

Report from Bonn by George Gregory and Rainer Apel

The KGB and the 'Peace movement'

A leading West German security official warned that he expects terrorism in the anti-NATO demonstrations.

In a remarkable statement which has been largely blacked out in the media, Herbert Hellenbroich, the president of the official West German Bundesverfassungsschutz (State Security Bureau)—the equivalent of the U.S. FBI—said on South German Radio that he expects parts of the “hot autumn” mobilization of the peace movement against the Euromissiles to end in acts of terrorism. Hellenbroich went on to say that there also was reliable information that the movement has received more than 60 million deutschemarks from Eastern agencies via East German channels to the German Communist Party (DKP). This points to control by the KGB with its traditional control of the East German services operating inside the movement against the American missiles.

Since the DKP plays an important role in the hard core of the movement's organizational committees which are planning out the actions against the U.S. missiles, the official statement leads also to the question of how many of the terrorist operations in preparation for the hot autumn have received funding from the KGB. While officially rejecting political violence as an instrument of politics, DKP members hold about 50 percent of the total positions on the movement's organizational committees, and there are enough overlappings between these committees and the violence-prone currents inside the movement to raise the question whether the DKP has not fallen back into the mass upsurge tactics of its political predecessor, the KPD of the late Weimar Republic,

which was often allied with as well as in combat against the violence-prone Nazis.

It is widely known inside the so-called peace movement that the various violence-prone groups it harbors, such as the at least several-hundreds-strong circle of sympathizers and supporters of the Red Army Fraction (RAF), are holding paramilitary training seminars for radical activists. It is known that terrorist actions—such as attacks on ammunition transports and blockades of, and even bomb attacks against, railroads and military facilities—have repeatedly been discussed publicly at various “planning sessions for the autumn demonstrations.”

It is furthermore known to West German security agencies and police that the violent and largely pro-terrorist current of the movement has developed highly professional surveillance techniques which allow an in-depth monitoring of all movements of police cars, of anti-riot brigades, of the level of protection of NATO sites by military police, and so forth.

Members of the notoriously violent movement against the “Runway West” project at the Frankfurt airport have developed a 24-hour monitoring system which covers all military airflights occurring at the U.S. Air Force Rhein-Main airbase. In north Germany, near the city of Oldenburg, about 150 members of a similar group tried to impose a blockade on a canal sluice in order to stop a military transport from proceeding as scheduled. Activists of a related group “welcomed” another ship carrying military

equipment from a bridge over the Rhine River in Cologne. Police officials fear they will have to safeguard all sluices and bridges, if not patrol all water-ways in West Germany, in order to be certain that all military transportation by ship can be protected against terrorists.

The pro-terrorist groups which are harbored by the “movement” have furthermore developed devices which allow them to disrupt police telecommunications and to exert electronic warfare against the communication systems of air bases and army facilities. The sabotage potential that could be at the disposal of the KGB in its planned disruption policy against NATO from these groups must not be underestimated.

Security officials in West Germany draw parallels to past experiences in military history with large-scale guerrilla warfare operations, and they fear that military police or guards at NATO bases will react according to their manuals once such sabotage operations begin to threaten the safety and functioning of the sites they have to protect.

Further, Hellenbroich expressed his concern in the interview that there was no guarantee that one of the soldiers who feels provoked by activists of the peace movement will not shoot. The movement will thus have its martyr, and West Germany might have to face another mass wave of violence resembling that of June 1967, after the student Benno Ohnesorg was killed by police in a violent demonstration in West Berlin.

There are indications, however, that having a martyr is exactly what the string-pullers of the movement are aiming for. Knowing the risks to the lives of demonstrators, to persist in training them for confrontations means that some movement leaders want casualties for ulterior political motives.