

## Editorial

### *Moscow strikes at German Patriots*

Since the Patriots for Germany was officially constituted as a new political party on May 12, a pattern of intensifying violence against the party's candidates and supporters shows just how great a threat the new institution represents to those who would tear the Federal Republic of Germany out of its alliance with the United States. The Patriots have filed 100 candidates for office in the state of Lower Saxony—one in each electoral district—for the June 15 state legislative elections.

As we go to press, the Patriots report that on May 23, a campaign worker was injured in the city of Celle, Lower Saxony, 30 miles from the border with East Germany, when two men on a motorcycle approached his car at high speed and hurled a brick through the window. Had the driver not ducked, he would have been killed; as it was, he suffered injuries from splintered glass.

There is no doubt that the assailants were professional hit-men deployed by the Soviet Union.

Both the Soviets and their interlocutors in the West, the advocates of a "New Yalta" deal to curtail American power and deliver Europe into the Soviet sphere of influence, are terrified that the Patriots will give positive expression to the deep-rooted loyalty of the majority of the population of Western Europe to the Western alliance, and their abhorrence of the prospect of living under a Soviet dictatorship.

For Germans, living along the border with the East bloc, this prospect is especially vivid. They perceive the bankruptcy of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) party of Chancellor Helmut Kohl, which is ridden with factions, blackmailed by its federal coalition with the treacherous Free Democrats, and devoid of any program to deal with the economic crisis. The farmers and small entrepreneurs of Lower Saxony, traditionally CDU voters, are now facing bankruptcy; many are coming over to the Patriots for Germany.

At the same time, the voters are watching with horror the new activation of the Green Party. In the aftermath of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, the Greens

are storming through the streets of Germany, rioting outside nuclear plants, and cheering the casualties suffered by police in their bloody confrontations. Now the Social Democrats have joined the Greens' demand for an end to nuclear power production in Germany, and are paving the way for a "red-green" coalition government on the federal level.

In other state and local elections during the past year, voters have expressed their disgust by staying home in droves—unheard-of behavior for the German electorate. Kohl's Christian Democrats have been losing support across the board. His opponents hope that the Lower Saxony elections will provide the opportunity to oust him from the chancellorship.

This is the plan that the sudden emergence of the Patriots threatens to block.

But the Soviets fear the Patriots for reasons which go deeper than the tactical calculations of coalition politics. The Patriots are explicitly based on the assertion of the most basic cultural principles of Western civilization, and the economic and political programs which can realize those principles. They have posed most sharply the clash between Russian barbarism and the Augustinian heritage of the West. To the existentialism and cultural pessimism spread by the advocates of a "New Yalta," they have counterposed the irrepressible optimism of the poet Friedrich Schiller, friend of the American Revolution.

The recent Dutch elections confirm that the population of Western Europe remains committed to the alliance with the United States. As in the Spanish NATO referendum earlier this year, the liberal media and the pollsters were taken by surprise at the voters' expression of a pro-American outlook. But Dutch Christian Democratic Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers, like Helmut Kohl and Premier Jacques Chirac of France, has no program for dealing with the crisis.

A breakthrough for the Patriots in Germany, the powerhouse of Europe, will have a catalytic effect throughout the continent—and Moscow knows it.