

commitment to reduce their conventional weapons superiority," and said he would "not decide on the zero-option before consultation with all our allies."

One possible sign that Moscow may be feeling some rage about developments in Bonn, is the unexplained and sudden announcement by the Soviets that the anticipated visit to the U.S.S.R. of ultra-détente West German President Richard von Weizsäcker, had been "indefinitely postponed." Other factors may come into play in this decision, but the least that can be said about it, is that is not a routine, or typical, diplomatic development.

Alfred Dregger, the head of the parliamentary group of the Christian Democratic Union in the Bundestag and a senior CDU foreign policy spokesman, expressed his categorical rejection of the zero option, in an April 27 declaration. Dregger warned that the negotiations for a zero-option deal are leading toward "a nuclear singling-out of Germany. . . . The safety of Germany would be endangered to the utmost by missiles below the range of 500 kilometers. . . . As German politicians, we cannot give our support to this kind of policy." Dregger cited NATO chief General Bernard Rogers and former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's warnings that the zero options would remove the foundation of the flexible response of NATO. Rogers himself, in statements appearing in the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* daily April 30, stressed that certain decisions taken in Bonn on the zero solutions, could have a "determining effect" on the future of NATO. Especially as "the future of Europe as a whole is at stake," Rogers exclaimed, why should the schedule of negotiations decided on in Washington "set the tone" for Bonn?

CDU-CSU arms-control spokesman Jürgen Tödenhöfer has sent confidential letters to his colleagues on the foreign affairs and defense committees of the Bundestag, calling on them to deny support to any "isolated zero-option," insisting thereby that arms control talks must link all categories of weaponry, including chemical weapons and conventional forces. It is said that Tödenhöfer is organizing a parliamentary boycott against the zero-option agreement.

One sure barometer that there is resistance in conservative West German circles to the zero-option, is the political disposition of West Germany's left-wing social-democratic appeasers. Suddenly, the extraordinary situation has been created, where the biggest defenders of Ronald Reagan's missiles deal are Social Democratic Party leaders Hans-Joachim Vogel and Egon Bahr, who usually express a manichean's rage against anything Reagan does. These, and others of the same species, have been attacking the West German government's hesitancy on the zero-option, and have even gone so far as to call on President Reagan to apply pressure on Chancellor Kohl, to get him to go along with the new "arms control" deals! This is something they would never do, if the situation inside the Bonn coalition were completely sewn up by the zero-option mafias.

Denuclearization of Europe 'unacceptable'

Speaking in London after meeting Mrs. Thatcher, Chirac declared: "As long as [Soviet] superiority in the domain of chemical and conventional weapons will remain as it is, there will be no other choice except to maintain nuclear deterrence in Europe, and that includes an American deterrence." Chirac declared that a "denuclearization" in Europe, particularly involving the removal of American nuclear missiles from Europe, would be "unacceptable." Security in Europe, he insisted, depends on an equilibrium that "demands the maintenance of a sufficient capacity for nuclear deterrence."

About six weeks before Chirac's trip to London, British Defense Minister George Younger had flown to Paris for meetings with his French counterpart André Giraud. Under discussion were various new forms of French-British nuclear-strategic cooperation, including joint production of long-range nuclear weapons technologies, coordination of nuclear technologies more broadly, and exchange of information on strategic affairs.

General Rogers: 'Europe's future as a whole is at stake'

Speaking to the West German daily *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* from his headquarters in Casteau on April 29, General Rogers stressed that the decisions taken by the West German government in Bonn, on the zero-option, will have "a determining effect on the future strategy of NATO." He criticized the haste in the current discussion in Bonn: "But why should this all be decided in three weeks? Why not give it a half-year? Why should the predetermined [Washington] schedule set the tone, when Europe's future as a whole is at stake?"

Rogers warned of the Soviets' seducing offers on arms-control, and urged the U.S. population, to keep one thing especially in mind: "The American people must recognize that our eastern borders lie at the German-German and at the German-Czech borders, and that we have to be closely allied with Western Europe. Otherwise, this alliance will fall apart, and we make ourselves guilty of having helped the Soviets to achieve their strategic goals." The article appeared under the headline, "'America's eastern border runs through Germany'/'General Rogers complains about the zero solutions.'"