

Editorial

Europe to labor for the Soviet Union?

Soviet party chief Konstantin Chernenko, in a speech April 29 at the "Hammer and Sickle" steel plant in Moscow, reported that his office was flooded with letters from workers demanding to work a seven-day week because of "the present tense international situation." As we report in this issue of *EIR*, Chernenko declared that the surplus created by this "voluntary" labor would be contributed to a National Defense Fund, such as existed during World War II.

Recent actions by Western European leaders suggest that they too will soon be signing up to work overtime at the "Hammer and Sickle." The drive to decouple Europe from the U.S.A., fostered by the Soviets and their agent of influence Henry Kissinger, produced the following results during April and May:

- Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti signed a joint statement in Moscow April 24 with the Soviet leadership, opposing the U.S. effort to acquire a space-based laser defense system.
- Top German bankers met with their Soviet counterparts in Tashkent, U.S.S.R. in mid-April to map out a program for the European Currency Unit to replace the dollar as an international reserve currency.
- Horst Ehmke, the Trilateral Commission member who heads the parliamentary group of West Germany's Social Democratic Party (SPD), met in Rome on May 1 with the head of Italy's Communist Party controlled-trade union, and vowed to step up cooperation with the Italian communists to build a Europe which was "not a vassal of the U.S.A."
- Egon Bahr, the mastermind of the SPD's "opening to the East bloc," met in the state of Schleswig-Holstein with leaders of the East German district immediately across the border, and agreed to a joint call to "reverse the stationing of the U.S. missiles in Europe."
- German labor leaders are trooping to Moscow to plan "joint disarmament actions." A delegation of the SPD's Labor Council met with Soviet labor leaders at the end of April to plan a Moscow conference on "labor's international contribution to disarmament." Hans

Meyer, a leader of the giant IG Metall metalworkers union, also went to Moscow for this purpose, spending part of his stay in a monastery of the Russian Orthodox Church.

- A secret division of Moscow's Institute of the World Economy and International Relations is busy with the geographic and economic mapping of Western Europe, to determine which areas should be spared demolition during a Soviet attack because of their economic value, according to a report by a Soviet emigré living in Israel.

It is the failure of the Reagan administration to respond to ongoing Soviet pressure on West Berlin which has hastened the decoupling moves by today's Neville Chamberlains. The Berlin crisis has achieved the desired effect: Europeans are terrified by the fact that Moscow can go as far as it has, while the U.S. government pretends that no crisis is occurring. Moscow is saying to the Europeans in effect: "Better break with the United States and come to terms with our demands upon Europe."

If West Germany continues to move into the Soviet orbit, all of Western Europe becomes indefensible. In that case, the Middle East, where the United States has almost entirely lost its influence due to the manipulations of Kissinger and Ariel Sharon, falls totally under Soviet domination. All of Africa, and most of Asia, goes too.

The total industrial and agricultural capacity of Western Europe, combined, is approximately equal to the capacity of the United States. If West Germany goes in the direction which Moscow is proposing, the Soviet Union will buy from Western Europe whatever it chooses, at whatever prices Moscow offers, and on whatever terms of payment Moscow demands. If that happens, the United States itself becomes militarily indefensible at a rapid rate.

What is required is an unshakeable U.S. strategic commitment to the security and prosperity of Western Europe and the Mediterranean. Otherwise, the German trade unionists will soon find plenty of work—under the banner of the hammer and sickle.