

A German-American institute proposed to guide policy

by Helga Zepp-LaRouche

Helga Zepp-LaRouche, chairman of the European Labor Party in the Federal Republic of Germany, issued the proposal for a new German-American Institute which we excerpt here.

Relations between Western Europe and the United States, and in particular between the Federal Republic of Germany and America, are now in a serious crisis, the solution to which will have far-reaching military-strategic, political, scientific, and cultural consequences for the Western alliance.

For some time, and this is now impossible to overlook, the Soviet Union has had the intention to separate Western Europe—especially West Germany—from the United States. Simultaneously, in the United States as well, tendencies working for disengagement have been growing stronger, whether they demand the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Europe, as in the Mansfield Amendment, or would redraw the boundaries of Western Europe through a new Yalta Agreement with the Soviet Union. And finally, in West Germany itself there are various groups advocating a decoupling from the West.

While it is obvious that German-American relations are being subjected to a severe test by the combined effect of these factors, nonetheless there exists no unified ruling conception among the advocates of decoupling on what specific form it will take. . . .

One thing, however, is certain. Under the present strategic conditions of strained relations between East and West and the approximately fourfold superiority in conventional weapons of the Warsaw Pact over Western Europe, a possible withdrawal of the United States from Western Europe, as recently discussed by Undersecretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, could have only one possible consequence: Western Europe would fall into the sphere of influence of the Soviet Union.

A problem which should not be underestimated in its seriousness is that all existing think-tanks, foundations, and institutes concerned with relations between Western Europe and especially West Germany and the United States are dom-

inated by the Eastern Establishment, and thus by the decouplers. These institutions accordingly not only spread disinformation about the real course of events, but portray the drifting apart as inevitable. A positive characterization of the common historical and cultural basis of America and Europe is not given, much less a definition of common interests for the future. . . .

The undeniable high point in the history of both nations came in the temporal coincidence of the American Revolution, in which all the republican forces of Europe took an active part, and the period of the Weimar Classicism, when the two nations had their most fruitful mutual influence.

The influence of German culture remained strong in America throughout the entire 19th century, and was strengthened by waves of many millions of German immigrants who were mostly recruited from the best parts of the population, fleeing from repeated outbreaks of political reaction to the New World. . . .

The fatal roots of the present degeneration of German-American relations, however, lie in mistakes in the policy of occupation following the Second World War, mistakes which stand out even more starkly if the policy of MacArthur in Japan is contrasted to that of McCloy and Clay in Germany.

While MacArthur successfully set out to win Japan as a friend and to involve the Japanese people themselves in the process of reform, McCloy aimed at the exact opposite. His policy for the U.S. zone was the creation of a total political vacuum in which only "U.S. assets" would be tolerated. It has now been made public that this policy consciously maintained the old Nazi structures and prevented the very promising democratic attempts at republican self-organization among the Germans themselves. Representatives today of this earlier German policy must take responsibility for the fact that not a few of these old "U.S. assets" have turned into today's highest-ranking representatives of pro-Soviet policy, as the example of Willy Brandt demonstrates. . . .

In the military-strategic area, President Reagan's new doctrine of Mutually Assured Survival has defined new perspectives of necessary cooperation. . . . We need a renaissance of cultural optimism that continues the tradition of the American Revolution and German Classicism, and it must be begun at once.

The idea that the drifting-apart is unavoidable because Europe and the United States are changing their fundamental social values through an all-encompassing transformation is therefore unacceptable, because the very best in our history would be lost in such a process.

The newly formed institute/foundation will have the task of researching common history and thus advancing the spiritual and cultural unity of the two nations. Above all, however, it shall present a variety of proposals for new options of cooperation. . . . If we work at this task with the same courage which inspired the European and American supporters of the American Revolution, we shall succeed.