

Report from Bonn by Rainer Apel

The threat of ungovernability

The coming indictment of Economics Minister Lambsdorff for bribery portends new instability for the government.

The vote by two-thirds of the Bundestag (parliament) on Nov. 22 in favor of stationing U.S. Pershing II missiles in the Federal Republic has done nothing to alter the growing instability of the country. As the Dec. 15 start of the missile deployment approaches, the stench of fear and appeasement is in the air. The Soviet Union is heading for a showdown with the Western alliance; everyone knows it here, and too many cowardly politicians are already tallying up the terms of Bonn's capitulation.

Egon Bahr, the Social Democratic Party's leading "Finlandizer," called openly for a "security partnership" with the Soviet Union, in a statement after the parliamentary vote. Another leader of the appeasement faction is Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, a personal friend of Henry Kissinger. When Soviet President Andropov's announced Nov. 24 that the U.S.S.R. would deploy new submarines against the United States and new tactical nuclear weapons against Germany, Genscher's response was that the statement "was more moderate in tone than the statement he gave on Sept. 29."

Although Chancellor Helmut Kohl's government sailed through the Bundestag ballot with no difficulty, its future is by no means secure. The announcement on Nov. 29 by the federal prosecutor's office that it is moving to indict Economics Minister Count Otto von Lambsdorff for taking bribes could

be the first step in the break-up of the Bonn coalition. Christian Democrat Kohl relies on Lambsdorff's Free Democratic Party for his majority. So far, Kohl is fully supporting Lambsdorff, thus linking his government's fate to that of its economics minister. If Kohl withdraws his backing for the Count, the Free Democrats could pull out of the coalition in retaliation.

Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., in a speech in Kiedrich on Nov. 19, characterized the crisis looming over Germany this way: "The Atlantic Alliance is falling apart. It is crumbling, morally as well as politically. Germany is about to leave the Alliance. Nobody knows exactly what is going to happen, but that is a fact. . . . Somebody wants to put Lambsdorff in jail. This might bring down the coalition. It might lead to a Social Democratic-Green government. But the essential thing is that the objective of the Soviet Union and its greenie and other agents in Germany is to make the Federal Republic of Germany ungovernable.

"The objective is not necessarily to create a government here which is a Soviet puppet government, because Bahr is a little bit more complicated than just being a Soviet puppet; he is something much darker. But the point is that ungovernability is a kind of decision, just as the ungovernability of Weimar Germany was a decision. The Weimar Republic was replaced because it became ungovernable."

A watershed in the political devel-

opment here was the Nov. 19-20 special conference of the Social Democratic Party (SPD), which voted overwhelmingly against the U.S. missile deployment, at the recommendation of the party's executive board. This was followed up by the Bundestag vote, in which all but 13 SPD deputies opposed the missile stationing. The SPD's transformation into an arm of Soviet foreign policy marks the end of a parliamentary tradition which in its best moments has included bipartisan collaboration in the national interest.

Social Democratic Chancellor Helmut Schmidt was a leading advocate of NATO's 1979 "Euromissile" decision, and had always managed to pull his party—kicking and screaming—behind him. Schmidt argued that the threat of a NATO missile deployment would force the Soviets to negotiate to reduce their SS-20s, and that if this were not done, Soviet blackmail pressure on Germany would become unbearable.

The effect of such Soviet pressure was on shocking display in Bundestag hearings at the end of November on "alternative defense strategies." The testimony was dominated by "peace movement" leaders like Carl Friedrich von Weizsäcker who proposed a "social defense strategy" without weapons.

But more surprising was the statement by official government spokesman General Domröse, who declared that nuclear weapons are so destructive that they are inappropriate components of a war-fighting strategy. Nuclear weapons should therefore be drastically reduced, he said, "the focus should concentrate on a conventional weapons buildup. This is the insane "new" doctrine of former U.S. Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara, and it has the enthusiastic endorsement of Henry Kissinger and of Genscher and his cronies in Bonn.