

# Is Germany's Christian Democratic Union party a 'mammoth cult'?

by Helga Zepp-LaRouche, federal chairman of the Civil Rights Movement-Solidarity

During a party caucus meeting in late October, members of the liberal wing of the Germany's ruling Christian Democratic Union (CDU) did not prevail with their criticisms of Stefan Heitmann, the justice minister of the eastern German state of Saxony who has been proposed by Chancellor Helmut Kohl to replace Richard von Weizsäcker as President next May. Heitmann's candidacy was upheld; and in order to explain their failure, the liberal critics presented a quite remarkable explanation: Mrs. Rahardt-Vahldieck, the Hamburg official who is not otherwise easily cowed by her opponents, said she had been exposed to "psycho-terror" by her colleagues, while the former department head of the CDU central party office, Wahnfried Dettling, manically concluded that the CDU was turning into a "mammoth cult." In the Monitor broadcast which reported on this, commentator Bednarz mused, "The CDU a mammoth cult? We must bear that in mind!"

Considering the undemocratic activities of Rahardt-Vahldieck against the Civil Rights Movement-Solidarity (she described us in a circular letter to all federal officials of the CDU as a dangerous, cultlike association), we could easily enjoy leaning back in our chairs and registering malicious pleasure that this actually not-so-liberal lady is getting a taste of her own medicine. And if the CDU is a "mammoth cult," as Mr. Dettling says, then by implication Chancellor Kohl is a cult leader, and Mr. Dettling himself is a cult member. Even this thought does not lack a certain amusing side, because Mr. Kohl has not lifted a finger to rein in Rahardt-Vahldieck's drive against us.

But the political situation right now is such that we cannot relish such malicious pleasure for long. For, on the one hand, this explanation sheds a sad light on the political level at which differences of political opinion are being discussed in this country. We hear so much talk about our "culture of strife," but in reality there exists a precisely prescribed list of "politically correct" opinions, and woe to anyone who dares to shake up the taboos.

Anyone who dares today to infringe on the spirit of the times, will have to reckon on reprisals, just as during the times of Goebbels, as a Polish professor of theology recently put it during a conference in Berlin. And Mrs. Rahardt-Vahldieck certainly believes that she reflects the spirit of the times better than the Civil Rights Movement-Solidarity.

Besides, these internal party spats are not occurring out

of the blue, but against the background of a rapidly unfolding strategic crisis, in which certain forces are continuing to work toward a geopolitically motivated destabilization of Germany and of the Kohl government.

The arguments of those shallow political thinkers, who have promptly started squawking about "conspiracy theories" the minute such considerations are raised, have fortunately taken a back seat since the publication of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's memoirs, since in her book, the "Iron Lady" also makes no bones about her preference for the Iron Curtain, nor about her bias against Germany and her resulting policy commitment to destabilize Germany—a policy which has not changed under the government of her successor John Major.

Kohl acted correctly at the end of 1989 and the outset of 1990, when he exploited the brief moment in which reunification was possible, and for that he deserves to occupy a page in history. But from then on, he buckled under to pressures from Thatcher and U.S. President George Bush, and to a lesser degree, from French President François Mitterrand.

Instead of implementing a Marshall Plan for the East, by the same dirigistic methods which had been used for the rebuilding of the Federal Republic of Germany—a policy which had been proposed by Deutsche Bank chairman Alfred Herrhausen for Poland at the point when he was assassinated on Nov. 30, 1989, and by American economist Lyndon LaRouche in the form of the "Paris-Berlin-Vienna Productive Triangle"—Bonn capitulated to Anglo-American interests.

Almost no matter what subject is under discussion, a pained cry of "Don't go it alone!" would be intoned in Bonn, and people obsequiously subordinated themselves to a policy which, as we should be grateful to Mrs. Thatcher for explaining, led to the weakening and destabilization of Germany.

An indirect part of this was also the International Monetary Fund's obviously incompetent "shock therapy" for Russia and eastern Europe, with its predictable result that today we are facing chaos, dictatorship, and war in the East. Certainly, in the already inevitable debate over "Who lost Russia?" the historical blame sticks to George Bush and Margaret Thatcher; but also those who continuously harped on their "Don't go it alone!" shibboleth, clinging to their Anglo-American position, won't come out covered with glory, either.

The problem is that the geopolitical motivations which Mrs. Thatcher describes in her book, are continuing in effect

## ADL 'cult' slander countered in Germany

The growth of support for the freedom of U.S. political prisoner Lyndon LaRouche, coupled with the woes of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) in the United States, is being answered by a flurry of renewed slanders of the LaRouche political and intellectual movement in Germany.

The British-modeled Hamburg news weekly *Der Spiegel*, in its issue No. 33 of 1993, attempted to discredit the advertisement which had run six weeks earlier in the *Washington Post*. In that ad, 300 parliamentarians from 25 countries called on President Clinton to free opposition leader LaRouche, who has now spent nearly five years in federal prison following his unlawful frameup on conspiracy charges in 1988. Among the signers were the celebrated Italian anti-mafia judge, Carlo Palermo, and former Argentine President Arturo Frondizi. Out of all 300 lawmakers, *Spiegel* only managed to strongarm two Germans and 11 others to backtrack on their support for the letter. The liberal magazine went on to pack an astounding number of defamatory lies into an article of merely 40 lines.

This ADL-liberal hate campaign, which is also being channeled through organisms of the ruling, nominally Catholic, Christian Democratic Union party, flounders in the face of open challenge. For example, in late October, the CDU in Mainz called a public meeting on "Cults on Our Doorstep." The speaker, local "cult expert" Mr.

Türk, heavily focused on three groups inspired by LaRouche: the European Labor Party, the Schiller Institute, and the Anti-Drug Coalition. As criteria for deciding what a cult is, he mentioned, among other things, the "leadership principle," the alleged difficulty of leaving the group, claims to a monopoly on truth, allergy against criticism, looting, the "penchant for finding a reason for everything," and "camouflage."

Representatives of the Schiller Institute, founded by Helga Zepp-LaRouche, were among the 15 or so people present, and they quickly set the record straight. The "cult" label, they showed, had originated from the ADL, and was circulated by official institutions in Germany. The spread of cults is facilitated by the tendency to destroy all moral values and by the loss of understanding of any differentiation between good and evil, they said, reminding people that it would be good to study *Veritatis Splendor*. This new papal encyclical reiterates the Catholic Church's insistence on absolute truth, one of the "criteria" which Türk had tried make into the hallmark of a cult. As Türk sputtered, the Schiller Institute members briefed participants on its positive program. Finally, Türk lost control: "These people are very dangerous, they are world-conspirators."

At the end of a stormy debate, people came up to ask for copies of the Schiller Institute's newspaper with comments like: "Well, after all, you are right, according to his criteria, the Catholic Church would also be a cult, since they have fixed criteria," or, "You were right in what you said, that there is no justice any more."

at present, and are determining the policy of certain Anglo-American circles. The hallmark of this policy is the relentless insistence on the "special relationship" between Great Britain and the United States, and the obvious attempt to build up a condominium with the dictators of a new imperialist Russia in order to exert dominion over the world.

It is monstrously indicative of the spirit of the age that the liberal American writer Gore Vidal has come out calling for a new Confederacy in the "white" lands of the North against the "colored" lands of the South, while Social Democratic politician Erhard Eppler is not ashamed to present quite "objectively," in *Spiegel* magazine, a book by French author Jean-Christophe Rufin, *The Empire and the New Barbarians*, which alleges that it is inevitable that all the rich lands of the North will build a new "Roman wall" to defend themselves against the starving people from the South.

In short, the idea of establishing an Anglo-American/Russian condominium is directed against the South, but also against an independent and economically strong Europe. The privileges of a tiny, vanishing, moneyed elite should ulti-

mately be defended at all costs—hence the "free market economy" and liberal reforms in the East—even if the whole world sinks into chaos as a result.

What is the real basis for the current massive campaign of Great Britain against German-Iranian trade, and why is such trade even being defended by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, from whom one would expect the traditional reservations against Iran? Perhaps in Israel there is a better grasp of Anglo-American geopolitics than in Bonn.

Whatever is being played out in Bonn, it is not taking place in a vacuum, and the arguments presented up front are not always identical with the real intentions. Let us hope that Helmut Kohl is clear that the problem with Mrs. Thatcher does not primarily stem from the fact that her thinking goes back to the "pre-Churchill era," but that it is to no small degree thanks to her actions, that the historic opportunity of 1989 was lost. And perhaps he will also find the time to think over what this has to do with those who describe those who oppose her as a "cult." So in a way, Herr Kohl, now we're both sitting in the same boat.