

Report from Bonn by Rainer Apel

SPD talks like Radio Moscow

Following a meeting with the Politburo's Boris Ponomarev, the Social Democrats are bending over backward to do the Soviet Union's bidding

Leaders of the West German Social Democratic Party (SPD) were told by the Soviet Politburo in late September that their efforts in the Soviets' behalf thus far were insufficient; that they "could do more to stop the nuclear plans of the U.S.A. and NATO." Among the SPD delegation chastized by the Soviet leadership during their Sept. 23-25 visit to Moscow was Egon Bahr, the SPD's oracle on arms issues, father of the 1970s *Ostpolitik*; parliamentary fraction chairman Horst Ehmke; and the former assistant defense secretary in Bonn, Andreas von Bülow. The Politburo member berating the group was Boris Ponomarev, head of the Central Committee's international section.

Back in Bonn, the general manager of the Social Democrats, Peter Glotz, reacted promptly by attacking the Reagan administration and the Bonn government for "not being capable of dialogue, but only of a new Cold War with the Soviets." Glotz, who has recently completed a series of essays in *Der Spiegel* magazine calling on the SPD to move away from its former trade-union identification, accused Chancellor Helmut Kohl of "trying to turn our country into a mere province of the United States."

A few days later, Bahr met with the West German press to report his impressions of the Moscow trip. Bahr claimed that it was "quite obvious" that President Reagan wants to force the Soviets into an arms race. He added that "the Soviets fear an American

surprise attack," which is "not justified objectively, but it is justified subjectively."

Bahr's statements, which strikingly resemble the anti-Reagan verbiage of Radio Moscow, coincide with a purge of inner-party critics of Bahr's pro-Soviet course. One of the most prominent of these, Mrs. Gesine Schwan from the West Berlin section of the SPD, was expelled from the party's Basic Values Commission. She had written that the policy course chosen by party chairman Willy Brandt, Egon Bahr, and Peter Glotz "will lead straight into a situation which turns the German Social Democracy, once built under the banner of freedom, into the de facto most efficient instrument of the Soviet bid for political hegemony in Europe." Since mid-September, three other critics were also purged from prominent party posts.

After firmly reestablishing his faction's control over the party, Egon Bahr went on German national television Oct. 7, responding to recent statements by Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti that "pan-Germanism"—including the bid for a reunified Germany—constitutes a great danger to Europe. Andreotti's accusation created a tempest in relations between Rome and Bonn, coming as it did in the midst of a months-long Soviet propaganda campaign about German "revanchism," the revival of Nazism, and the "German threat" to world peace.

Said Bahr: "The reunification

question is closed now, but only as long as the U.S. Pershings remain. I do not say that history will stand still. The German question is not open as long as West Germany belongs to NATO."

Bahr did not elaborate, but his message came through: Get the U.S. missiles out, pull Germany out of NATO, and the way will be paved for a reunified Germany, in the Soviet sphere of influence.

The timing of Bahr's Oct. 7 statement is particularly significant. Rumors are rampant among East bloc-watchers here that the Soviet Union will soon make a surprise offer to the Federal Republic of Germany and to other European nations to allow the Warsaw Treaty to expire in May 1985. All the West Europeans would have to agree to do is to allow their membership in NATO to expire also.

Many of these analysts believe that this would be what one called "Europe's big historical chance to bury the Iron Curtain and the whole postwar system of Yalta." Anyone who thinks so is living in a fantasy world. The Soviet Union has the armies of its East European allies under fingertip control. No formal alliance is even needed. The Communist International, after all, was formally disbanded by Stalin in 1943, but this did nothing to prevent continued "Comintern" operations ever since.

Thus, the hoax of the ending the era of military blocs facing each other in Europe will be perpetrated by the Soviets to attempt to lure Europe, and particularly the West Germans, into the illusion that they would be "much better off without the Americans" if they join a "system of common security in continental Europe." This is the magic formula propagated by Moscow—and by Egon Bahr, Henry Kissinger's friend.