

# Behind Hans-Dietrich Genscher's whirlwind tour of the East bloc

by Rainer Apel

As could be predicted, the West German foreign minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, chose a moment of political confusion in Bonn to leave for another of his famous blitz-tours through Moscow and other Warsaw Pact capitals. During the weekend of March 2-3, Genscher packed his bags for a surprise visit to Moscow to meet Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko. As the official story goes, the trip was arranged so hurriedly that Genscher and his diplomatic entourage didn't even have time to fill out their visa forms for Moscow. But this was no problem, since the Soviets had the visas ready when the German delegation arrived on Moscow Airport.

Why the big hurry? Why did the Soviet ambassador to Bonn, Vladimir Semyonov, bypass all diplomatic routines and invite Genscher to Moscow "on the spot"?

Genscher said on departing from Bonn on Sunday, March 3, that "this visit is useful because there is new motion in East-West relations." What the foreign minister did not say was what kind of "motion": This surprise trip, followed by trips to Finland, Poland, and Bulgaria, had been prepared over several weeks, in close collaboration among the U.S. State Department and the French, Italian, and British foreign ministries. These are the strongholds of the arms-control mafia, from which the fiercest Western opponents of the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative are recruited. Days before Genscher left for Moscow, his Italian colleague Giulio Andreotti had received Gromyko in Rome and assured him that "the Italian government is skeptical of the perspectives the SDI policy offers." Three weeks earlier, Geoffrey Howe, the British foreign secretary, during a visit to Sofia, Bulgaria, announced that "the British government will spare no effort to prevent a competitive race between the superpowers in being the first to establish a space-defense system."

But President Reagan had already declared the SDI a "national U.S. security policy" and pledged he would *not* make it a bargaining chip for the Geneva talks with the Soviets. This implied that no other power, not even among the West European allies, could stop the SDI policy.

The pro-SDI speech the West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl gave on Feb. 9, at the Munich Wehrkunde gathering, had signaled to the Soviets that their normal channels of stalling and sabotage of the SDI through the arms control mafia no longer worked, that instead of being decoupled from

the United States, the Bonn government was trying to get involved in the missile defense program. *Pravda's* Bonn correspondent Yuli Yakontov noted, in a television talk show, "Without Bonn's support, the SDI would not be secured." This was not true—but it signaled that Moscow would make Bonn the main target of its attacks against the SDI.

According to the model script of Soviet propaganda, it meant 1) escalation of black propaganda against West Germany, 2) escalation of the anti-defense movement in West Germany, 3) extended military exercises near the Warsaw Pact-West German borders, to demonstrate the Red Army's ability to "strike West" at any chosen moment. All of this occurred. The anti-defense mob geared up again with new mass rallies, the propaganda against the bogeyman of "German revanchism on the Rhine" stepped up, and the winter maneuvers of the Red Army in East Germany rehearsed surprise attacks against West German cities.

What is Genscher's role in all this? Why did he rush to Moscow? What was the Soviet interest in having him?

When Genscher arrived in Moscow, Gromyko handed him a barely veiled ultimatum. He said, "Since the Bonn government lent support to the plans of the American administration to make all of space an arena for a new arms race, the Federal Republic of Germany has become an accomplice in planned U.S. violations of the 1972 ABM Treaty." Gromyko threatened "inevitable consequences" for Bonn if this pro-SDI stance was not repealed. Genscher hastily stressed that "our country's policy is to have prophylactic arms control in space." Gromyko responded by attacking the bogeyman of "circles in your country which do not want to respect the territorial integrity of the postwar peace order in Europe."

Ironically, the two Warsaw Pact governments whose foreign ministers Genscher met in the next days—Poland and Bulgaria—attacked Bonn at the same time Genscher was meeting Gromyko: General Jaruzelski met Todor Zhivkov in Sofia, Bulgaria, and both issued a communiqué denouncing "revanchism in West Germany . . . which finds support even among government officials in Bonn."

Genscher told the media after his talks with Gromyko that this meeting in Moscow had been "useful," but the Soviet media's coverage of it mounted into an attack against Genscher, accused by TASS of "having presented the usual

and well-known Bonn positions." Radio Moscow added that Genscher had tried to "present the real meaning of Bonn's support to the SDI in a distorted way." In short, Moscow is not satisfied with what Genscher offered them under the label, "prophylactic arms control in space."

It was left to the official Polish daily, *Trybuna Ludu*, which wrote that Genscher's position was "quite close to the realistic policy of the Social Democrats," to hint of what the Warsaw Pact wants from Genscher. Moscow foresees his future role in Bonn as forming a firm alliance with the Social Democrats, whose leaders have already announced their campaign against the SDI. Meanwhile, the Warsaw Pact leaders are making showy overtures to the Social Democrats, inviting them to the East bloc for high-level meetings.

Combined with the attacks on Chancellor Kohl and his government coalition, and the veiled threat by numerous Warsaw Pact leaders to react in some yet undefined way with "military counter-measures" against the SDI, this adds up to a "layered" Soviet intimidation campaign against West Germany. The message the Soviets handed to Genscher in Moscow is something like this: "Either Chancellor Kohl repeals

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his support to the SDI, or he will be overthrown by the SPD. In case the SPD also fails to do what we tell them, we will send the Red Army!"

Taking all of this into account, Chancellor Kohl has plenty of reason to not repeal, but even intensify his support for the SDI, for he will need American support against the Soviet threat in the next weeks. He should also look for a pro-American foreign minister to replace Genscher.

## East German: LaRouche is forerunner of SDI

Lyndon LaRouche was an intellectual architect of President Reagan's "Star Wars," says the January 1985 issue of the East German publication *Kernenergie* (Nuclear Energy), in a review of LaRouche's book *There Are No Limits to Growth*, which has been published in English and German.

The review, signed "D. Albert," reads: "The above text, which would like to see growth as unlimited, aroused our interest, as we have been hearing since the beginning of the 1970s about the world model of limits to growth of the Club of Rome, but ourselves believe that these limits can themselves grow, if there is progress in scientific and technical development. So we think that we have found a specialized book that gives us new arguments against the persuasive ecology movement of the Greens, and against the anti-nuclear energy campaign which is becoming fashionable. But this turns out to be only partially so.

"Certainly, several reasonable standpoints are put forward: The danger of a global nuclear war threatens life on all continents; the conviction, that the most pressing problems in the world can be solved through technological progress; the conclusion, therefore, that the projections of the Club of Rome fallaciously—through linear equations

for rates of resource use—presuppose a sudden and absolute end of technological progress. Although the author is advised in physics questions by the Fusion Energy Foundation (U.S.A., Dr. J. Tennenbaum), the book remains essentially stuck below the popular scientific level, in the genre of science fiction. It superficially talks about nuclear fusion, directed-energy beam and particle beam technologies, as well as about biotechnology. The vision of the colonization of Mars by man remains downright vague: agro-industrial complexes under giant plastic domes, and by 2100 about 10 million people on Mars.

"In its historical statements, the book is more detailed. The roots of Malthusianism are 'traced out,' its advocates in the past (all the way to Bertrand Russell and the Pugwash Conferences!) are 'unmasked.' Many of the assertions are to me absurd and abstruse. Historians, sociologists, and philosophers will have to make their evaluation.

"The ideological connection to current imperialist tendencies is clear. The author, co-founder of the so-called Club of Life in 1982-83, is a supporter of replacing the military strategy of deterrence with the strategy of anti-missile systems with beam weapons, so-called ABM systems, i.e., he is a direct forerunner of the military doctrine pronounced by Reagan about a year ago, which leads to qualitative re-armament and a possible 'war in space.'

"We are dealing here with a performance which offers little to the scientist and energy expert, and which is more suited to the analysis of late-capitalist ideologies including religious zealotry."