

BRANDT'S RIGHT TURN LEAVES WORKING CLASS PREY TO ROCKEFELLER

April 17 — Immediately after Henry Kissinger's late March visit to Moscow, Willy Brandt, West German Chancellor, initiated a marked pro-NATO, pro-USA shift in the name of "security." Moscow's indecisive posture toward Kissinger apparently convinced Brandt that a joint West German-Soviet policy of resistance to Rockefeller, supported by France, would not be feasible. The death of French President Pompidou and the subsequent uncertainty concerning French foreign policy reinforced Brandt's judgement.

The official statement of this right turn came in the ten point program issued by the SPD (Social Democratic Party of Germany) Praesidium April 2. A German Information Center release describing this program reported that Brandt said "it may be necessary for the party to disassociate itself from some of its members. . . ." and that the statement stresses no place in the SPD for those who have abandoned the "basic values of democratic socialism."

Right Turn Signposts

— The Swedish daily *Svenske Dagblatt* April 7 featured an interview with Brandt in Bonn tellingly headlined "For Security We Trust the USA." Brandt clearly lays out the terms for his present stance: "**When it doesn't work otherwise**, the Federal Republic in security and monetary questions will turn to Washington" (emphasis added — Ed.).

— Ann Marie Renger, leading SPD member, recently met with Secretary of Defense James Schlesinger while in the United States. She stressed the importance of the Atlantic Alliance in talking with reporters and of close cooperation between West Germany and the U.S. on security as well as economic matters: "We want no confrontation between Europe and America in any field. . . ."

— In a letter Brandt wrote to a pro-SPD group published in the April 8 *Frankfurter Rundschau*, he speaks of **Realpolitik**: that West Germany cannot safely overlook the "real givens" in the world — a world in which Germany is dependent on raw materials which are controlled by international cartels and multinational corporations.

Young Socialists Purged from SPD

Brandt set the tone for purges of disaffected JUSO (SPD youth group) members, who won't go along with this right turn — carried out by provincial SPD leaders — by remarking that the "SPD should be more of a party and less of a debating society." As one JUSO perceived the situation: "Everyone here is intimidated. Everyone expects the first ritual murders" (*Der Spiegel*,

April 8).

Significant pockets of resistance to Brandt's right turn have developed in the SPD in South Hessen and in the JUSO leadership and membership in North Rhine Westphalia and Bavaria. In a recent Cologne JUSO congress, JUSO leadership expressed its determination to agitate among workers using an "action program" which called for the nationalization of the multinational corporations despite official SPD disapproval. They declared: "The SPD must no longer understand itself as a mere 'electoral club' for the purpose of gaining parliamentary majorities, but must establish itself as the active arm of the workers and their trade unions in the class struggle."

Realpolitik Fails at the Polls

But Brandt's **Realpolitik**, designed to secure the SPD electoral success, will surely lose him those parliamentary majorities. Signs are that the SPD losses suffered recently in state elections in Hamburg and in communal elections in Schleswig-Holstein and Rhine Palatine will turn into a disaster in the coming June 9 elections in Lower Saxony. A recent *Der Spiegel* poll "into the causes of the recent electoral loss of the SPD" entitled "The Fears of the West Germans," indicates that only 12% of the West German electorate views the developments in Germany since the 1972 federal elections as "good."

What is most stunning, as reported in the April 15 *Der Spiegel*, is the loss of support of 20% of the electorate by the SPD — represented by the February 1973 percentage of approval of Brandt's government (53%) compared with the figure in April 1974 (33%). This is the most dramatic loss of confidence in a German government since that from the summer of 1928 to the spring of 1930, involving the Mueller regime in the latter days of the pre-Hitler Weimar Republic.

It is clear that Brandt's pro-Rockefeller, pro-NATO turn cannot possibly answer the fears of the German workers expressed in the *Spiegel* poll: According to this poll, 89% of the electorate is "very concerned" about "continuing inflation," 73% about inflation's effect on their savings, 64% about "too great a dependency upon countries which produce oil and raw materials," 57% about the "threat of unemployment," 47% about a "world economic crisis."

Meanwhile, there is significant growth in the rightwing fringe movement, especially around Franz Josef Strauss of the Christian Social Union in Bavaria. Thus the potential exists for the birth of a national fascist movement.