

## Report from Bonn by Rainer Apel

### Will Bonn change its Balkans policy?

*The German government's lack of commitment to end the Bosnian tragedy is coming under attack.*

“One must feel ashamed of being a member of the German government,” Christian Schwarz-Schilling, the postal minister, said at a turbulent Bonn cabinet session on Dec. 9, attacking the government’s inaction in the face of continued Serbian genocide against the civilian population of Bosnia.

This inaction has always been justified by Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel with the supposed “need of sailing in convoy with the rest of the western partners,” which are refusing to act.

The postal minister resigned a few days later, but the way the resignation occurred showed the pragmatism of Bonn politics: Kohl urged his rebellious minister to postpone his resignation until Dec. 15, after the European Community summit in Edinburgh, to avoid bad headlines at these talks. And indeed, Schwarz-Schilling did not announce his resignation before Dec. 14.

The resignation, late as it came, occurred in an atmosphere of increasing outrage about the Serbian atrocities. On Dec. 7, a delegation of women from Bosnia appeared at a special hearing of the parliamentary commission on youth and women’s affairs, reporting on the organized mass rape of Bosnian females of all ages by bestialized Serbian soldiers and militiamen.

Immediately picked up in the media, the report triggered a host of calls by political groups, individual politicians, church groups, and relief organizations for the government to give up its policy of “benign neglect.” The

four female ministers in Kohl’s cabinet decided to mobilize special funds, despite the commitment to fiscal austerity, for programs that would provide care for raped Bosnian women.

On Dec. 8, a turbulent session of the parliamentary group of Kohl’s Christian Democrats (CDU) featured the much-applauded report on the situation in Sarajevo and other parts of Bosnia by Stefan Schwarz, a young parliament member who had toured Bosnian cities several times in 1992 to get a firsthand reading of the situation “down there.” He said that “only military intervention can stop this unimaginable slaughter and murder in the heart of Europe,” adding that “nobody will be able this time, as it was the case after the Nazi dictatorship, to make the excuse he did not know the dimension of violence.”

A senior member of the CDU parliamentary group, Heribert Scharrenbroich, backed Schwarz, saying that if military intervention by Germany was banned by the Constitution, “everything, but definitely everything, has to be done, then, to make sure the Bosnian people are supplied with arms for their self-defense.”

This call to lift the U.N. arms embargo against “all states on the territory of former Yugoslavia,” which works against Bosnia, has become a prominent issue of groups that are mobilizing, across the party spectrum, for an efficient way for the West to intervene against Serbian military might.

Several weeks earlier, the first call for lifting the arms embargo appeared on a mass-circulation leaflet by the

German associates of Lyndon LaRouche. Then, the call had met a stone-wall from politicians, who declared that giving arms to the Bosnians would “only add more fuel to the flames of war, instead of burning them out”—one of the standard arguments of the Foreign Ministry to justify continued inaction.

The approach of the LaRouche-inspired campaign to “speak up” on Bosnia, at a time when most policymakers would not even consider Germany taking responsibility to end the war, paid off in the way the debate developed after Dec. 7.

It also paid off in the media. The Jan. 4 *Tagesszeitung*, for example, a Berlin-based leftist journal that has been hostile to LaRouche, ran a feature on the “Belgrade Connection” of Anglo-American foreign intelligence interests, drawing upon original dossiers published in *EIR* during 1992. The author of the feature, Scottish journalist Paul Harris, portrayed the small group of senior Anglo-American politicians around Kissinger Associates as the real string-pullers behind the Balkans policy of the Bush administration.

There is an “embezzling network of interests” that documents “the close entanglement of these politicians with the leadership of Serbia,” Harris wrote, naming U.S. Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft, former Balkans chief negotiator of the EC Peter Lord Carrington, outgoing Serbian Prime Minister Milan Panic, and lastly, Henry Kissinger.

Harris referred to the 1990 “Wolfowitz Doctrine,” which called for U.S. action against the rise of any new superpower after the end of the Cold War (Germany being among the “new enemies” of the United States), to explain the motives of this network’s pro-Serbian tactics.