

Report from Bonn by Michael Weissbach

A wolf in sheep's clothing

The selection of Richard von Weizsäcker signals the oligarchy's moves to foster a Nazi-Soviet alliance.

On July 1, Richard von Weizsäcker was sworn in as new President of the Federal Republic of Germany. This marks a further dramatic step in West Germany's trend toward decoupling from the Western alliance. It is the climax of a process which started with the anti-American mass "peace" demonstrations and then led to growing demands by Social Democrats and the Greens to leave NATO and go for an arrangement with the East for a neutral *Mitteleuropa*.

Richard von Weizsäcker, the Christian Democratic former mayor of West Berlin, was elected by both houses of parliament by an unprecedented majority including the votes of the Social Democrats who had refused to run their own candidate against him. The media built up von Weizsäcker as a candidate for all Germans in both the West and the East, a candidate suited to harmonize the political differences in the country and one who would understand the problems and yearnings of the young and those who longed for peace.

In reality, Weizsäcker's election as new President of Germany is a signal to the Soviet Union. He is not a man who will sit idly by and watch the eastward turn of the Federal Republic. He was elected to *fulfill* this policy under his leadership in the Palais Schaumburg.

Richard von Weizsäcker stands for a name and a tradition. His father, Ernst von Weizsäcker, was on the staff of the foreign ministry under Ribbentrop, which in 1939 negotiated and signed the Hitler-Stalin Pact. Later in

the 1940s the same crowd pushed for early separate peace talks with the Russians. For generations the Weizsäcker family had a leading role in the pro-Calvinist current of the Protestant Church, which viewed a close alliance with Russia as the destiny of the German people. Today, this Protestant faction has fostered the peace and Greenie movement and influenced the policy change of the Social Democratic Party into a neutralist "Central European" party.

The von Weizsäckers have long-standing, close ties to leading oligarchical families in South Germany and Switzerland. In reward for services, Richard's grandfather was accepted into the lower aristocracy during the 19th century and the family name turned into **von** Weizsäcker.

Richard von Weizsäcker has not repudiated the family history: He helped to defend his father in the Nuremberg trials when he was accused of active participation in the perpetration of the Nazi war crimes in the occupied territories. Moreover, the speech Richard gave at the inaugural celebration before the Bundestag speaks for itself.

More than half the speech is dedicated to the special responsibility of both German states for peace in Europe and a change for European unity continentwide. "We Germans want to live in peace also with our neighbors of the Warsaw Pact. They belong to a fundamentally different system, but are connected with us by a common history, culture, and the will for peace. They are Europeans as we are, we

should never forget that. Peaceful relations with the Soviet Union have a special weight for us. Therefore we have to accept the realities as they are. It does not help peace if we divide the world into good and evil. . . ."

The speech at no point mentioned the acute threat of the largest-ever Soviet maneuvers going on at that very time in East Germany. It never mentioned the global strategic or economic crisis.

Other developments timed with Weizsäcker's inauguration show that the Soviets are setting their assets in place for a bid to take over West Germany and large parts of Western Europe in the process. Count von der Schulenburg was appointed as protocol chief of the new German President. He belongs to the same family which provided the German Reich's ambassador to Moscow at the time von Weizsäcker's father served under Ribbentrop!

In the Soviet Union, the 94-year-old ex-foreign minister under Stalin, Vyacheslav Molotov, was rehabilitated as a member of the Communist Party. It was this man who negotiated and signed the Hitler-Stalin Pact for the Russians. He is also one of the few living people who knows the contents of the secret protocols of the Teheran, Yalta, and Potsdam agreements. To rehabilitate a man means to rehabilitate his policy.

The Soviets also have redeployed their diplomatic corps in the two German capitals Bonn and East Berlin. High-ranking Soviet diplomat Kopteltzev was sent to the Soviet embassy in Bonn where he had served in the 1970s under the Politburo's Germany expert, Falin. Kopteltzev knows von Weizsäcker personally. The son-in-law of the Soviet ambassador in Bonn, Mr. Shikin, was transferred to the Russian embassy in East Berlin.