

Euthanasia foes try stalling in Holland

by Mark Burdman

Opponents of euthanasia in Holland have decided on a strategy that might be called "permanent stall," in the weeks leading up to the May 21 national elections. This tactic might create the conditions for the Soviet Union's allies in the Dutch Labor Party to win those elections, and make euthanasia state policy in Holland anyway.

EIR learned from anti-euthanasia activists in The Hague and other Dutch cities, that the Christian Democratic Appeal (CDA), the majority party in the ruling coalition, has struck a deal with its coalition partner, the PVD, or Liberals, to *not* make euthanasia an election issue for the coalition. This is despite the fact that the CDA opposes all forms of euthanasia legalization, both the radical pro-euthanasia bill put forward by parliamentarian Wessel-Tuinstra of the small, ultra-liberal "Dem '66" party, and the "moderate" form of legalization proposed by the coalition government itself.

One CDA official confessed privately to this correspondent, that his party was being "blackmailed" by the PVD, "much as the Liberals of Genscher are doing in West Germany." He was referring to Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher's Free Democratic Party, which is in a coalition with the conservative Christian Democrats (CDU), and which holds the CDU hostage on many issues, under threat of withdrawing from and collapsing the government.

The CDA is trying to keep the whole issue of euthanasia locked up, for as long as possible, in the deliberations on euthanasia-legalization that have begun in the Dutch Council of State, the "Raad van State." This is a body of lawyers and experts, appointed by the Dutch monarchy, which operates as a separate and independent administrative entity to decide on major national issues. Because this Council of State entity has significant power in such matters, it can, in the views of CDA pragmatists, override pressures for euthanasia legislation to even be discussed in the Dutch parliament in the immediate period.

A sop to the KGB?

There are several dangers, moral and political, in such a pragmatic approach.

First, in Holland, euthanasia is *already* taking place on a

large scale, with an estimated several thousands per year, including cancer patients, the elderly, and very ill children, being subject to this Nazi "mercy-killing." This trend will only increase, as AIDS and other epidemic diseases spread, and the economic collapse worsens. Second, it cannot be ruled out that the coalition will lose the election, and that a Labor Party government, with or without the support of various minor socialist, leftist, and liberal parties, could form the next government, after May 21. That would make this "pragmatic" strategy obsolete, to say the least. The Labor Party, the affiliate of the Socialist International in Holland, would have no interest in the "permanent stall" strategy, and every interest in bringing euthanasia-legalization to parliament, as soon as possible.

A Dutch Roman Catholic television network broadcast on April 21, featured Labor leader Joop den Uyl, who insisted that all delays to bringing euthanasia legalization before the Dutch Parliament be ended.

Sensing the CDA's cowardice, and being subject to such atrocities on television, many voters may abstain, or rally to the opposition in the May 21 votes. This would put a coalition in power similar to what would emerge, if a "Red-Green" Social Democratic-Green Party government were formed in the Federal Republic. Such a result in Holland, on May 21, could have profoundly disturbing effects on Germany.

The Dutch Labor Party, with its advocacy of unilateral disarmament and radical appeasement of the U.S.S.R., is a top Soviet asset in Europe. One can only conclude that the "Death Lobby" and the "KGB Lobby" are the same thing in Holland, and that euthanasia advocacy in the West has become a strong point in the Soviet strategic arsenal.

A Labor Party parliamentarian, Mrs. Hasberger, arose during a parliament session in mid-April, and demanded that young children be allowed to decide whether they want euthanasia or not! As shocking as this was, it only echoes the *official* position of the Dutch Medical Association.

Backlash

Both older Labor Party members, who remember Holland's fight against the Nazis during World War II, and local doctors, opposed to the Medical Association leadership, are beginning to express uneasiness.

During the weekend of April 26-27, pro-life organizations in Holland and abroad, brought together by anti-euthanasia activist Mr. Dorenbos, are holding a meeting against euthanasia in the town of Arnhemsoort. One day later, on April 28, the Club of Life, the organization founded by Mrs. Helga Zepp-LaRouche, scheduled its first-ever press conference in Holland, in The Hague, to present its dossier against euthanasia, and to report on the international mobilization against euthanasia legalization in Holland.

On the night of April 24, Holland's EO Evangelical television station, showed a feature on the mobilization by the Club of Life's American chapter, in Washington, D.C., against euthanasia.