

Russians tighten the noose around West Berlin

by Rainer Apel

While U. S. government spokesmen still steadfastly maintain that there is "nothing out of the ordinary" going on in West Berlin, the Soviet-backed insurgency which began on May 1, is continuing to build (see *EIR*, May 15, "Soviets stoke replay of 1961 Berlin crisis"). New outbreaks of violence, steered by the Socialist Unity Party of West Berlin (SEW), and financed by East Germany, were timed to coincide with the visit to the city on May 11 of French President François Mitterrand. With the upcoming visits of Britain's Queen Elizabeth on May 26 and President Ronald Reagan on June 12, the targets for a terrorist escalation are in sharp focus.

Anticipating the arrival of Mitterrand, the same rioters who ransacked the city on May Day, met on May 8 in the Kreuzberg district, to plan out "more efficient actions." In the first salvo, several hundred of them blocked traffic and scuffled with police the next day on the Kurfürstendamm, West Berlin's showcase avenue.

Of the three wartime Allied powers who share responsibility for West Berlin—the United States, Great Britain, and France—only the last has responded at all to the Soviet irregular warfare probe. Mitterrand, during his one-day visit, incurred the wrath of the Soviet media with his presence, and his statement of support for the divided city. "Berlin, and the Wall, are a symbol of the divided Europe," he said. ". . . I mean the city in its entirety, not just a part of it, when I speak of Berlin. . . . It is French policy, to further, maintain, and develop the existing relations between West Berlin and the Federal Republic of Germany . . . as long as the Wall is there. . . . It is to be considered only natural, that the population of West Berlin feels it belongs to the people in the Federal Republic of Germany."

The French handling of protocol during Mitterrand's visit particularly enraged the Kremlin. In a gesture intended to underline Western ties to the city, Mitterrand had taken Bonn Chancellor Helmut Kohl on his plane to Berlin, and met West German President Richard von Weizsäcker at the presidential residence in West Berlin—the first such official visit by a Western head of state since 1945.

The Soviet news agency TASS retorted: "The French State President misused his visit to the city, in a way not in compliance with the Four-Power Agreement." The broadside called Mitterrand's meeting with Weizsäcker "a serious vio-

lation of the status of Berlin."

Also following the May Day riots, the Soviets and East Germans proceeded to test the resistance of the Western powers, in a series of "incidents":

- On May 6, East German border troops climbed over the Wall into the British sector, to seal off a car that had crashed against the Wall. When British military police arrived, the East Germans blocked the way, trying to intimidate the British with the outrageous assertion: "This is territory of the G.D.R. [East Germany]!" The British officer was forced to call the Soviet command at Karlshorst, in East Berlin, and only three hours later, after heated exchanges on the telephone between the British patrol and the Soviet command, did the East German troops pull back.

- Just hours before President Mitterrand's arrival on May 11, an incident occurred on the border between the French and Soviet sectors. East German border troops fired several rounds from machine-guns to stop a group of refugees from escaping to the West. Berliners living near the area reported an unusually heavy deployment of East German border troops.

- After three days of blackout, the news broke in the Berlin press that on May 10, a guard at the U.S. military headquarters on Kleestrasse, West Berlin, died from a shot in the chest. Unlike the usual procedure in such "accidents," the U.S. authorities refused any comment on details of his death.

Carrot-and-stick tactics

Parallel to these events in West Berlin, Soviet pressure tactics have intensified against West Germany. Here, the radical anti-NATO movement began new protest actions on May 3, against the Pershing II exercises at the U.S. military base of Mutlangen. In several cases, German police and U.S. military police had to move in, to clear the grounds around the base. More than 100 persons were arrested in four days, in sit-ins and street blockades. A serious incident occurred on May 11, when U.S. military police had to move in to clear out a Pershing exercise site from protesters.

Especially noteworthy in these disruptions, is the participation of protesters from the VVN and other pro-Soviet "anti-fascist" groups. VVN activists appeared costumed as concentration camp prisoners, chaining themselves to the

barbed-wire fences of the missile base. Once U.S. military police intervened, the VVN started denouncing them as "Nazi kapos," and the Pershing missiles as the "heritage of the mass-extinction policy at Auschwitz." The VVN belongs to the same network of Moscow's subversion into West Germany as the SEW of West Berlin.

The Soviet hand was also becoming visible on another front of political escalation. Social Democratic Party vice-chairman Hans-Jochen Vogel inaugurated a new nationwide campaign against the American missiles, under the slogan "*Raketen Raus!*" ("Get the Missiles Out!"). The party plans to distribute several million leaflets, to force the Bonn government into "a positive response to the proposals made by Gorbachov." Included in this mobilization are actions against nuclear power technology, and against alleged "plans for a German nuclear bomb." The Social Democrats announced their campaign one day after Moscow's black propaganda cannons began attacking Chancellor Kohl's "reluctance on the zero option," warning of "plans in Bonn for a German bomb."

Accompanying these pressures, the old "carrot" of a Soviet offer for German reunification has re-emerged from the vaults of the 1950s—the vision of a "historic deal" between the Germans and the Soviets. The price would be the military neutralization of a reunified Germany.

This emerged anew on May 12, in a sensational front-

page article in West Germany's leading mass-circulation newspaper, *Bildzeitung*, which maintains special channels into Moscow, and has been used repeatedly by the Kremlin to launch trial balloons. "Will Gorbachov Offer Reunification?" was the headline, under which *Bildzeitung* reported that the Bonn government expects such an offer to come soon. An unnamed cabinet undersecretary was quoted: "If [Gorbachov] really puts such an offer on the table, he will shake us up quite a bit." *Bildzeitung* reported that according to a recent opinion poll, sponsored by the government, no less than 71% of West Germans would "welcome reunification into a non-aligned Germany."

On May 13, *Bildzeitung* published an interview with the former Bonn minister of economics, Count Otto Lambsdorff. He repeated statements from a radio interview given the same morning, that "such an offer is in the air," and that it "should be carefully examined, but not rejected." Lambsdorff revealed that he "already discussed this weeks ago" with American politicians, during a trip to the United States.

Also the notorious proponent of a German-Soviet deal on reunification, Bonn parliamentarian Bernhard Friedmann of the Christian Democratic Union, appeared in *Bildzeitung* the same day, calling on President Richard von Weizsäcker to "definitely bring the question up" with his Soviet interlocutors during his trip to Moscow July 6-11.

The Soviet leaders will certainly be ready, if he does.

Like 1961: West covers up Soviets' new Berlin crisis

This statement, by Lyndon LaRouche, Jr., was released in Leesburg, Virginia on May 7, by the LaRouche Democratic Campaign:

At this moment, dawn is breaking in West Berlin. The eighth day of Moscow's new Berlin crisis is beginning. Yet, even after seven days, no official report of the crisis has been acknowledged in the capitals of the NATO countries.

The Soviets are already gloating. They have tested President Ronald Reagan's nerve, just as Khrushchov tested President Kennedy's nerve back in the 1961 Berlin crisis. So far, Reagan has capitulated exactly as Kennedy did back then, by pretending that the crisis which might interfere with a new "summit" does not exist.

Meanwhile, various high-level sources confirm, that Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, author of the currently operational Soviet war-plan for world-conquest, has been appointed to a newly created position of power over all Soviet military forces. Previously, such Soviet appoint-

ments were made only in time of war.

Well-placed European strategic analysts are asking: Where will Moscow strike next? Although Ogarkov is the author of the present design for Soviet nuclear surprise attack, analysts see no likelihood that Moscow will go to full-scale war yet. More likely, they think, is a combination of aggressive Soviet breakouts on NATO's flanks.

Worried eyes are turned to crisis-torn Yugoslavia. Moscow is feinting an onslaught of some sort in Scandinavia. Armand Hammer and Edgar Bronfman have played a key role, in manipulating both Israel and the United States, into turning the entire Middle East into a Soviet sphere of influence. Like 1961, a new Berlin crisis is used by Moscow as a pivot for launching strategic adventures in other parts of the world.

Meanwhile, reports are flowing in: some with added details of the Russians' preparation and launching of the unprecedented paramilitary violence of the past weekend, some on Moscow's continued escalation of the Berlin crisis itself.

Something very big is going to break during the months of May and June, with no indications that the period of escalating crisis will end then. Meanwhile, so far, officially, the capitals of the United States and other NATO countries are asleep at the switch.