

Report from Bonn by Michael Weissbach

The worst choice for U.S. ambassador

The most important U.S. ally in Europe deserves a U.S. ambassador who is not a traitor to his country and the alliance.

Amid a raging battle in Germany over the Reagan administration's beam-weapon defense program, *EIR* sponsored a March 19 press conference here to present damaging information on the personal character and history of Richard Burt, reported likely to be the new U.S. ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany. The question of who becomes the next ambassador might very well decide the outcome of the indicated battle.

George Gregory opened the press conference before members of the foreign and domestic press corps by saying that *EIR's* information on Burt shows him to be the worst possible choice for the vacant post. Everything about the young Burt marks him as a security risk.

- In 1977, at the tender age of 30, Burt became one of four board members of the British International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), working with Brig.-Gen. Kenneth Hunt and the Institute's German director, Christoph Bertram. The IISS has long led the opposition to President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative.

- Burt personally is known to be an opponent of the new U.S. defense policy.

- In the recent past, he leaked security-relevant material to the *New York Times*, his former employer.

- His appointment to posts in the past led to heated debates in congressional offices and during confirmation hearings, because some U.S. law-

makers viewed him as at least a security risk, and possible worse.

In 1979, when Richard Burt worked for the *New York Times*, he published the fact that the United States was installing radar stations in Norway to monitor all Soviet deployments in the area. In February 1982, when Burt was head of the department of political-military affairs at the U.S. State Department, a group of 13 senators used that earlier article to force a security investigation of Burt by the CIA. Even Stansfield Turner, head of the CIA under Carter, had earlier declared that Burt's action had made it impossible for U.S. security agencies to work properly. An investigation was initiated. Whether it was completed, or what its results were, is not known.

In February 1983, after one year of back and forth around such matters, Burt was appointed to his present post, assistant secretary of state for European affairs.

In the spring of 1984, Norwegian diplomat Arne Treholt was arrested and put on trial for being a Soviet agent. Treholt was a member of Norway's United Nations delegation in New York at the time that Richard Burt worked for the *New York Times*. During recent months, as his trial got under way in Oslo, Treholt made the interesting remark that while he gave some probably secret material to the Soviet Union, some of the things he gave to the Soviets they could have read in the *New York Times*.

One may take that several ways, of course.

When Burt worked for the *New York Times*, his intimate friend, *Times* reporter Leslie Gelb, was assistant secretary for politico-military affairs at the State Department under the Carter administration. Gelb has since been declared *persona non grata* at his old office, his picture removed from the hall displaying other former heads of the department "for cause"—revealing important aspects of secret U.S. wartime contingency plans.

Burt's girlfriend during his tenure at the *Times* was Judith Miller, now a correspondent for the *New York Times* in Cairo. She was a speaker at at least one conference organized by the Communist Party U.S.A. in New York City during that period.

Gregory concluded his remarks with the statement: "These are only a few indications why Richard Burt would not be the appropriate person for the post of U.S. ambassador in Germany."

EIR's Hartmut Cramer then spoke, pointing out that in this critical period, everything has to be done to secure the closest possible U.S.-German cooperation on the Strategic Defense Initiative. Yet, Burt's closest German friends are Hans Jochen Vogel, Egon Bahr, and Horst Ehmke, the staunchest representatives of the pro-Soviet wing of the Social Democratic Party, and the most vociferous opponents of the SDI on the German side.

That Arthur Burns, the retiring U.S. ambassador, supported the choice of Burt to replace him practically seals the case. Burns's own tenure was a calculated disaster for U.S.-German relations, as he promoted the fanatically pro-Soviet, neo-Nazi Green Party and strategic "decoupling" of the United States from Europe. That would be the *best* one might expect from Richard Burt.