

## West Germany

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# *Der Spiegel* prepares a slander attack on Moscow's number-one enemy

by Michael Weissbach

The Soviet-instigated international propaganda campaign against the new U.S. doctrine of "Mutually Assured Survival" has focused increasingly in recent months on *EIR* founder Lyndon LaRouche and his international organization. In Western Europe the LaRouche organization is at present the only political force in mobilization for a combined U.S.-European effort to achieve a "crash program" beam-weapons defense. Thanks to this effort, in all relevant military and political strata in Italy, France, Great Britain, and West Germany, the beam defense policy is at the center of discussions of a uniform and effective security policy for the Western alliance. This has made LaRouche and his organization a prime target of the Soviet leadership.

On Oct. 26, the Soviets for the first time ever published an attack against LaRouche personally on the pages of the *Literaturnaya Gazeta*. This attack was followed by an article in *Izvestiya* blasting the most successful conference to date about "beam defense and its strategic implications for Europe" held in Rome on Nov. 9. Terming the conference a "witches' sabbath," *Izvestiya* noted that the event demonstrated broad support for President Reagan and LaRouche in Western Europe. Now the the Soviets are escalating their campaign against LaRouche through their channels in West Germany and elsewhere. The aim is to discredit LaRouche, intimidate his collaborators, and destroy his influence in Europe.

### From the Soviet press to Germany

On Nov. 30 the West German radio station Westdeutsche Rundfunk (WDR), a promoter of the disarmament movement, broadcast a program against the European Labor Party and the Fusion Energy Foundation, organizations associated with LaRouche. The program repeated slanders of former years originating from KGB-influenced outlets ranging from social-democratic circles in the United States to the ecologist-terrorist scene in West Germany: The ELP is a "sect," right-wing extremist and anti-Semitic. The broadcast struck listeners as especially strange when it went so far as to claim that the FEF is collaborating with Nazi scientists to build a secret nuclear bomb!

The next day, the pro-terrorist newspaper *Tageszeitung*

(which, suggesting its East bloc intelligence inputs, had attacked beam weapons even before President Reagan's March 23 policy statement, when few had even heard of them), recirculated the contents of the program in a full-page article. Sources in the Federal Republic report that *Der Spiegel*, the West German equivalent of *Time* magazine, is preparing a slander against the LaRouche organization in West Germany. It can be expected that an early edition this year will carry an article along the line of these KGB-inspired attacks. The magazine slandered LaRouche and his wife on two previous occasions.

*Der Spiegel* is known as the child of the German occupation. After World War II, Rudolf Augstein, who still runs the magazine today, was licensed by the British occupation authorities to establish *Der Spiegel* as the first and only political news magazine in occupied western Germany. It is well documented that the weekly from the beginning was under the control of those Anglo-American intelligence circles which in the 1970s gave the green light for Willy Brandt's *Ostpolitik* (opening to the East bloc), and which specialized in scandals aimed at Bavarian politician Franz-Josef Strauss and others in West Germany's military-industrial complex. Now, as the Soviet Union moves toward global confrontation, détente has become a synonym for decoupling Europe from the United States.

Reviewing the main political interventions of *Der Spiegel* over the past six months, there can be no doubt that Augstein is working against the interests of the Western alliance, and against German national interests. It seems that *Der Spiegel* is preparing for another period of occupation.

### The anti-beam campaign

At the end of July the first reports of successful tests of air-borne laser weapons against missiles reached Europe. It became clear that the U.S. administration was serious about its beam-weapons initiative of March 23. The Soviet counteroffensive was highlighted in an Aug. 10 *Literaturnaya Gazeta* article by Andropov adviser Fyodor Burlatskii threatening the United States with a nuclear pre-emptive strike if the beam initiative continues. Two weeks later, *Spiegel* published its first article against beam weapons, compiling the Soviet arguments which are recycled in the repertoire of the

appeasement faction in the West: Beam-weapons development violates the ABM treaty of 1972; technical problems in using chemical or x-ray lasers militarily are insurmountable; an extension of the military buildup into space threatens the strategic balance and increases the danger of nuclear war.

In typical *Spiegel* style, it is admitted that the Soviets might be working on such systems and might even be ahead of the United States, but the blame for the danger of war is put at the door of the Reagan administration. Yuri Andropov himself is quoted in the article as the star witness that "the U.S. space program is crazy and an attempt to render the Soviet Union defenseless in face of the nuclear threat by the U.S.A." The last word is given to one of the leading U.S. scientists of the KGB-coached Pugwash arms-control movement, Victor Weisskopf of MIT: "The Soviets will start a war to prevent the stationing of such systems."

Augstein, it should be noted, is a long-standing member of the Free Democratic Party headed by Hans-Dietrich Genscher; Foreign Minister Genscher, apart from his protection of Soviet-backed terrorists, has intervened in NATO to threaten a break with the United States if Reagan maintains his new strategic defense policy (see article, page 40, and *EIR*, Dec. 27).

### Nuclear freeze

During September and October, in the midst of the debate about the stationing of the Pershing II and cruise missiles in Germany, *Der Spiegel* became a forum for the spokesmen for the appeasement policy in the West. Twice Robert S. McNamara was presented by *Spiegel* as the father of the "MAD flexible response doctrine" who now supports the nuclear freeze. McNamara boosted the West German peace movement with his statements that "nuclear weapons in Europe, the most likely nuclear battlefield, endanger the peace more than they secure it. . . . This strategy totally contradicts German interests."

A week later Henry Kissinger met with his friend Augstein, as he often does, and *Spiegel* reported the results: "Why are the Pershings coming when the great majority of the Christian denominations in Germany and the majority of the people in Germany don't want them, and the trade unions don't want them? . . . For the Soviets it makes a difference if the Americans can reach Soviet territory as far as Leningrad and Moscow in the near future. This psychological problem was terribly worsened through the rhetoric of the Reagan administration."

The line is that the Reagan administration is endangering peace, splitting the United States from Europe, and forcing the Soviets to take countermeasures which will destroy détente. Even the Soviet declaration of war on the West through the downing of the South Korean airliner Sept. 1 and the terror attack against the South Korean government in Burma did not daunt the appeasers. One week after the murder of 263 civilians, *Der Spiegel* declared: "With superior technology, the United States spies on the secrets of the Soviet Union

. . . this was the reason for the order to shoot down the airliner."

### Anti-Americanism and cultural warfare

Immediately after the propaganda blitz for appeasement of the Soviets, *Der Spiegel* started a slander campaign against Reagan, against U.S. scientific and technological capabilities, and against everything which used to be called the "American System" economy. In a four-week series, the philosophical and political roots of President Reagan were analyzed as situated in a brutal capitalist "Wild West" where the "American Dream" is still dreamt. The tone: "Reagan's religiously inspired, nuclear-proud foreign and defense policy, his icy rhetoric, the untouchability of this ideological President, all this received its impulses from the brief period of his California days. . . ."

"What does conscience order this moral enthusiast in the White House to do in a dangerous foreign-policy conflict with the Soviet Union? What happens if Moscow downs an American passenger plane instead of a Korean jumbo?" Here lies the kernel of *Der Spiegel's* campaign against Reagan: Americans, never occupied or conquered, do not capitulate. American patriotism, exemplified in the reactions of the population to the KAL 007 incident and the Grenada mission, persists. ("Reagan Freaks Out" was *Der Spiegel's* headline on the issue covering the Grenada intervention.)

Reagan's California is seen as the new power center of the United States, where signs of the old American values and virtues still exist. People are prosperous, agricultural production is at the highest level in the world, and high-technology industries symbolize the unbroken push for progress and the typical American ability to very rapidly apply scientific discoveries for industrial production. *Spiegel* zeroes in again on the new defensive doctrine based on beam weapons which will be carried out in California weapons laboratories.

According to *Spiegel*, California should concentrate instead on products like the Esalen movement and other cults fostered for many years by cultural warfare centers in Berkeley, Stanford, and elsewhere. For many years *Spiegel* has propagandized for these "Aquarian Age" movements, and promoted pornography and drugs, presumably not only because of Augstein's personal proclivities—a few years ago, he was arrested for possession of hashish in Italy—but because his controllers recognize the profound contribution of the counterculture to weakening the West. With the spread of irrationalism lies the hope of the Soviets and their Pugwash allies that the remnants of the "American System" and the cultural tradition of the American Revolution can be destroyed once and for all.

In whose interests, then, was the propaganda of *Der Spiegel* during the past months? Should Rudolf Augstein decide to publish the slander article already prepared against Lyndon LaRouche, he will attack a political leader and thinker whom the Soviets have declared their number-one enemy.