social Union (CSU) leader who for many reasons would like to see Genscher ousted, termed it a scandal that "the extent to which the Soviet and Cuban grab for power has already penetrated the Caribbean has not been fully understood in Bonn."

On Nov. 2, at an international symposium on defense at the CSU's Hans Seidel Stiftung, Strauss stated: "He who distances himself from the Americans on the Grenada issue . . . and furthermore calls for U.S. troop withdrawal from the island . . . must be termed dishonorable and irresponsible. Whoever does so plays into the hands of Soviet propaganda against the West." He predicted that the Soviets will make a last-minute offer at the Geneva negotiations: reducing the number of SS-20s in Europe to 54. "There are tendencies in Bonn operating behind the scenes who are psychologically and politically prepared to fall for such a Soviet offer," Strauss said. "These people tend to think such an offer means practically the 'zero-option.' . . . If one makes 'zero' into a variable factor, the Soviets have scored a big psychological victory."