

west germany

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## ELC Forces Strauss' Hand; HypoBank Sues Neue Solidaritaet

**FLASH, Sept. 14 [IPS] — Strauss' lawyers in the HypoBank's suit against the European Labor Committee are the very same pair — Gritschender and Weber — who defended publisher Rudolph Augstein in the 1963 CIA-orchestrated "Spiegel Affair" against Strauss, who was then Defense Minister.**

Sept. 11 (IPS) — West Germany's rightwing Franz Josef Strauss, who has let banks fall like so many of the failing Starfighter jets he purchased as Defense Minister, has inspired a political harassment campaign in the form of a legal suit against the tiny European Labor Committee's German-language newspaper, *Neue Solidaritaet*. The suit was launched by the Strauss-connected Bayerische Hypotheken und Wechsel Bank (HypoBank) and charges the European Labor Committee (ELC) with spreading defamatory propaganda that endangers the bank's financial well-being.

• Also this week, Strauss capped his recent acclaim of Chairman Mao as the world's greatest leader with an endorsement by his cadre newspaper, the *Bayern Kurier*, of Aurelio Peccei. President of the Club of Rome, Peccei is a main proponent of cannibalism as the solution to the food shortage.

The conscious political character of the suit against the ELC is evidenced by the wallowing HypoBank's fixation on *Neue Solidaritaet*, with its 20,000 circulation, while ignoring identical reporting on the HypoBank in 30 major German newspaper and magazines (among them the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* and the country's largest circulation newsweekly, *Der Spiegel*.) Earlier, the bank's legal representatives had threatened court action against all 31 publications, but then followed through only on the suit against the ELC.

### Delusions

For Strauss and HypoBank even to imagine that the *Neue Solidaritaet* single-handedly could collapse Germany's fourth-largest bank betrays a serious ignorance of economic reality, entirely consistent with Strauss' past military "expertise" on the Starfighter question. Some simple facts appear to pass by the Bavarian Maoist — namely, that three private banking houses collapsed immediately before widespread rumor-mongering about the Bavarian HypoBank spread through the stock market, economic journals, and the entire daily press.

What really upsets Strauss is that the European Labor Committee, through its weekly newspaper, has been able to explain fully why these bankruptcies are taking place and to locate for the working class exactly who has been responsible for pulling the plug on the European economy: the Rockefeller family and their European servants in NATO.

Since last January when the worldwide oil hoax cracked open the European economies, European banks have been trapped between steadily climbing interest rates and huge debts. Their Euro-dollar lenders financed ever more risky speculative ventures on the international currency and commodity markets. Sweeping across Europe like a tornado, the Rockefeller-controlled Arab oil marketeers gutted out corporate debt and national payments balances. The Italian central bank for one suddenly was imprisoned with a debt larger than its entire currency and gold reserves.

### Liquidity Squeeze Aggravated

This European-wide liquidity squeeze was greatly aggravated in Germany by the policy of Germany's coalition government headed by Helmut Schmidt, another slavish servant of the Rockefeller empire and friend of NATO's Institute of Strategic Studies. Schmidt's social democratic political careerism provided him with just the right cover to lock up Germany's more than 30 billion dollars in central bank reserves behind closed vaults. Thus Schmidt engineered in Germany the keystone of Rockefeller's international banking offensive signalled by the oil hoax: the destruction of the secondary banking sector and the rapid centralization of all liquidity in the hands of a few giant banks either directly controlled by or allied to Rockefeller's network. Increasingly, the German financial apparatus is being dumped into the laps of the old Nazis and Rockefeller friends in the three major financial institutions: the Deutsche, Dresdner, and Commerz Banks. By the end of the summer, when the year 1974 won the title in Germany of the "year of the bankruptcies," Helmut Schmidt was standing atop the rubble of the economy he shattered.

### Lawsuit: Political Thrust

It is difficult to imagine that the Hypo bankers themselves could be so stupid as to believe that personal

insults are at the foot of banking failures. Closer examination of the political alignments of the members of the HypoBank indicates that they understand this lawsuit fully as a political thrust. Every member is a long-term political associate of Strauss, and has close links to the Rockefeller family. Member of the board Rolf Rodenstock, for example, also sits on the board of Rockefeller's German Esso — which suggests that he knows more about the reasons for Germany's financial crisis than he lets on.

#### **German Press on HypoBank**

The mere facts of the press coverage indicate that the Hypo's lawyer is going to have a rough case suing the ELC. This is a sampling of what the German bourgeois press had to say about the HypoBank:

Financial weekly *Wirtschaftswoche*: "Whoever has any affection for his money would do well to immediately rid himself of HypoBank shares. Another rapid fall lies ahead."

*Frankfurter Rundschau*: "The Central Bank has offered no comment on rumors... that the HypoBank has received liquidity assistance. In recent weeks, rumors have sprung up that the institute has run into a certain liquidity squeeze as a result of deposit losses .... At this point, the bank itself is confirming that its minimum reserves deposited with the Central Bank have dropped by 200 million DM .... For the first time, the bank confirmed certain deposit losses."

*Der Spiegel*: "Rumors are circulating in Munich that

the HypoBank is in a financial bind; fearful customers are withdrawing millions of marks within the space of a few days."

*Neue Solidaritaet*: "Many banks are hanging by a thin thread: for example, Bass und Herz in Frankfurt (which shortly thereafter did collapse) and the HypoBank in Munich. Two weeks ago, the HypoBank was threatening to sue those who were claiming that it was in trouble. In the meantime, the bank itself had to admit that there were in fact dangers."

#### **A Difficult Case**

The corpulent fascist Strauss has gotten himself in a bind that by comparison will make pleasant his ego-bruising memories of the Starfighter debacle, which exploded his "military genius" self-delusions. The bind will overshadow even the fat man's failure as a street-fighter, highlighted by his disheveled appearance before New York City police a few years back after two prostitutes got the better of him in hand-to-hand combat.

Thus, while 30 journals with a combined circulation running into the million are **not** getting sued, in contrast to our 20,000 circulation *Neue Solidaritaet*, the dilemma facing Strauss' lawyer emerges. The facts of the case insist that the HypoBank's lawyer prove conclusively that *Neue Solidaritaet* is the most influential newspaper in all of Germany, or, and perhaps even more difficult, that the Bavarian HypoBank is a demonstrable exception to the Rockefeller assault on the international secondary banking apparatus.

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## **Melina Mercouri Organizing Greek Women's Militia for CIA**

Sept. 16 (IPS) — Actress Melina Mercouri, long known for her public demonstrations of opposition to the late Athenian junta, has made her peace with the CIA's current "progressive" fascist regime in Greece. A news dispatch from Athens this week reports that Mercouri, who flew to Athens — ending a seven-year exile — days after the CIA installed Caramanlis, is agitating for women's lib in Greece!

"My life," declared Melina, "will be devoted to the Greek woman's struggle to assert herself in social and political life." Her efforts at this "left" counterinsurgency organizing have already borne fruit. A few days ago six Greek women formally petitioned Premier Caramanlis to establish a military training center for women

in Athens. Citing "the Turkish invasion of Cyprus," the women pointed to the "role of our ancestor womenfolk" in defending the homeland. The petition demanded: "Give us the opportunity to contribute in a direct way to the present critical moments for our nation with a substantial offer in the military sector, the same as men."

What better role for Melina to play for the CIA than organizing hysterical feminism-nationalism against Turkey to bind the Greek population more firmly to its new CIA overlords! Apparently, the only demand she hasn't yet voiced is the establishment, in Classical Greek tradition, of a training center on the isle of Lesbos.