

## Report from Bonn by Rainer Apel

### A phony 'fourth generation' of terrorists

*The authors of recent terror bombings and lies about a "Fourth Reich" have overplayed their hand.*

**T**he early morning hours of March 26 marked a watershed in the public discussion in Germany about terrorism: A giant bomb blasted the newly constructed "model prison" at Weiterstadt, in the state of Hesse, to pieces. A sheet of paper with a letter of "authorship" left behind by the bombers pointed to the involvement of the so-called Red Army Faction (RAF) gang of terrorists, who hadn't been active in the almost two years since the assassination of Treuhand agency director Detlev Rohwedder on April 1, 1991.

The pause in terrorist attacks since then, and an ominous April 1992 pamphlet of the RAF announcing a temporary cease-fire in its operations against the state, had led most experts to the conclusion that the unification of Germany and the end of the socialist regimes in the East had caused the collapse of the socialist-minded brand of terrorism. The RAF, it was said, was dying out with its "third generation."

The prison blast shifted the debate, and all the experts began suddenly talking about the existence of a "fourth generation" that had to be taken deadly seriously, that the downgrading of the terrorism alert was premature, and so on.

The prison blast was carried out in such a highly professional mode that many anti-terrorism specialists were amazed. First, the power of the bombing device: Five high-powered charges of about 50 kilograms each were placed by the attackers, who must have been in possession of detailed construction plans, as they operated in such a way as to ensure the

maximum destructive effect.

Second, the overwhelming of the guards of the prison complex: This was done in a "blitz" commando-style mode. The captives were locked up outside the prison buildings in the very early morning hours by a team of supposedly no more than four terrorists, who spent about three hours checking to make sure that the entire building was empty so the blast wouldn't cost human lives. This accounts for the "precision" of the bombing, however, rather than the alleged "life-saving" doctrine which many anti-terrorism specialists are reading into the new "fourth generation" of the RAF gang.

However, a few observers of the terrorism scene share this author's doubts about the existence of a "fourth generation." As "authentic" as the letter may appear, typewritten letters and the five-star RAF combat symbol can be and, indeed, have been forged.

It became known just recently that a specific section of the East German foreign intelligence (Stasi) used to produce forged RAF letters with the "original" five-star RAF symbol that would explain the terrorists' motives to the German public. These "authentic" letters were mailed to select western media to serve specific East German black propaganda objectives.

This forging technique was not unique to the East Germans; other agencies in the East and the West had skills in this area, too. It is therefore quite possible, and there have also been many hints pointing in this direction, that someone other than the RAF was planting bombs and killing senior

representatives of political and economic life, but was using the RAF symbol as a false flag.

There is reason to suspect that the "false flag" method is still in use. There are allegations that former Stasi specialists are now working for western agencies, being paid in dollars. This delicate issue came up at a recent meeting of German security and anti-terrorism officials in Munich, when, among others, Hans-Ludwig Zachert, the president of the Federal Agency for the Protection of the Constitution, cited evidence that up to several hundred unidentified former Stasi agents might be working today "for other countries" against Germany.

These are countries that have an interest in escalating underground warfare as well as propaganda in a "strategy of tension" against Germany. The "Fourth Reich" propaganda line that is coming from Anglo-American, Israeli, and Serbian intelligence channels fits this pattern, as do formulations in the letter left behind after the Weiterstadt prison blast. That letter proclaimed a new phase of armed struggle against the rise of "racist" and "Nazi" policies, these being geopolitical code words for portraying Germany as the alleged "Fourth Reich."

The spectacular "return of the RAF" coincides with a stunning "conjunctural decline" of neo-Nazi incidents that just a few weeks ago were making media headlines, helping to create the black propaganda image of the new "Nazi" Germany allegedly emerging after unification.

One should recall that the RAF pamphlet which announced the end of the "third generation" in April 1992, contained key propaganda elements of the "fourth" generation. It said that "new targets" for terror attacks had to be defined on the basis of forecasts that "more and more people will continue to be rallied by the fascists."