

Report from Bonn by Rainer Apel

Moscow's SPD pawn in West Germany

The Social Democrats, whose entire platform was authored in Moscow, have now embraced the sex-drug counterculture.

Preparing for the next elections in January 1987, the Social Democrats of Germany (SPD) held a programmatic party convention in Nuremberg on Aug. 25-29. After months of heavy factional disputes, the party appeared as a unified body, again, as 425 out of 429 delegates voted Johannes Rau their chancellor-candidate for 1987. Never since the broad support given for chancellor candidate Willy Brandt in the early 1970s, had any SPD leader been able to rally so many delegates behind his candidacy.

But the "unity" of the SPD was a deal, made possible by Rau's accepting the policy of the "new age"—anti-Americanism, sentiments against nuclear technology and against industrial society, and a good portion of rock-drug-sex counterculture. The SPD presented here in Nuremberg was more the party of the 1990s, than of the late 1980s. Johannes Rau's keynote address to the delegates on August 26 paid tribute to this with "new age" formulations like "emotional challenge," "togetherness," "being an alternative to the social iciness of the acting government." This speech earned Rau emphatic support from the left-ecologist wing of the party, which mainly consists of the "Jusos," the party's youth organization.

The "Jusos" (Young Socialists) are openly organizing for a German walk-out from the Western Alliance, which they say is the "main cause of tensions in the world." The Jusos, but also numerous older leading Social Democrats, have called President Reagan

"an armchair assassin," because of his policy on Libya, on the Sandinistas in Nicaragua, and because of the SDI, which they call "Star Wars."

The Jusos have long collaborated with the radical Green Party in campaigns against the stationing of U.S. nuclear missiles in West Germany. They have campaigned for the Soviet concept that Central Europe should be "demilitarized," and free of all nuclear and chemical weapons—U.S. weapons, that is. They are parroting the Soviet view that after Chernobyl, all nuclear technology in the West should be dumped, because it is, allegedly, "not safe." On Aug. 27, the SPD passed a resolution in Nuremberg that called for a complete end to use of nuclear technology within the next 10 years.

The SPD has begun to wrap its anti-American views in defense and foreign policy in less revealing colors. Johannes Rau already used this new tactic. First, he surprised the convention with the statement, "I am a friend of America," to add, immediately: "But friendship must be between equals." Then, Rau stated: "This is my experience with America: You won't get any reward there for submissiveness, but only cold contempt." The only way to have a "solid friendship between America and the Europeans," said Rau, was to "build European self-assertion."

Rau promised that, once elected chancellor in January 1987, he would make the cancellation of the 1983 Pershing II missile stationing agree-

ment and the 1986 SDI agreement a top priority on his political agenda. Once chancellor, he would reduce the defense budget to the level of 1982 (which amounts to a cut of at least 7%). Rau supported, furthermore, all the offers for arms control put forward by Gorbachov during the recent period. With Rau, the entire leadership of the SPD has adopted the central demands of the Jusos. With these demands, the SPD would leave the Western Alliance.

But the SPD leaders have done more than adopt the Jusos' views on defense. With Johannes Rau as the chosen "synthetic" candidate, the SPD not only appeals to the rock-drug counterculture, but becomes its political muscle. With the 42% of the total vote which the SPD has, the counterculture can become the policy-shaping majority in West Germany. Opening the election campaign shortly before the SPD's Nuremberg convention, Willy Brandt addressed more than 15,000 youth at the rock music festival "Rock against Atoms" on Aug. 16. The festival, which was co-funded by the SPD's "Cultural Forum," was arranged, by the way, to collect money for the "victims of Chernobyl" in the Soviet Union.

The SPD's campaign to make the West German counterculture rule in Bonn, is fully in line with the Soviet Union's intentions to ruin the West from within. Destroying the young generation, means to make the future defense of the West impossible. Thus, the views of the SPD and Moscow merge on both central issues: counterculture and defense.

This explains why the Soviet media have been portraying chancellor-candidate Johannes Rau and the "new SPD" in the most pleasant colors. The SPD is Gorbachov's "Russian Party" in West German politics, indeed.