

Report from Bonn by George Gregory and Rainer Apel

Genscher: Reagan's adversary

Operating on a British policy track, the foreign minister is reviving an evil form of Ostpolitik.

Friends of the United States, and especially of President Reagan, were quite shocked when Chancellor Helmut Kohl used his governmental address in May to announce that his upcoming state visit to Moscow will begin on July 4—American Independence Day.

This odd decision, which is viewed here as an affront to the United States and Mr. Reagan, came a few days after British analysts had stressed in a series of discussions with *EIR* that Kohl would revive *Ostpolitik*, the old Willy Brandt policy of special deals with the U.S.S.R. at the expense of the Atlantic Alliance.

It is being asked here how it could be possible that a Christian Democrat like Helmut Kohl, who presides over a government which is considered "conservative," got involved in policies usually discussed only in meetings of the Anglo-Soviet Roundtable.

The answer can probably be found in the person of the West German foreign minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, head of the liberal Free Democratic Party (FDP), which defines its political outlook as standing in the tradition of such devout (and anti-American) British liberals as Adam Smith and John Stuart Mill.

The special flavor of the FDP's policies is the attempt to revive the debate on the alleged special historical mission to be pursued by continental Europe—a theory also known as the *Mitteleuropa* thesis, dating from the turn of the century. The geopolitical aim would be deals between continental Europe and the Russians—both

power blocs being defined as distinct from the American "sea power" across the Atlantic.

That notion, appearing today in former British Foreign Secretary Peter Carrington's proposals of "a more independent Europe," is also Mr Genscher's main policy orientation, and it is quite interesting to note that Yuri Andropov has made overtures to this political current in Western Europe. This was done in the context of an interview given to the weekly *Der Spiegel*, in which Andropov spoke of the Soviet Union as "a continental power" as having distinct interests from the United States as "a sea power."

Political insiders in Bonn have repeatedly pointed to the fact that when Helmut Kohl was voted chancellor on Oct. 1, 1982, the first foreign diplomat to congratulate him was Moscow's ambassador to Bonn, Vladimir Semyonov. This gesture was more than a matter of politeness; ever since, the Soviet ambassador has been briefing the chancellor's office with a certain regularity. Chancellor Kohl's decision to visit Andropov on July 4 must be seen in this context.

But foreign policy in Bonn is not defined by Kohl, who has a profile of relative indifference to international and economic questions. Foreign policy is defined by the foreign ministry, which maintains close ties with the British and also with the bastion of British-flavored geopolitics in the United States, the State Department.

There are reasons to go so far as to describe Foreign Minister Genscher as

an asset of former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, Lord Carrington's business partner. Rumors in West Germany have it that Genscher's political career was funded through channels of the U.S. National Security Council at the time that body was headed by Kissinger. It was, therefore, not surprising to hear a high-ranking official at the Bonn foreign ministry say months ago that "we consider George Shultz a man of Kissinger's, and we would welcome it if Kissinger could increase his influence within the U.S. administration, especially concerning Mideast policies."

It is no secret in West Germany that Genscher has maintained close relations to Kissinger through Helmut Sonnenfeldt since at least the early 1970s, and also relations to Carrington. Mr. Genscher's allegiance to the British perception of world politics was proven at the beginning of the shooting war between Britain and Argentina over the issue of the Malvinas Islands last spring.

Literally minutes after the British Crown had posed an ultimatum to Argentina to back down before Britain's flagrant violation of the Monroe Doctrine, Genscher ordered his Ambassador in Buenos Aires to march into Argentine leader General Galtieri's office to warn him that if he did not give in, Bonn would exert her power in Europe to pass economic sanctions against Argentina. The sanctions were pushed through despite protests from industrialists against the damage to West German economic interests in South America as a whole.

Genscher has furthermore maintained a policy of "special relations" with radical Islamic regimes hostile to the United States—most prominently with Iran's Khomeini and Libya's Qaddafi. That story will be the subject of a future column.