

Editorial

The next hurdle

In the eyes of the Russians, the Western oligarchs, and their lackies such as Henry Kissinger, 1984 was intended to be the year of decoupling Western Europe from the United States. It began with U.S. Ambassador to Bonn Arthur Burns making the announcement, and was intended to take off from there.

It didn't happen that way, of course. Emerging to stop the decouplers was the Schiller Institute, an international think-tank for republican foreign policy established in the spring by Helga Zepp-LaRouche. The Institute's self-appointed task was to provide the conceptual basis to prevent the destruction of the Western alliance. That basis, the Institute said, was nothing less than a resurgence of cultural optimism around the project of the Strategic Defense Initiative. Any maneuvering within the framework of Mutually Assured Destruction would not work.

When Chancellor Helmut Kohl gave his speech endorsing the SDI at the Wehrkunde Society meeting in Munich early in February, it was clear that the Schiller Institute had achieved its goal. Not only is the solidity of the Western alliance greater than a year ago, but the glue holding it together is the new strategic doctrine which President Reagan put forward on March 23, 1983—the Strategic Defense Initiative.

It is instructive to note how this was achieved. The Schiller Institute held three international conferences during 1984, and another on Jan. 12-14, 1985, all of which included an emphasis on building international support for the SDI. Over a hundred Americans traveled to West Germany in September to express their commitment to defend Europe with the new doctrine. Military professionals were organized on both sides of the Atlantic to take a more active part in the discussion of strategic possibilities.

Complementing the behind-the-scenes activity was public agitation around the SDI as the basis for saving the Western alliance. Nearly 800,000 signatures were collected from citizens in Western Europe, the U.S.A., and Ibero-America during 1984 on a petition that calls for dumping arch-decoupler Henry Kissinger from the policy-making of the U.S. government and rebuilding

the Western alliance on the basis of the SDI. Major rallies have been held in all the major capitals involved, including 500 citizens in Bonn, and 10,000 in Washington, D.C.

Finally, the political climate was shaped sufficiently. President Reagan and Secretary of Defense Weinberger underscored again their unshakeable commitment to the defense of Western Europe with the SDI, and their desire to bring Europe actively into the program. Kohl's speech at the Wehrkunde meeting was a dramatic sign of acceptance.

Having accomplished its primary objective, however, the Schiller Institute does not expect to rest on its laurels. Looming on the horizon is a new strategic crisis that threatens to wipe out the accomplishments of the last six months. We refer to the economic offensive of the International Monetary Fund, an offensive which has the world on course for the biggest financial blowout in world history. President Reagan has stubbornly resisted all advice to break from the IMF, which is dictating austerity conditions that threaten to shatter every U.S. ally under its authority. If he doesn't break from the IMF, the SDI commitment could disappear overnight.

There is hardly an area of the world where the IMF is not working to undermine U.S. strategic interest. In Europe, it is bringing unemployment to levels not seen since the 1930s, leaving more trade with Russia one of the only options for starved European industry. In Africa, it is spreading Islamic fundamentalism and famine—creating a cauldron in which only anti-U.S. political chaos and epidemics breed. In Ibero-America, the IMF is pushing drugs, feeding the power of the mafia potentates who have vowed to kill our government officials, as well as poisoning our youth.

This same IMF has vowed to cut the SDI budget line in the defense budget itself—in order to “balance the budget.” The kind of radical policy shift which the Schiller Institute accomplished in six months in 1984 must now be accomplished in the next six weeks in 1985. To save the SDI, our nation, and civilization itself, tell Reagan he must break with the IMF!