



## Hitler's "New Spring"

May 22 (IPS) — Playing on West German capitalists' old fantasies of a "German Empire," the Rockefeller cabal is offering its junior partners a little "Lebensraum" in exchange for their continued loyalty to the Dollar Empire.

"The trouble with the West German economy is that it is too export-oriented" is the line emerging from this week's West Berlin gathering of the "Atlantic Bridge" — a select group of Rockefeller financiers and their German counterparts — according to New York Times economic scribbler Leonard Silk. Since West German export orders are plummeting as a necessary consequence of the harsh austerity measures which Rockefeller, the International Monetary Fund, and the West German central bank are imposing on the rest of Western Europe, BRD bankers and industrialists are now being invited instead to participate in an "overseas investment" looting spree in the Third World and the U.S. South.

The massive drain of West German, Swiss, and other European capital into the U.S., which has already begun with Federal Reserve chairman Arthur Burns' hiking of U.S. interest rates, is a necessary prop for the bankrupt dollar sector, which is expected to run a payments deficit of at least \$3-4 billion this year. The export of German industry to U.S. "cheap labor" zones, in effect the Marshall Plan "in reverse," will leave behind a drastically reduced and "restructured" West German economy and millions of jobless workers. Meanwhile, 3 million gastarbeiter now in the BRD will be shipped "home" to slave labor agricultural projects run by the International Labor Organization, World Bank, and multinational corporations.

### "A Place in the Sun. . . . belt"

Characterizing the expected, massive inflow of German funds to the U.S., one Citibank desk officer said, "This is merely a new spring for the big German companies like Bayer and Hoechst" — who were reconstituted out of the remains of the old Nazi-backing I.G. Farben chemical empire following World War II. "Why, they had huge overseas subsidiaries well before the war." Although Volkswagen's purchase of a U.S. auto plant is the biggest deal announced so far, the German chemical and pharmaceutical giants are reportedly next in line.

The bulk of the planned investment is in the so-called "Sunbelt" of the Southeastern and Southwestern regions of the U.S., known for its "docile," non-unionized labor force, ample energy and raw materials supplies, and, last but not least, the handsome subsidies and tax-breaks being offered by many local governments to anyone who will build a factory. In recent months, Citibank and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce have arranged trips to the BRD for scores of delegations representing Southern localities and regional planning agencies begging for West German investment.

### BRD Economy Decimated

Fueling this exodus of German capital is the realization that the long sought-for "upswing" is dead. Volkswagen's productivity expert, Toni Schmuecker, in an interview with the *Deutsche Zeitung* this week admitted that the West

German auto industry's orders had fallen sharply in April and called for rationalization as the only solution. Schmuecker's move came within days of the Lehman Brothers-controlled research firm Eurofinance's proposal for European-wide "restructuring" of the auto industry to deal with "overcapacity" at a conference of the agent-run International Metalworkers Federation in Munich. According to the *London Economist*, Italian and French union delegates to the IMF meeting openly embraced this restructuring scheme, calling for the auto industry's "integration into an overall industrial strategy that might actually diminish its size."

As for the German chemical industry, the *Financial Times* has reported that one leading company will expand its capital investment overseas only; in West Germany itself, not a penny will be spent on capital investment — except for "rationalization."

Asked what would happen to German workers who lost their jobs to the capital flight, Citibank said, "The German worker can go on unemployment or get a new job producing materials for the plants in the U.S."

As for the "excess" gastarbeiter population, the ILO's proposed "final solution" has already received the hearty endorsement of leading German capitalists. Asked whether the ILO recycling programs do not resemble those of Adolph Hitler, the head of the Social Policy Department of the German Employers Federation responded, "Well, yes, these work programs are like the Nazis. . . but they also look like those in Maoist China, the same model. Our labor unions collaborate with us (Heinz Oscar) Vetter, Eugen Loderer (head of the German Metalworkers Union and associate of Leonard Woodcock). The Third World can just produce foodstuffs, and get paid in food. . . they concentrate too much on industry."

But the Nazis are having a great deal of trouble convincing German workers to take a second trip into Hell. A prominent official in the 2.2 million member I.G. Metall told a reporter at the Cologne I.G. Metall conference that, "If we did not have the experience with the Nazis, everyone would love the labor Service. But that is not the case, so we have to get a new name for it." The official added: "People should do something useful, they shouldn't just dig holes, but they should work intensively because of the financial situation."

The I.G. Metall conference, which is centered on the theme of job creation, has turned into a sounding board for corporativist slave labor projects for the entire world. The official quoted above noted that since the "bad experience in the Third Reich is hindering the introduction of job creation now," a Professor Scharpf will address this problem in his speech specifically. He admitted that the speech, if published in full, will cause a lot of "rage" among workers.

In support of his ideas for job creation, the union official claimed that there are proposals in the West German Ministry of Economic Cooperation for spending unemployment funds in a way that would create consumer demand in the Third World. This demand would then be realized in orders for West German industry, he maintained.