

## Kohl bows to Carrington, attacks U.S. beam policy

by Susan Welsh

A blackmail operation against the Federal Republic of Germany by Henry Kissinger and Britain's Lord Carrington has led the major Bonn parliamentary power-brokers to form a "grand coalition" against the U.S. beam-weapon antiballistic-missile defense program. The Bonn government, using the argument that the U.S. program will leave Europe in the lurch, has in reality opted for the Kissinger-Carrington plan to decouple the United States from Western Europe. No wonder that the government's shift has drawn enthusiastic support from the left-wing opposition Social Democratic Party (see page 31).

Chancellor Helmut Kohl announced in an "off-the-record" briefing to British journalists April 10 that his government opposes the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative. (Hitherto Kohl has kept his public pronouncements on this controversial issue as vague as possible.) The London *Guardian* reported on his remarks: "West Germany plans a European campaign to dissuade Washington from going ahead with its 'Star Wars' killer-satellite programme, and to lay the foundation for an autonomous European defense within NATO. Kohl has indicated that he fears the American anti-missile programme could become irreversible if Mr. Reagan is re-elected for a second term in November."

Kohl's defense minister, Manfred Wörner, insisted in an interview with the *Hannoversche Allgemeine Zeitung* April 7 that the U.S. program "could lead to a destabilization of the East-West balance and a decoupling of Western Europe from the U.S.A. and even to a split of the Western Alliance." Wörner had until recently maintained that beam-weapon defense was unfeasible, or at best "the music of the future." But when U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger gave allied defense ministers in Turkey April 7 a detailed briefing on the

status of the American effort, Wörner turned his occasional grumbling into an outright offensive against the U.S. policy.

Behind the German shift is Peter, Lord Carrington, Henry Kissinger's business partner and the newly-designated secretary general of NATO. A former senior British Foreign Office official with close ties to Carrington and Kissinger told *EIR* four months ago, "Carrington will take care of the problem of U.S. beam-weapons development when he takes over as secretary general of NATO. The Weinberger viewpoint is not the only viewpoint—there are programs and there are programs" (see *EIR* Dec. 20, 1983). Carrington's oft-repeated attack on President Reagan's "megaphone diplomacy" was meant as a warning to the United States that the British will break apart the Western alliance if Washington pushes "confrontation policies" (i.e., beam-weapons defense) too far, the official said.

Kissinger spelled out the decoupling threat in a March 5 essay in *Time* magazine, in which he threatened a U.S. troop withdrawal from Europe.

Now Carrington and Kissinger are delivering on their blackmail—with the help of a Soviet psychological-warfare drive against Western Europe that includes the largest global naval maneuvers in history, harassment of West Berlin, and the murder of a French military officer in East Germany.

In France, these efforts have been successfully countered by an organizing drive by the association France and Her Army, which co-sponsored a conference in Paris March 23 addressed by Lyndon H. LaRouche. There is increasing support in France for a European role in assisting the United States to develop a beam-weapons capability—a concept endorsed, for example, by opposition leader Jacques Chirac. In Britain, however, "Churchillian" advocates of a beam policy

have been smashed, as Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has come under the thumb of Carrington in recent months.

The German response has been to appease Carrington, Kissinger, and the Soviets. The Social Democrats are threatening mass unrest if the government accepts the beam policy. The Bonn defense ministry does not shape military policy, but implements it—on orders from the foreign ministry, which, under Carrington's buddy Hans-Dietrich Genscher, functions as an adjunct of the British Foreign Office. German military figures who supported Weinberger have been silenced, through the "watergating" of Gen. Günter Kiessling on charges of homosexuality in December. Although Kiessling was formally cleared of the accusations against him, the scandal served to warn military figures of the fate that could await them should they buck NATO's secretary general.

Despite the united front against beam defense from the leadership of West Germany's parliamentary parties, not all opposing voices have been stifled. The conservative daily *Die Welt* has been waging a campaign in defense of the U.S. policy. Scientific correspondent Adalbert Bärwolf published an article April 11 attacking the anti-beam stance by the government and the Social Democrats: "Speculation by German politicians that Europe might be decoupled from America through these technologies is completely incomprehensible. Beam weapons in American hands are no danger for world peace because the United States, as people in Bonn should know, is not embarking on an expansionist policy."

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## Documentation

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*Since U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger briefed NATO defense ministers on the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative in Cesme, Turkey, during the week of April 1, German controversy over the policy has mounted. We quote from the principal statements.*

### April 3

West German television carried a commentary by Brussels correspondent **Günther Trampe**, who said that "the American minister Weinberger will brief his European colleagues on the new American Strategic Defense Initiative, but Minister Wörner will voice the European skepticism about that policy. As the minister said, the Europeans are concerned that these new anti-missile defense systems will neutralize the nuclear deterrence potentials, so that Europe will be confronted with the immense superiority of the Soviet conventional force. It is feared that conventional war might become possible again, if nuclear deterrence were neutralized."

Trampe added that "what is being discussed here is the policy U.S. President Reagan presented in his famous speech of March 23 of the past year, the so-called Star Wars speech; but what is behind that policy is the development of a new anti-missile defense system based on bundled x-ray laser weapons stationed in space."

The same day, former West German chancellor **Helmut Schmidt** addressed a University of Maryland meeting on "the need for a new strategy for NATO," supporting Henry Kissinger's call for a NATO "reform." Schmidt demanded "intensified French-German military cooperation which would allow the United States to withdraw troops from Europe," and voiced his "profound skepticism about the psychological, economic, and political consequences of a new arms race in space," mocking "the optimistic we-can-do-it nation U.S.A. which tries to teach us Europeans lessons."

### April 4

Social Democratic Party (SPD) disarmament spokesman **Karsten Voigt** issued a statement in Bonn—almost identical to one by the Soviet news agency TASS—that "in case the United States goes for a policy of militarizing space, of placing killer-satellites and other weapons into orbit, there will be a storm of public protest which will make the protest against the counterarmament [stationing of U.S. Euromissiles] of last fall look like a mild breeze."

**Henry Kissinger** told West German television that "it was a mistake of the European governments to criticize me for my ideas [including his call for a U.S. troop withdrawal from Europe—ed.] because I looked into the future. If the friends of NATO don't take up the debate, then the enemies of NATO will do so, and this will lead toward neutralism."

"As long as defense is nuclear from the start, there is no sense in keeping the present number of troops in Europe," Kissinger said. "What I said was no threat, but a reflection of reality."

West German Chancellor **Helmut Kohl**, who was interviewed on the same program, said that "the image of the alliance as an Atlantic Bridge does not fit, because a bridge is founded on two equal pillars, and this is not the case today, since Europe is the weaker pillar. I would say that Mr. Kissinger was correct on that point." Kohl added that "Mr. Kissinger has delivered a series of excellent articles on strategic questions."

### April 5

Defense/disarmament spokesmen for the government coalition parties issued statements calling upon the United States to negotiate with the Soviets a ban on space-based ABM systems. The Free Democratic Party's **Olaf Feldmann**, a member of parliament, said that "it seems to be senseless to waste a lot of money on a project which is first of all very expensive and, second, might never really prove feasible." For the Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union, **Volker Rühle** declared that "the costs of this new system might endanger NATO's planned conventional improvements."

For the Bonn government as a whole, spokesman **Peter Böhnisch** said that while Reagan was right in blaming the Soviets for violation of the 1972 ABM treaty through the development of killer-satellites (which he said has been pur-

sued by the U.S.S.R. since 1968, to Bonn's knowledge!) the "German government insists that already in the research phase of these new systems, equal protection for the European allies must be guaranteed."

**Defense Minister Manfred Wörner** declared that he was very skeptical about the new Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), because he was "still not convinced that the U.S.A. will not aim at making its own territory invulnerable to Soviet missiles with a system that does not protect Europe against the short- and medium-range missiles threat." Wörner predicted that if the SDI were realized, there would be "even more tensions between Europe and the U.S.A."

## April 7

**Defense Minister Wörner** gave an interview to the *Hannoversche Allgemeine Zeitung*, headlined "Wörner worried about new U.S. defense system—defense minister sees dangers for the inner balance and unity of NATO." Said the paper: "In his view, such a development could lead to a destabilization of the East-West balance and to a decoupling of Western Europe from the U.S.A. and even to a split of the Western Alliance." Wörner declared: "The Soviet Union has an advantage in the building of facilities for radar and high-energy laser beams which have only one meaning: defense against ICBMs." He added that he approved of the U.S. R&D effort to cope with the U.S.S.R., but remained skeptical because of the (allegedly) unsolved question of whether the United States would not try to use this shield to turn into a "Fortress America."

Wörner added that "the new U.S. concepts, because of their immense costs, endanger NATO's demands for a strengthening of conventional weaponry."

Christian Social Union chief **Franz-Josef Strauss** meanwhile addressed the security policy working group of the Christian Social Union party in Munich, giving full support to "Wörner's critical remarks on the new U.S. policy," and adding that once the United States had such space weapons, Europe would become "less important for the U.S.A."

## April 9

**Horst Jungmann**, a defense/disarmament spokesman for the Social Democratic parliamentary fraction, urged the Bonn government to resist the United States on the Strategic Defense Initiative, because "the U.S.A. is trying to implement this new policy under the very shady pretext of pointing to a Soviet advantage in the field of space weapons."

**General (ret.) Gerd Schmückle**, former deputy chief commander of NATO/Europe under Alexander Haig, gave an interview to *Westdeutscher Rundfunk* radio terming Bonn's "official rejection of the new U.S. policy unconsidered, because these new laser weapon systems would provide us with a viable defense against Soviet missiles."

Bonn government spokesman **Peter Boehnisch** said in a press conference that "our government remains skeptical about the new U.S. initiative because our policy is to prevent any

new arms race which could hamper ongoing arms control talks."

## April 10

**Adalbert Bärwolf**, the military technology correspondent for the daily *Die Welt*, denounced the European claim that the Strategic Defense Initiative would lead to a U.S. decoupling from Europe. "Speculation by German politicians that Europe might be decoupled from America through these technologies is completely incomprehensible. Beam weapons in American hands are no danger for world peace because the United States, as people in Bonn should know, does not embark on an expansionist policy. An invulnerable America would be a good aid in case of danger. Europe, in turn, could insure that it is protected by these systems against the SS-20s by contributing financially and technologically to the development of these weapons."

Chancellor Helmut Kohl gave a confidential briefing to a group of British correspondents. *The Guardian* reported on the session April 11:

"West Germany plans a European campaign to dissuade Washington from going ahead with its 'star wars' killer-satellite programme, and to lay the foundation for an autonomous European defence within Nato.

"[Kohl] has indicated that he fears the American anti-missile programme could become irreversible if Mr. Reagan is re-elected for a second term in November.

"The West Germans fear a space defence programme would protect only the U.S. It would uncouple Europe's security from America's and thereby undo the political advantage the installation of cruise and Pershing II missiles was meant to bestow.

"Dr. Alois Mertes, the State Secretary in the Foreign Ministry, said yesterday: 'If both superpowers protect their own sanctuaries, Europe will be more vulnerable. It is a classic case in which a united Europe could, and should, influence the U.S.

"The Government also feels that the 'star wars' project would promote the arms race when efforts are needed to slow it down."

The deputy SPD parliamentary fraction chairman, **Horst Ehmke**, meanwhile said in an interview on Deutschlandfunk radio that "with the statements made in criticism of the U.S. space weapons policy . . . I see a new convergence of views across the parties on security policy."

## April 11

*Die Welt's* Bonn military correspondent **Rüdiger Moniac** wrote an editorial supporting the U.S. defense program: "Bonn's reaction invites miscalculations. . . . The indications that the Soviet Union is also working full steam ahead on laser weapons cannot be overlooked. Therefore, it would be simply wrong to criticize the U.S. for striving to get the military capabilities in space which prevent it from becoming open to military-technological blackmail."