
The German Evangelical Church

German reunification on Moscow's terms

by Konstantin George

Repeatedly during the postwar history of Europe, “trial balloons” have been launched by the Soviets and their interlocutors in West Germany, to reunify, demilitarize, and “neutralize” Germany—on Moscow’s terms. From Stalin to Gorbachov, the Soviet intention has never changed: to expel U.S. influence from the heart of Europe. Those Germans who nourish the illusion that the Kremlin would ever allow their country to be a neutral buffer zone between the superpowers, or even an Austria or a Finland, are in for a cold shock.

In March 1952, Stalin commissioned a diplomatic note addressed to the three Western Occupation Powers in Germany, proposing a neutral and reunified Germany, under condition of a total withdrawal of all Western military forces from the Western zones. This unsuccessful attempt has gone down in history as the “Stalin Note.”

Then, as now, it was the leadership of the German Evangelical Church (EKD—the Lutherans) which headed the Western appeasement faction, urging capitulation to Moscow’s terms. In January 1952, two months before Stalin’s Note, the EKD’s Dr. Martin Niemöller journeyed to Moscow; upon his return, he gave a famous speech in Darmstadt, endorsing the idea of a neutral and unarmed Germany.

When a new reunification push began to emerge in the Federal Republic in the fall and winter of 1986, *EIR*’s bureau in Wiesbaden determined that it was time the full story was told. In December 1986, we released a German-language *Special Report*, “The Stalin Note Then and Now: How the EKD Leadership Wants to Sell Out the Federal Republic to the Soviets.” The 120-page dossier tells the story of that clerical elite which enthusiastically backed Adolf Hitler in 1933, hailed the Hitler-Stalin Pact in 1939, and emerged after the war, along with John Foster Dulles’s World Council of Churches, as leading advocates of world federalism. It is important to distinguish between this faction, and the genuine patriots among the Protestants. Following the July 20, 1944 failed military coup attempt against Hitler, thousands of members of the German elite were wiped out—the vast majority of them Protestants.

On Sept. 28, 1986, the newspaper *Bild am Sonntag* reported that Moscow was preparing a “sensational offer” for West Germany—a re-introduction of the 1952 Stalin Note.

The paper quoted an unnamed Soviet Central Committee functionary: Germany “must abandon its role of obedience to the United States, and become a country with a friendly disposition towards the Soviet Union. Given its position, a reunified Germany can never be neutral.”

The EKD and its assets in the political parties proceeded to generate a “debate” over the anticipated offer. In November, Bernhard Friedmann, a Christian Democratic (CDU) parliamentarian from the southern state of Baden-Württemberg, wrote an article in the daily *Die Welt* calling for a neutralized Germany, linking this idea to the withdrawal of Western military forces stationed on West German soil, and to “reunified Germany” playing a vital role in the modernization of Soviet industry.

Friedmann was writing as a stalking horse for a factional current which includes Baden-Württemberg CDU boss Lothar Späth, who is often rumored as a potential chancellor candidate. Most striking was the fact that Friedmann’s proposal met with *no criticism* from any parliamentary leader. Clearly, the policymaking elite had made its decision.

The situation was developing along similar lines in the opposition Social Democratic Party (SPD). In August 1986, the SPD chose Johannes Rau as its chancellor candidate for the Jan. 25, 1987 elections. Rau, the son of a Protestant pastor, is the protégé and pupil of West Germany’s late President Gustav Heinemann, a leading member of the EKD elite. *EIR*’s *Report* uses Heinemann’s speeches of the 1950s, and other primary documents, to show how he and Niemöller, then the head of the EKD’s foreign office, were the core of the plot to pull West Germany out of the Western alliance.

Rau joined Heinemann’s neutralist All-German People’s Party (Gesamtdeutsche Volkspartei—GVP) in 1950, and when the GVP was dissolved in 1957, Heinemann and Rau entered the SPD. As recently as August 1986, Rau went on record lavishing praise on Heinemann and expressing regret that the “opportunities” for a “neutral” Germany did not succeed during the 1950s. Rau is married to Heinemann’s granddaughter.

At its August convention, when the SPD chose Rau as its candidate, it also adopted the so-called von Bülow “non-aggressive” defense policy, named after the party’s defense expert, Andreas von Bülow. The document called for the effective dismantling of the West German Army, by vastly reducing its size and removing its armored and other “provocative” components. The party also adopted the policy goal of successive American troop withdrawals from German soil.

In fact, *EIR*’s investigators discovered, the draft of the von Bülow paper was *not* written by the SPD as such, but by a secretive, highly influential think-tank of the EKD, located in Heidelberg, called FEST (Research Station of the Evangelical Studies Society). The actual author was one of FEST’s directors, Klaus von Schubert, scion of a Baltic German family from Estonia.