

Schiller Institute founded in Norway

A retired German military commander traveled to Oslo, Norway in February to tell a group of 20 people, gathered to found a Schiller Institute branch in that country, that the fundamental division between East and West was not political, but religious and cultural.

Brig.-Gen. Friedrich-Wilhelm Grunewald used his talk to emphasize the different philosophies and conceptions of man in the Western nations as against Russia and her Slavic satellites, thus to emphasize the importance of preserving and strengthening the Western alliance. That has been a primary purpose of the international work of the Schiller Institute, founded in 1984 by German political figure Helga Zepp-LaRouche. Brigadier General Grunewald is on the institute's German advisory board.

No neutrality possible

As Grunewald indicated at the Schiller conference, there can be no "neutrality" in a continent threatened by a Russian imperial power whose motivations to dominate Europe (among others) stem from, not "communism" in a narrow sense, but a thousand years of culturally transmitted "collectivist" religious mysticism.

Judeo-Christian culture developed from the achievements of Hellenic civilization, and from the cultural paradigm developed by St. Augustine on the ruins of the evil that was Rome. By contrast, said the general, the Russian Orthodox Church consistently sabotaged, often bloodily, the potential for Russia to experience a Renaissance or Enlightenment. The Russian church's notion of a "collective soul," against the free-thinking individual soul of Western man, is the true foundation of Soviet communism and Russian culture today. The Augustinian ideal was transmitted to the New World by Europe's humanists, who established in the United States a nation conceived on these principles.

Grunewald attacked the propensities toward "decoupling" and defeatism among some Western circles, and defined the task of the Schiller Institute: to reawaken the intellectual-cultural foundations upon which the West developed, to develop this planet, and expand human settlement into the Solar System.

Grunewald was followed by Michael Ericson, representing the Schiller Institute in Sweden, who described the actual

strategic situation facing his country. Although Sweden is a neutral country, its ability to defend itself against possible Soviet aggression is deemed by Norwegians a vital factor in the overall strategic balance of forces on NATO's northern flank. But Swedish military forces have gradually been gutted by cuts in defense spending over the last 10 years, said Ericson. This has led to growing unrest among Swedish military figures; the possibility of Sweden joining NATO has been mooted, with the Schiller Institute pushing the idea, and there is strong feeling among Swedish military layers in favor of NATO membership.

William Jones, *EIR's* Stockholm correspondent, spoke on the need for a cultural renaissance which could pull the populations of the Western countries out of the "cultural pessimism" into which they have slid over the past 30 years. Those Norwegian patriots who created the country in the 19th century were directly inspired by the works of the great German poet Friedrich Schiller, Jones said. He called for the mobilization of the same spirit today.

Later in the evening, a small group of Norwegians constituted themselves a Norwegian advisory board of the institute. The Board includes two Norwegian businessmen and one retired air force colonel.

Debate over NATO

The institute's founding of the new branch represents an intervention into a heated political debate in Norway, pitting the nation's pro-NATO military against an appeasement, "neutralist" Social Democratic government. The debate was sparked by the country's outspoken commander-in-chief, Gen. Fredrik Bull-Hansen.

In remarks made to the Oslo Military Society, Bull-Hansen had denounced the "neutralism" of Mrs. Gro Harlem Bruntland's government. Norway, a country of a little over 4 million, is entirely dependent on an influx of troops from its NATO allies in the event of Soviet attack, the general stated. Norway must uphold its NATO commitments.

In earlier statements, the general was harshly critical of "footnotes" attached to a recent NATO communiqué by Norway's defense minister, Johan Jørgen Holst. The footnotes dissented from NATO's support for President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative. General Bull-Hansen called this a silly exercise detrimental to Norway's standing in NATO.

Holst was quick to react. He tried to censor the general's remarks, and demanded that in the future, all statements by the commander-in-chief be submitted to his office for approval—to avoid a "Latin American situation" in which the military plays the role of politicians. An uproar ensued, in which even newspapers supportive of the Bruntland government leaped to the defense of the general's right to speak out. Most recently, a motion was introduced in parliament specifically giving military officials the right to make uncensored public statements on issues bearing on the country's military defense. It is expected to pass.