

West German Spokesmen Hit Zero Growth, Call For Responsibility Towards Third World

Die Welt, lead editorial, "Order in the Energy Theme," Oct. 10:

There are no limits to energy... an industrial nation like the Federal Republic cannot adopt the continually propagandized standpoint that already achieved levels of prosperity can be maintained without additional energy and additional growth. This last thesis, propagated by the Left, means in essence nothing more than that the sated person has abnegated his responsibility towards the hungry by having eaten.

In the developing nations, half of the population is under 20 years old. These countries however, are not thinking of giving up further population growth. They argue that the rich industrial nations have arrived at their wealth because they are especially thickly populated and are able to generate large markets which demand continually growing production. The student is following in his teacher's footsteps — is that surprising? The result of this, however, will be that at the turn of the century, 6 billion people will populate the earth, all striving for well-being.

... In the face of these considerations, the theories of zero growth and of giving up nuclear energy are exposed. The Third World needs the assistance of the industrial nations, it needs modern technology, expanded know-how, nuclear power plants, and sun collectors, since a population which is doubling in size cannot be satisfied with conservation.

For those to whom human obligation towards the Third World is not sufficient grounds; who feel it is unjust for the younger nations to develop through raw materials prices; these people should be convinced by uncorruptible, calculable arguments. Raw materials prices will rise, if necessary because raw materials are becoming more scarce. However, in order to pay for them, foreign exchange must be earned by exporting other goods. Exports however are only possible if the older nations have goods to offer which the younger not only need, but also cannot yet produce themselves.

Stuttgarter Zeitung, Stuttgart, Oct. 10:

Commenting on U.S. Energy Secretary James Schlesinger's recent trip to Brussels and West Germany:

... the American government is fighting the Senate over its energy program, so no wonder Schlesinger is painting things in such dark colors... one should take Schlesinger's warnings seriously and set up the energy debate on a broad basis... perhaps industrial nations can conserve, but the 2 billion people in the developing countries who expect a better life, will need an unimaginable amount of energy... therefore industrial countries must increase their investment in energy supplies."

W. German Christian Democrats On Energy

On Oct. 11 and 12, the West German Christian Democratic Union held a special congress on nuclear energy in Hannover. CDU Chairman Helmut Kohl set the tone for the meeting in his opening speech, which denounced environmentalists as "the real reactionaries."

Kurt Riesenhuber, CDU energy spokesman in the West German Parliament, commented on the energy fight in the U.S., that since it looks like President Carter's energy program will be defeated, the U.S. nuclear industry will be in strong shape to take on all international competitors, even West German nuclear companies. Therefore, West German companies need all the support they can get, and environmental restrictions should be removed.

Gerhard Stoltenberg, leading spokesman for the CDU's industrial supporters demanded during the conference that "court permission for reactors be decoupled from the question of waste disposal." Stoltenberg's demand is an attack on environmentalism, since antigrowth "Citizens' Initiatives" have used the absence of a nuclear waste disposal facility to win court cases postponing construction of nuclear reactors.

A Survey of Franco-German Energy Deals, Sept. 1 - Oct. 5

Sept. 2: The West German consortium of fission power plant contractors, DWK, announces that it will build a 2.5 million mark (\$1 billion) nuclear waste reprocessing plant in northern France, in cooperation with the French government. In return for constructing and financing the plant, the West Germans will be allowed to reprocess 1,000 tons of nuclear waste per year. This agreement removes the environmentalist objections to West German nuclear energy that were based on West Germany's present limited waste reprocessing capacity. The French government also announces French nuclear construction engineers will aid West German construction firms in building the first permanent

nuclear waste disposal plant in Gorleben, West Germany

Sept. 6: At the Chemi '77 trade fair in Moscow, the Soviet government offers petrochemical deals totaling 5 to 10 billion marks (\$2 to 4 billion) for West German plants and equipment for the Tjumen oil field in Siberia. An order for a 1.2 billion marks (\$460 million) aluminum factory from West German suppliers was also discussed at the trade fair.

Sept. 8: The West German government confirms that an additional 10 billion marks (\$4 billion) worth of orders for West German firms have occurred since the