

Report from Bonn by George Grove

Ever lived next door to a bear?

The Russians have their own cute way of celebrating peace and progress among the peoples.

The Russians, in their own inimitable way, have celebrated the 15th anniversary of the Moscow Treaty by issuing a flow of threats and warnings to the German government. The Aug. 12, 1970 signing of the treaty between the Soviet Union and the Federal Republic of Germany was a milestone in then-Chancellor Willy Brandt's "Ostpolitik," the policy of appeasement toward the Kremlin.

Although current liberal Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher maintains a direct continuity in Bonn from the old Ostpolitik, the Soviets aren't very happy with Chancellor Helmut Kohl's pro-American orientation.

Among the more prominent Soviet spokesmen who have cared to deliver their friendly, good-neighborly advice to Kohl as to how he ought to conduct his affairs, are party ideologue Nikolai Portugalov, top foreign affairs spokesman Leonid Zamyatin, and last but not least, Communist Party chief Mikhail Gorbachov himself.

Publishing an op-ed in the Aug. 8 issue of the German liberal weekly *Die Zeit*, Portugalov first lauded the importance of the 1970 treaty: "The Moscow Treaty, which is for both sides a treaty on non-violence and abstention from territorial claims, put an end to the status of the Federal Republic as a defeated country." But this achievement, which Portugalov accredited to Brandt, is threatened now by the Kohl government, which sides with the "U.S. policy of war preparation" and with the Strategic Defense Initiative.

Only a strict return to the spirit of

Brandt's Ostpolitik, demanded Portugalov, will keep relations between Moscow and Bonn on the level of sovereign states. Portugalov's making the Federal Republic's sovereign status depend on Brandt's Ostpolitik, which he complained is now being dumped by Kohl, represents a barely-veiled threat of open aggression against Germany.

At the celebration of the anniversary in Moscow, Leonid Zamyatin, in his capacity as chairman of the Soviet-German Society, accused Kohl's government, which was not represented at the celebration, of revanchist tendencies. Without any objections from the ranking representative of Brandt's Social Democratic Party (SPD) present—Horst Ehmke, the vice-chairman of the SPD's Bonn parliamentary group—Zamyatin charged that Kohl's support for the SDI project meant to join a "U.S. policy of planned aggression against the U.S.S.R.," and thus violated the spirit of non-violence expressed in the Moscow Treaty. Zamyatin warned Bonn against "attempts to redraw the borders of post-war Europe," and threatened that "any deviation from the 1970 treaty would increase the danger of war in Europe."

Both Portugalov and Zamyatin were taking their cues from the Kremlin's new would-be Stalin, Mikhail Gorbachov. The Soviet chieftain used the occasion of the Moscow Treaty anniversary to write a letter to Brandt, thanking him personally for his Ostpolitik. Gorbachev issued a veiled, but clear threat against the current Kohl government, which he said represented a danger to the Soviet Union be-

cause it allowed Germany to "be turned into a launching-ground for U.S. first strike weapons [the Pershing II]."

On Aug. 15, the SPD issued a statement in Bonn, whining that Kohl gives merely verbal support for the French civilian high-technology program Eureka, but no money, and that he covertly propagates German participation in the SDI project. Genscher has tried to fill the Eureka project with life and money, but has failed due to Kohl's reluctance, the SPD charged.

The open collusion between the SPD and the Soviets in schemes aimed at threatening or toppling the Kohl government is becoming too much even for Kohl's own timid party, the Christian Democratic Union (CDU). The SPD's pro-Moscow orientation poses dangers to Germany, several CDU spokesmen have warned.

Heiner Geissler, Minister of Family Affairs in Bonn and CDU party manager, said the SPD's increasing anti-Americanism was motivated by "nationalistic neutralism." Once again, he said, the SPD was on that "fatal track towards making Germany a middle power between East and West"—a track which "has led to catastrophes of historical dimensions for the German people."

Honest Social Democrats, who have tried to oppose the SPD's current degeneration into a mouthpiece of Soviet views, were made targets of an inner-party witchhunt, as alleged "agents of the CDU," Geissler reported.

The Deputy Mayor of Berlin, Heinrich Lummer, also attacked the SPD's anti-Americanism, as "a vital threat to the future freedom of this city and its population." He furthermore accused Willy Brandt and other SPD leaders of allying themselves with Moscow's propaganda against the Bonn government.