

The 'Republikaner' Party—Moscow's new fifth column in West Germany

by Rainer Apel

A new right-wing-radical party, the "Republikaner" (REP) has been boosted by the media in West Germany as the "new conservative challenge to the political establishment in Bonn."

What is this party, whose chairman, Franz Schönhuber, said on May 23, 1987, at a political rally in West Berlin: "The key to the German Question lies in Moscow"—and called for reunification of the two German states under a status of military and political neutrality?

Schönhuber said that the Germans would be "fair partners of the Americans, but only as long as this goes along with German interests." This language resembles the policy which once led to the pact of August 1939 between Hitler and Stalin, which was directed against the three Western powers, France, England, and United States. The underlying ideology of this pact was what is known in the history of 20th century German politics as "National Bolshevism."

The REP was established at the end of 1983, as an operation to revive exactly this ideology of National Bolshevism in German politics within the framework of imminent U.S. military disengagement from Europe. In 1982, Franz Schönhuber, ex-journalist at Bavarian state radio, published his book, *Ich war dabei (I Was One of Them)*, praising the alleged spirit of fairness and European comradeship among the members of the Waffen-SS. Schönhuber served that organization in France, as an instructor for new Waffen-SS recruits from the occupied territories in the West.

As soon as Schönhuber's book was out at the bookstores, none other than the Swiss-based financier of Nazi networks in Europe, banker François Genoud, recommended it as a "must."

The book sold 250,000 copies in a political climate that was dominated by the heated debate on those "Hitler Diaries," which *Stern* magazine (publisher: a former official of the Goebbels wartime propaganda apparatus in Italy, Henri Nannen) launched with falsified documents from East Germany in early 1983.

The hoax behind the "diaries" was blown, but the debate it launched revived the dormant scene of old and new Nazis, and when Schönhuber founded the REP end of 1983, his venture fell on fertile ground.

The REP of the former member of the Waffen-SS, Franz

Schönhuber, was attractive for members of the neo-Nazi National Democratic Party (NPD, founded in 1964). One of the members of the NPD's inner core, Harald Neubauer, joined the REP and promptly became general-secretary and press spokesman. He stands for the national-neutralist wing of the NPD, which is anti-Western but ready to cut a strategic deal on Germany with the Soviets. Neubauer once was among the editors of the neo-Nazi weekly, *Nationalzeitung*, published by Dr. Gerhard Frey. The newspaper, sold in about 100,000 copies, is listed in the Bonn government's annual security report as the leading Neo-Nazi mouthpiece.

At the end of 1985, the REP was said to already have about 3,000 members, mostly in the southern state of Bavaria, preparing for the October 1986 state elections there. For a party with such unveiled neo-Nazi connections, this rapid growth was not possible without benevolence from a higher level.

It has been said that Schönhuber and Neubauer have "sensitive files" on most of the conservative politicians in West Germany, proving that many of them "were Nazis, but always covered that up."

It is most noteworthy, indeed, that the German Christian Democrats have never put real energy into the fight against the REP. Was it the REP's "secret files," that blackmailed the German Christian Democrats into tolerating the rise of Schönhuber's party? And—was there also an unsavory gentlemen's agreement, to the effect that the Christian Democrats would not fight the REP, as long as the REP went against the Patriots for Germany?

Counterorganizing the Patriots

The Patriots for Germany, initiated by Helga Zepp-LaRouche and other leading German citizens, had captured attention on Oct. 15, 1985 with advertisements in the major national press, calling for: 1) no to decoupling from the United States, and no to a Social Democratic-Green coalition in Bonn; 2) full cooperation with the American Strategic Defense Initiative; 3) a just treaty of peace for Germany in all of its parts, in order that the German people may exercise self-determination in national sovereignty; 4) a policy of economic growth and opening of the German economy to a

New World Economic Order and industrialization of the underdeveloped sector; 5) a cultural renaissance based on the foundations of German classical culture.

Schönhuber began a campaign of massive counterorganizing against the Patriots for Germany at the end of 1985, giving the REP the misleading propaganda earmark of being a *Bewegung patriotischer Deutscher* (movement of patriotic Germans). A good deal of confusion was spread among voters about where the dividing lines actually were between the REP and the Patriots.

And in the summer of 1986, the REP stole the Patriots' slogan *AIDS bedroht uns alle* (AIDS threatens all of us), beginning a high-profile campaign for compulsory testing and registration of the population on AIDS, and quarantine for all infected persons. This was, however, mingled with the REP's racist campaign against foreigners living in, or traveling into West Germany.

Already from late-1985 on, the REP was transformed into an openly right-wing-radical party organization, a process during which part of the leadership was purged. Schönhuber managed to oust the two vice-chairmen Handlos and Voigt, who left the party soon after. The party was now under the firm control of Schönhuber and Neubauer, appealing more directly to the more extreme right wing of the German political spectrum.

There were also plenty of funds suddenly available. The REP was putting up about 90,000 posters during the Bavarian election campaign, an affair that posed many questions as to sources of funds, because such a venture required an estimated campaign chest of at least 2 million deutschemarks.

On election day, Oct. 12, the REP won 3% statewide in Bavaria, and in some regions in East Bavaria even 7% or more. This put the REP up front, for the media, as the leading right-wing party in the political landscape of West Germany, and provided the party with an official campaign reimbursement of 1.3 million deutschemarks. This refunding helped the REP to get rid, at least from the public, of nasty questions about its funds, as it had just become a "rich party." Franz Schönhuber himself informed the public (the media, that is) that the REP was "without debts," and rumors were leaked that the party had even assembled a war-chest of about 4 million deutschemarks "from membership dues and donations."

The REP did not run in the national elections of Jan. 25, 1987, but concentrated on "consolidating" its funds and membership. Certainly, this meant that another transformation of the party structure was already in preparation. The second transformation of the REP occurred a few days after the national elections of Jan. 25, when two prominent conservatives—Rear Adm. (ret.) Günter Poser and Emil Schlee—entered the party.

The case of Günter Poser

The person of Günter Poser deserves very special atten-

tion, because of his close links to the NATO intelligence department. Born in 1916, he served the German Wehrmacht as a naval combat pilot and then as a submarine commander until he was taken prisoner of war shortly before the end of the war. Poser joined the newly formed West German armed forces as a naval captain in 1956, working out of an office at the just-established ministry of defense in Bonn.

Serving as a military attaché at the West German embassies in Japan and Korea between 1957 and 1963, Poser specialized on questions of defense and geopolitics in the Pacific and the Far East. Back in Bonn, Günter Poser was in charge of military intelligence at the West German ministry of defense from 1964 to 1969, and moved to NATO's headquarters in Brussels, to head its department of intelligence, with special emphasis on intelligence matters concerning the Warsaw Pact, until his early retirement in 1973.

Since then, Poser has been working as a defense consultant for the South Africans, the Japanese, the Chinese, and the South Koreans. He apparently joined the REP on the condition that he would be made vice-chairman of the party, and chairman Franz Schönhuber accepted.

Before entering the REP, Günter Poser had been in political contact with U.S. Gen. Daniel Graham and others from the High Frontier group, and in that function was engaged in direct counterorganizing against LaRouche's growing pro-SDI impact upon German military-industrial layers.

With Poser, a special aspect of the geopolitical lobby at NATO, a leading representative of the staunch opposition to LaRouche and the SDI among military layers in the West, entered the REP operation.

Also the case of the second prominent conservative to join the REP, Emil Schlee, points to dirty operations against the LaRouche current in German politics. Schlee originally joined the Patriots for Germany during their founding phase and tried to gain a leading post in the new movement.

But when it came to the point of forming a real party structure for election campaign purposes, Schlee reasoned that the Patriots ought to continue as a movement, rather than become a political party. Recognizing that there was no majority among the Patriots for his views, Schlee and his tiny minority group split. In April 1987, he joined the REP—to become the second vice-chairman of that party. Having stated a commitment (perhaps false from the start) in 1985 to work with the Patriots to defend Germany against the danger of decoupling, and against the Soviet Union, Schlee works openly for the other side now, the Kremlin and the decouplers.

The REP and its current leaders are the Kremlin's new and dangerous fifth column in West German politics, functioning as the main transmission belt now for organizing Germans into seeking an accommodation with Moscow. To root this treasonous group out of German politics, the Patriots for Germany have issued a declaration of political war against the REP.

Make Norway part of the SDI!



Now is the time for Norway, with its unique geographical position and membership in NATO, to play a decisive role in the defense of the Free World.

Norway actively partaking in the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) would stabilize the strategic situation in Europe for a considerable time. Building the Norwegian part of the SDI also leads to unimagined economical spin-offs — in itself the best defense.

We, Norwegian patriots, invite you to actively lobby to make Norway part of the SDI.

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*When in Tromsø,
see the town from above —
by the Cable Car!*