

Report from Bonn by Rainer Apel

Left-wing riots introduce 'hot autumn'

Cheered on by Moscow, the mob rioting against the German government is also part of the "decoupling" strategy.

Since the last weekend of September, the Federal Republic of Germany has been swept by left-wing riots in some 20 major cities. The riots started when a coalition of anarchist and other left groups, the Green Party, and the DKP (German Communist Party) launched mass rallies against a political convention of the right-wing National Democratic Party in Frankfurt. The DKP was present with its local Frankfurt section, its youth organization SDAJ, and the VVN (pro-communist "Organization of Nazi Victims"). The VVN has been one of the prime transmission belts for Soviet black propaganda against alleged "resurfacing of revanchism and Nazism in West Germany." Thus, it came as no surprise that the verbiage at the Frankfurt rally on Sept. 27 was violent.

The riots which followed the official, "peaceful" rally featured street fights between rioters and the police with many injuries. One of the rioters, named Günter Sare, got accidentally knocked over by a police water-thruster, and died of his injuries. Now, the rioters had their martyr, and violence exploded all over the inner city of Frankfurt, with shop windows smashed, and molotov cocktails thrown into bank and business offices. Within two hours, so-called "sympathy manifestations" for the Frankfurt rioters were launched in at least 15 other West German cities, from Bremen, Hamburg, Berlin, Heidelberg, to Stuttgart, Ulm, and Freiburg. The material damage caused was estimat-

ed to be in the millions of deutsche-marks.

These riots were not "spontaneous," but rather appeared well-organized and prepared. Nor did they originate with only the usual violence-prone groups, which are notorious in cities like Hamburg, Berlin, and Frankfurt. What was different from previous riots was the fact that Radio Moscow covered them immediately as "justified mass protests against neo-Nazi tendencies in West Germany," and also the national executive of the DKP (based in Düsseldorf) endorsed the riots as "justified anti-fascist resistance." The DKP daily, *Unsere Zeit*, reported front page on the riots, denouncing alleged "police brutality," accusing the Bonn and Frankfurt authorities of allowing neo-Nazi organizations like the NPD to hold political events in public, and more such black propaganda.

Violent mobs of hundreds of people have rampaged through West German cities every single day since Sept. 27. This raises the question of who provides the money for such a continuous mobilization, because in various cases, rioters were brought in from other cities. The diaspora of left-wing and anarchist groups does not have the financial strength to sustain a lasting mobilization. The Green Party, however, has capabilities in its "solidarity funds," through which millions of marks are poured into the left-wing groups. But the DKP has most of the money; it is financed with annually DM50-60 million from East Ger-

many. Every political step the DKP takes is tightly coordinated with its financiers in East Berlin and Moscow. As in the case of the 1982-85 mass riots against the Frankfurt Airport runway project, the DKP's funds and printing facilities for mass-agitation pamphlets play a crucial role in sustaining the mobilization.

The DKP-promoted riots are not aimed against the NPD or other right-wing, neo-Nazi organizations. They are against the state, the established political parties, the police, and the juridical system of West Germany. This destabilization is worth millions to East Berlin and Moscow, obviously, because it increases the potential for political blackmail and intimidation from the Soviet Union directly.

But the mob mobilized for the riots also targets the Americans stationed in the Federal Republic. A lot of the left-wing agitation goes along the propaganda lines of the anti-defense movement, and it is the same circles which are involved in the mobilization. In the world view of a leftist, the connection between alleged "German revanchism" and "U.S. imperialism" is as obvious as it is for Soviet black propaganda. Posters have appeared around American garrison areas, showing pictures of President Reagan's visit to Germany in May 1985. The caption reads: "President Reagan Honored the SS in Bitburg."

The aforementioned VVN, which, by the way, cooperates closely with the U.S.-based Anti-Defamation League, played a major role in the black propaganda against Reagan's Germany trip, and especially against his trip to Bitburg. By making Reagan appear to be a politician conspiring with the old and new Nazis, the black propaganda sets all American soldiers stationed in the Federal Republic up for attacks, from "random violence" to outright terrorism.