

Report from Bonn by Rainer Apel

Red-Green gang wants to topple Kohl

Moscow's friends in the Green and Social Democratic parties have an arsenal of scandals to bring down the ruling CDU.

The party-funding affair, or "Flick Scandal," is making headlines again in Bonn, and it will cause some heads to roll, too. The president of the Bonn parliamentary assembly, Christian Democrat Rainer Barzel, has already been forced to resign from his post over media charges that he was bribed by the Flick Company in May 1973 to hand over the leadership of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) to Helmut Kohl. What made Barzel's case interesting was not that he was found guilty, but that the campaign against him points to Kohl, who is now federal Chancellor.

Barzel did not resign because of the attacks on him by the Greens, an ecologist-fascist formation bidding to be West Germany's third largest political party, and the Social Democrats, but because of the sentiment emerging among Christian Democrats that his case could hurt the Chancellor. Without any of the bribery charges proven yet, pressure was put on Barzel to step aside before the spotlight turned on Kohl.

But if Kohl and his advisers ever believed they could save their seats by dumping Barzel, they were naive fools. Kohl has already been targeted by an influential alliance of Greens, Social Democrats, the country's major muck-raking magazines such as *Der Spiegel* and *Stern*, and by the media at large, who want to see the Christian Democratic-Christian Social Union parties overthrown and replaced by a "Red-Green" coalition willing to hand West Germany over to Moscow's hegemony. When Greenie Jürgen Reents created the riot in the Bonn parliament on Thursday, Oct.

18, his charges against Kohl's suspected involvement in the Flick scandal hit the Chancellor in an atmosphere which was already hysterical. With Barzel out, Bonn is more hysterical.

The Social Democratic Party (SPD) wants revenge for the toppling of SPD Chancellor Schmidt by Helmut Kohl in October 1982. Backed by them, the Greens will make the Flick scandal a top agenda item for every upcoming parliamentary debate.

The Greens intend to use the Flick scandal against the republic and its institutions as a whole, and they will do it exactly as Radio Moscow and *Pravda* have been for several months now: They will present the simplistic equation that Flick equals big German industry, that big German industry equals support for Hitler in 1932-33, that Flick means support to the "revanchist and militarist Christian Democrats" today, and that CDU Chancellor Kohl thus equals Hitler. Since the media are eagerly picking up, commenting on and spreading all new allegations, speculations and revelations on the Flick bribery scandal, a psy-war campaign of unprecedented dimensions will hit Chancellor Kohl from now on.

This is the stuff from which government crises are made. The same psychology which compelled the Christian Democratic leadership to dump Barzel for "damage control" will work against Kohl if the Christian Democrats think *his* removal will ward off further political losses. His own party colleagues might thus push the Chancellor into a position where he would not survive a vote of no confi-

dence posed by the oppositional Greens and SPD. Such a vote of no confidence might be on the agenda sooner than Kohl wishes.

The Flick scandal is not the only one threatening Kohl: The parliamentary opposition wants to make the recent case of the KGB spy Rotsch, who worked in the top management of the Munich MBB military company and might have given top secret information on the Tornado jet-fighter to the Soviets, a "first-rate issue." The Social Democrats charge Defense Minister Wörner with trying to suppress the real scope of the scandal and of slowing down the investigation.

The Tornado project, which—still only on the basis of speculation—has been called into question, involves a lot of money: The SPD claims that 45 billion deutschemarks might have been thrown out of the window for a plane which may be known to the Soviets down to the last minute detail and is, therefore, useless.

In the past, German defense ministers have been forced to resign over smaller sums of money or minor scandals, and the SPD's announcement they consider "this scandal the biggest since the Guillaume affair" is revealing. The exposure of his top aide, Günther Guillaume, as an East German spy toppled Chancellor Willy Brandt in the spring of 1974.

The only way out for Kohl is to open the CDU's dossiers on the SPD and on Willy Brandt's Socialist International collaboration with the KGB, and especially the dossiers on the Nazi character of the Greens.

With the knives out on all sides since Oct. 18, the only strategy is the offensive. Every other approach is certain to turn over Germany to Moscow's Red-Green allies—probably by no later than the end of 1984 or spring 1985.