

Report from Bonn by Rainer Apel

Guillaume spy scandal reopened

Airing the scandal that toppled Brandt in 1974 may mean a counteroffensive against the "decouplers."

The massive diplomatic activity of appeasers into the East bloc is beginning to pose a threat to the Federal Republic of Germany. Especially the opposition Social Democrats (SPD), whose contacts with the East German Socialists (SED) are encouraged by Moscow and the European Desk of the U.S. State Department alike, have been acting as if the government of Christian Democratic Chancellor Kohl didn't exist.

In early June, the SPD executive sent a high-level delegation to East Berlin, to draft a proposal for a treaty banning chemical weapons in a joint working group with the SED. Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher and the State Department were consulted on that meeting—and rumors had it that something beyond chemical weapons was discussed. Two days after the delegation left East Berlin, Richard Burt and Thomas Niles of the State Department, and John Kornblum (formerly at Burt's European Desk, now head of the U.S. mission in West Berlin) traded four top Eastern spies for 22 less important Western spies on Glienicke Bridge in Berlin.

One week later, the SPD and the SED held a press briefing at the Federal Press Building in Bonn, to present their draft proposal for a ban on chemical weapons. What made this press briefing historic was the fact that the SED had sent *Hermann Axen*, its Politburo member in charge of subversive contacts in the West.

A couple of days later, SPD chairman Willy Brandt announced an upcoming visit to East Germany. The

aim of this trip, as he said, should be "to revive the dialogue with the East . . . which has been put asleep by the current Bonn government."

Brandt's announcement seemed to have roused some conservatives in Bonn. Several of Kohl's top spokesmen told the media, "These SPD-SED contacts undermine the official position of the government and the republic." Next, a three-part series was run by the daily, *Die Welt*, on the case of East Germany's top spy, Günter Guillaume, whose exposure toppled the German chancellor in April 1974. The chancellor forced to resign was none other than Willy Brandt: Guillaume had been his personal aide from January 1970 to April 1974.

Günter Guillaume, released from his West German prison in November 1981, now lives in East Germany. He was exchanged in the same way the four spies were traded by Richard Burt on June 12, on the same Glienicke Bridge. But even more interesting, *Die Welt* revealed that Guillaume has not retired from intelligence, but still works for the SED executive as an expert on the SPD and on Willy Brandt—and is involved in the preparations for Brandt's visit to the G.D.R.!

Die Welt, West Germany's leading newspaper, took this as the starting point for reopening the dossiers on the 1974 Guillaume affair. What is striking is that Guillaume's agent background was known in the West before he emigrated to West Germany in 1956. His files were known also in January 1970, when he applied for the

job of Chancellor Brandt's personal aide, but the files were not used. The Bonn interior ministry, which is in charge of the intelligence services and failed to act, was headed then by Hans-Dietrich Genscher, currently foreign minister under Kohl. Guillaume got security clearance on Jan. 28, 1970, from the head of the Chancellery, the same Horst Ehmke who is now one of the foremost theoreticians of the SPD-SED rapprochement, and for the economic, military, and political decoupling of Europe from the United States.

Guillaume's cover was blown in April 1974; Brandt had to resign; and Chancellor Helmut Schmidt (SPD) took over. But the West German protagonists of the Guillaume affair were not hurt. Brandt remained national chairman of the SPD, Genscher took over the foreign ministry, and Ehmke became one of the SPD's main foreign policy spokesmen. In September 1982, SPD chairman Brandt withdrew support from Schmidt, and Foreign Minister Genscher walked out of the coalition, toppling Schmidt on Oct. 1, 1982. Chancellor Helmut Kohl (CDU) was installed, and Genscher kept the foreign ministry.

Now, Brandt and Genscher are exchanging political overtures, and publicly assuring each other of common views against the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative and Chancellor Kohl. Everybody in Bonn thinks that the toppling of Kohl is at the top of their political agenda.

But more revelations on the intelligence webs of the Guillaume affair will come out. One of the sources who provided material to *Die Welt's* exposé told *EIR*: "There are certain aspects of the whole Guillaume case which have not even been made public yet. Publishing facts from the secret dossiers on the case, would end the careers of several politicians who are at the very top of political life in Bonn."