

# Genscher caught red-handed in plot to break up NATO

by Umberto Pascali

U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, with a powerful speech Dec. 6 before the NATO defense ministers on the need for joint and immediate European-U.S. development of directed-energy defense systems, succeeded in blocking an operation that could have split the Alliance from the inside. The attempt to wreck NATO was carefully prepared and triggered by the foreign minister of the Federal Republic of Germany, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, in complicity with his Italian counterpart, Giulio Andreotti, and Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou. All three were acting as front men for the newly-elected NATO secretary general, Peter Lord Carrington.

Genscher's move was temporarily pre-empted by timely, forceful counterpressure applied by the United States. Yet, although the immediate threat to NATO was checked, the continuing presence of Genscher in the sensitive foreign ministerial role in NATO's core European member country is now demonstrably intolerable.

What conclusively proved that Genscher was acting on behalf of Soviet interests was the fact that he chose to target President Reagan's directed-energy defensive beam weapons policy as the core issue around which to decouple Europe from the United States. Thwarting the development and deployment of these defensive systems has been Moscow's absolute priority since the President's March 23 speech.

## The Genscher plot

The Genscher plot—what he tried is a plot in the full meaning of the word—surfaced Dec. 2, when Genscher ordered a document he had written distributed to every foreign and domestic journalist in Bonn. In “delphic” diplomatic language, Genscher accused the United States of failing to inform the European allies of its strategic decisions and in particular of something the minister considered very dangerous for Western Europe: “Longer-term strategic perspectives, including those *which concern outer space* [emphasis added], are topics which affect the common security interests of all who believe in the unity of the alliance area.” Genscher proposed a series of special informal meetings of the NATO foreign ministers, a sort of supranational body to be granted quasi-decisional power.

The paper also featured a direct attack on the present U.S.

administration. “One important topic of such meetings must be the development of East-West relations from a longer-term perspective. To this end greater conceptual clarity is necessary. It is equally important that the Alliance strategy be shared by all NATO members and not *put at stake whenever there is a change of government.*” Generous of praise for Soviet Union, Genscher went so far as to advise Moscow on how to pacify the ferocious Americans: “By pursuing a prudent policy of moderation, the Soviet Union can influence the United States.”

The document was then “translated” a pair of violently anti-American articles published, explicitly as comment on the minister's “position paper,” on Dec. 5 and 6 in Genscher's personal outlet the *Bonner Generalanzeiger*, under the revealing title “Dynamite in the Alliance.” “Decoupling problems are not only threatening the alliance from the Soviet side. . . . Decoupling [Europe from the United States] is also the issue of President Reagan's decision to develop a missile defense system operating in space which is to make the United States invulnerable. The American tendency to autarchy is dramatically underscored by this. Europe's security, after the realization of such a gigantic project, would be then only of second-rank interest for the leading power of the West. The plan alone, still never discussed with the partners, can additionally disrupt the international balance of power *even more than the Soviet SS-20s.* . . . A lot of dynamite has piled up in this Alliance. . . .”

The leak made it immediately evident to informed observers that Genscher was acting as the most exposed agent of NATO Secretary General Carrington. “Carrington,” an official of the West German Defense Ministry told *EIR*, “is going to move the hardest in the NATO bureaucracy to paint the U.S. beam-weapons program as endangering the alliance, and he will seek to strengthen the line and impression that this is a U.S. ‘national policy’ which leaves the Alliance out in the cold and is therefore decoupling the U.S. from Western Europe.”

## Athens: The plot moves forward

Genscher presented his document to his European colleagues at the European Community (EC) meeting in Athens on Dec. 5, collecting several supporters according to sources.

It was at this meeting that the British, Genscher, and Andreotti almost succeeded in blowing apart the European Community by manipulating the issue of agricultural production. (Never until that moment had Andreotti showed such determination to "defend" the Italian economy. Under Andreotti's tenure as Italian prime minister nobody, for example, had opposed the decision to destroy European steel pushed by EC Commissioner Count Etienne Davignon.) In Athens, the precondition was set for a trade war with the potential to pull Western Europe apart.

On Dec. 6, Genscher briefed U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in Bonn on Europe's "conditions" for remaining U.S. allies. At the same time Andreotti and Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi made it official that Italy was going to withdraw its troops from Lebanon, to punish the United States. Craxi announced from Athens: "I think we will leave in Beirut only a military hospital."

At the NATO winter meeting in Brussels, the centrifugal tendencies had built up so much that NATO members like Denmark, Holland, and Belgium, not to mention pro-Soviet Papandreou's Greece, voiced reservations and refused a full commitment to the NATO Northern Air Defense Belt. Meanwhile, the Norwegian parliament passed a resolution on stationing Euromissiles by only a one-vote majority.

### **Euro-American beam-weapons defense**

It was into this shaky situation that Weinberger intervened with his Dec. 6 speech, as *EIR* reported last week. The U.S. defense secretary's call posed the basis for what an authoritative Italian military source defined as the "most powerful military-political-industrial lobby in modern history, which will change everything"—the transatlantic beam weapons lobby.

There are few public reports on the Weinberger speech, but the ferment is already palpable in France, Italy, and among military and industrial circles in other NATO countries, with the partial exception of Germany, where the Carington-Genscher influence prevails. One of the few newspapers to cover the speech was Italy's leading daily *Corriere della Sera* on Dec. 7: "In a briefing to the journalists in Brussels on the speech by Weinberger, a high Pentagon representative said that, according to Weinberger, NATO should try to surpass the Soviet arms buildup by using new electronic technologies and the application of laser beams."

According to military sources this is an euphemistic characterization of the intervention of the U.S. defense secretary, who also reportedly stressed the need for tactical use of beam weapons. "Install laser beams on tanks?" another source told *EIR*. "Not only on tanks. What was discussed is to install these technologies on every weapon powerful enough to carry them! Here the ferment is growing. . . . I foresee the end of the polemics between beam supporters and the conventional weapons industry." The question of tactical use of beam weapons was at the center of a successful seminar organized by *EIR* in Rome Nov. 9. On Dec. 14 a military source inside NATO, referring to the lack of any mention of

beam defense in the communiqué from Brussels, told *EIR*: "I want to stress that the fact that there are not public reactions from inside NATO does not mean that the thing did not go into the process of decision-making. It is wrong to assume that only what has been made public was really done."

### **The hot potato**

Suddenly, after the intervention of Weinberger in Brussels, Andreotti changed his mind and talked about a possible reduction of Italian troops in Lebanon "in the future." Genscher dropped the issue. The spokesman of the foreign ministry in Bonn began denying to journalists that the minister had ever written a document or made any proposal. "This is the Italian press, which always lies," he said. "It is absolutely sure," confirmed a leading Italian journalist in Bonn, "but I think they are embarrassed now because this proposal was rejected by the Americans. I myself received the document personally."

The foreign ministry press office insisted that probably the Italian press was referring to a meeting organized by Andreotti in Rome on space technology, where a blacklist of countries considered too "dangerous" to get such technology was drawn up. The Italian foreign ministry vehemently denied the existence of a blacklist and confirmed the existence of the Genscher proposal ("We have the press releases"). No details were given on the mysterious Rome conference, identified by Rome sources as "on space technology non-proliferation."

The haggling between two close anti-American allies shows the potential weakness of the "plotters." Inside Andreotti's party, the Christian Democracy (DC), a pitched battle is shaping up in anticipation of the party congress in February. Andreotti and the present secretary, Ciriaco de Mita, are already in minority vis-à-vis a coalition led by former Prime Minister Arnaldo Forlani. Commenting on Andreotti's neutralist tendencies, DC parliamentarian Publio Fiori, very close to Forlani, responded to *EIR*'s briefing on beam weapons development: "The foreign policy issue is definitively part of the pre-congress debate. . . . We saw, it is true, the emergence of what you call neutralist tendencies, but the forces around Forlani have the majority and we are determined to reaffirm Italy's Atlantic loyalty."

At the NATO meeting it was also decided to increase conventional arms. The defense ministers, after Weinberger's briefing, announced a plan for the construction by 1984 of 700 tanks, 260 fighter planes, submarines, and other weapons. New technologies will be developed. According to inside sources, the reactions of the Europeans have been in general "positive."

A demand for Genscher to step down at once has been made by the Europäische Arbeiter Partei (EAP) of West Germany. The forced resignation of Genscher would be a signal both to the allies and the Soviets that the West has decided to clean Moscow agents-of-influence out of its leadership, and to establish at full speed an adequate beam-weapons defensive system.