

Anti-bolshevik leaders meet in Germany to plot food strategy

by Michael Stalla

As one million people in Czechoslovakia were pouring into the streets for freedom and democracy, forcing the communist government into retreat, the Fourth European Agricultural Commission of the Schiller Institute convened in the West German town of Voehl am Edersee on Nov. 25-26, to consider whether and how the world population can be fed. The revolutionary wave sweeping through all Eastern Europe determined the discussion during the conference, whose theme was "Cutbacks in Production—A Threat to Peace and Freedom." That spirit shone through in the speeches and presentations, all shaped by the question of how the West can respond to the collapse of the agricultural sectors of the Eastern European economies, and in excited discussions during conference breaks, where the wider perspective of the freedom movements in Eastern Europe was discussed. It could also be seen in the fact that for the first time, observers were present from opposition groups in East Germany.

Every seat was occupied during the two-day conference. Some 350 participants listened as Anno Hellenbroich of the EIR Nachrichtenagentur in West Germany proudly announced that this was truly an international conference, with participants from 17 countries, including Schiller Institute members from Australia. Especially delightful was the participation of the Benjamin Franklin Brigade from the United States: At a Food for Peace conference held in Chicago three weeks before, 70 activists had spontaneously decided to go to Germany to attend this conference after they heard of the inspiring developments in Eastern Europe, and especially in Germany.

There was one additional, strong theme: Nearly all speakers emphatically demanded the immediate release of Lyndon LaRouche and his associates from federal prison in the United States, and their immediate and complete exoneration. Their unanimous opinion was that, precisely in these rapidly changing times, the world needs LaRouche's political and economic leadership. On the first day of the conference, participants were outraged when they heard LaRouche associates from the United States describe the political and judicial persecutions they are subjected to. Extended applause followed the courageous declaration from LaRouche campaign fundraiser Lynne Speed, who herself faces prison, that

these dirty tricks by the U.S. Establishment will not divert her from her political work. A resolution was passed urging President Bush to immediately release LaRouche.

For a Christian-humanist renaissance

The keynote address by Helga Zepp-LaRouche, chairman of the Patriots for Germany party and founder of the international Schiller Institutes, was introduced by a fitting musical tribute to these sentiments, consisting of a movement from Wolfgang Mozart's D minor String Quartet and the theme and variations from Joseph Haydn's "Emperor" Quartet, which contains the theme of the German national anthem, "Deutschland über alles." Mrs. Zepp-LaRouche declared that the present upheaval is a unique historic opportunity for humanity, despite the unmistakable dangers that loom because of the economic collapse and the undiminished strength of the Soviet Union's military forces. If this development is to become a great historical moment, and if the world is to be prevented from plunging into chaos, she said, what is necessary is not only a worldwide revolution, but also a new scientific and cultural renaissance. "I am convinced that this crisis can no longer be overcome in an individual country, but rather the solution lies in the achievement of a just new world economic order, such as what the Schiller Institute has been demanding for years."

Mrs. Zepp-LaRouche emphasized the necessity of the Schiller Institute's political leadership for the solution of the present crisis, and enumerated Lyndon LaRouche's numerous political proposals and initiatives from recent years, which now seem almost prophetic against the background of present events. As early as 1985, LaRouche called attention to the fact that supplies of food would become a decisive strategic question. In August 1988, he wrote about the threat to world peace resulting from reductions in the world food supply, and he demanded the preservation of family farms and parity prices for agricultural products. In August 1988, LaRouche called for the formation of a worldwide anti-Bolshevik and anti-fascist movement.

In his historic speech in Berlin on Oct. 12, 1988, LaRouche proposed that the West should offer Moscow agricultural support for the countries of Eastern Europe if politi-

cal reforms were granted in return. The agricultural buildup of Poland was to be an especially positive example of the possibilities of such a strategy. Now, one year later, the soundness of his approach is obvious, Mrs. Zepp-LaRouche said.

"The reunification of Germany is already accomplished, namely, in the hearts of man. And this can no longer be reversed," she said, to thunderous applause.

Beyond day-to-day policy, Mrs. Zepp-LaRouche demanded a new renaissance on the basis of the Christian-humanist tradition. She came back to this task again in her speech on the second day of the conference. The successful protest movement in East Germany is based, not on feelings of hate, but rather on feelings of joy and *agapē*, the love of mankind. From this arises the opportunity for a new renaissance. And it is with good reason that the Schiller Institute bases itself on Friedrich Schiller, the brains behind the German liberation movement at the turn of the 19th century who was himself inspired by the American Revolution. Germany, basing itself on this tradition, must become a force for good in the world. And likewise, it is the task of the other Western European countries, basing themselves on their best humanist traditions, to rebuild the world and transform it into a garden.

Hunger and ecological sabotage

In other presentations, farmers and others from Western nations described the deliberate reduction of agricultural production ordained by the European Commission of the European Community and by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Representatives of the opposition movements from countries under communist rule described the even more advanced destruction of agriculture in their countries. They painted a shocking scene of how incompetent communist bureaucrats had destroyed once flourishing countries such as the Baltic states, Ukraine, and Romania. The result of decades of communist rule is soil that is leached or destroyed by erosion, dying forests, saline rivers, and even radioactive pollution.

John Kolasky, a native Ukrainian who now resides in Canada and writes on Ukraine's problems and history, said that approximately one-fourth of the arable land in Ukraine, the former breadbasket of Europe, has been destroyed through soil erosion. Paulis Klavins, member of a Christian human rights organization in Latvia, pointed out that tens of thousands of Russian villages have been completely deserted, and that what was formerly farmland is now overgrown with bushes.

Pham Cong Hoang, national president of the Concerns of Vietnamese Refugees, stressed that only international action against the Vietcong regime—which has destroyed the agricultural potential of the country—will succeed in overthrowing it. Zhang Yinne from the Laiyin Forum, of China, detailed the struggle of the Chinese people against 40 years

of misery and oppression, including outright famines which were covered up by the regime, and called on everyone at the conference to support their work.

Rosa Tennenbaum, head of the European Agricultural Commission of the Schiller Institute, called attention to the urgent plight of the so-called Third World, the hunger regions of Africa and Ibero-America. Her call was backed up by conference participants from China and Vietnam, where not even farmers can be sure of getting enough rice to feed themselves and their families. One-third of mankind goes hungry, and an additional third is undernourished, Rosa Tennenbaum said in summary.

Many gave examples showing that even in the Western world, our "daily bread" is anything but secure. Family farms have been driven into bankruptcy, arable land and cultivation reduced. For that reason, supplies are not available to deliver food to the needy countries; even in the West, food is becoming scarce and prices are rising. In the once rich United States, food distribution programs for the poor are receiving less and less from government agencies, because there is nothing to donate, one American participant said.

Proposals for further work

The mood of the conference at closing was expressed in a series of resolutions, ranging from a demand to the Agricultural Commission of the European Community to expand food production, to a specific demand that agricultural interests exploit the existing situation and act to rescind exaggerated environmental restrictions on agriculture. Additional resolutions called for a serious war on drugs, and backed the courageous struggle of Gen. Michel Aoun in Lebanon against the drug-running Syrian puppet regime.

Most of the concrete proposals brought up at the conference centered on the railroad infrastructure project proposed by LaRouche which, if implemented, would connect France to Poland via West and East Germany, and would guarantee a means of rapidly supplying Poland with urgently needed goods. Jolanta Szkuta, a Polish economics professor from Poznan University who lives in Germany, said that support of the non-Communist Polish government of Tadeusz Mazowiecki in the present situation is an especially important element for a successful transformation of Eastern Europe. At the same time, this would define a common project for reconciliation between East and West Germany, and would give an important stimulus to the East German economy. Participants welcomed the first steps in this direction by West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and French President François Mitterrand, but generally thought that things had to move much more quickly than either of these leaders currently envision.

There were repeated demands that the European Community cease importing meat from Poland (amounting to almost one-fourth of Poland's meat production) so long as the Poles themselves do not have enough to eat.