

'Patriots for Germany' emerges as only hope for Christian Democrats

by Hartmut Cramer

When the Patriots for Germany movement was launched last October, it initiated a national campaign of political advertisements which warned that unless urgent measures were taken, the Federal Republic would face economic collapse and subjugation by the Soviet Empire. In the intervening months, the warnings have returned to haunt the governing coalition led by the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), as well as for leading politicians of the opposition Social Democratic Party (SPD).

The Patriots' third and most recent advertisement was published on Feb. 13 in *Die Welt*, the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, and several large regional newspapers in Lower Saxony. It warned that the tendency of the Christian Democrats in government to cave in to pressure from the Soviet appeasers among their Free Democrat coalition partners, could only weaken the government (see *EIR*, Feb. 28, 1986, page 37).

This analysis is more than confirmed by the tragic reality now unfolding in Bonn. The Free Democrats, led by Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, have progressively gained enormous power in determining the Federal Republic's security, economic, foreign, and domestic policies. In so doing, they have squandered what little public sympathy remained for Christian Democratic Chancellor Helmut Kohl. The weakened chancellor is now also plagued by scandal, and is enmired in what has been dubbed a "Kohlgate," and which may actually force his resignation from power (see article, page 43).

Moreover, because of the combined actions of Moscow, Moscow's friends in Bonn, and the relentless pressure of the U.S. State Department and the U.S. embassy in Bonn, even outspoken anti-Soviet Christian Democratic hardliners, such as CDU parliamentary caucus chairman Alfred Dregger, have begun to cave in.

The role of U.S. Ambassador Richard Burt should not be underestimated in seeking to understand the collapse of the formerly nationalist and pro-American members of the CDU. Burt, who is part of a State Department triumvirate working to undermine West German sovereignty, has become noto-

rious for activities other than his already outrageous statements in support of the terrorist, Soviet-financed Green Party.

February was a gleeful month for Moscow and its satraps in the Social Democratic Party. SPD chairman Willy Brandt proved that he can now call the tune for the "strong" politicians of the CDU without hesitation. When Brandt invited Dregger, in his capacity as head of the Upper House of Parliament, to violate the German constitution by meeting officially with his East German counterpart, Dregger promptly did so. Dregger, who had refused a similar invitation last year, met with the head of the East German Parliament at Brandt's request, even though he knew that Moscow and East Berlin would capitalize on this as a further signal in the direction of West German recognition of East Germany.

As if that were not enough, Dregger humiliated himself further by choosing that time to accept a proposal from the most radical of Social Democrats, Oskar Lafontaine, the man made notorious by his outspoken support for pulling Germany out of NATO. As per Lafontaine's request, Dregger has now come to advocate the construction of a governmental "partnership" between the Federal Republic and East Germany.

Given these circumstances, the prospects for the CDU in the next elections are worse than bad. Not only have Genscher and fellow Free Democrat, Finance Minister Martin Bangemann, taken control of foreign, security, and economic policy; they are now openly taking over domestic policy as well. The CDU has already been terrified by the results of last spring's parliamentary elections, where approximately 20% of its base deserted the party in protest against the "Genscher tendency" in the CDU.

The fear that this "rejection effect" could repeat itself in the upcoming elections in the state of Lower Saxony runs deep. And it is ultimately justified. Helmut Kohl, head of the CDU, is not exactly popular, and has been visibly hurt by the "Kohlgate" scandal.

For those who wished to send the CDU a message through their involvement with the Patriots for Germany, these de-

velopments come as no surprise. "I didn't abandon the CDU; rather, this party abandoned me years ago," a CDU mayor with years of service in Lower Saxony stated, explaining his decision to sign the third Patriots' advertisement. "I have more and more come to advocate the Christian values which the CDU once undertook to defend. But the CDU doesn't any longer."

A former union functionary declared: "The CDU has done nothing for middle-class producers. They have *betrayed the middle class for years*. In the last 10 years alone, over 140,000 German retail businesses have been ruined. The only ones that have done well in this area have been the auditors."

In agriculture, things look the same: According to agricultural reports, 20,000 agricultural businesses will cease production this year alone in the Federal Republic. The program of the CDU government in Lower Saxony includes subsidies for taking fertile agricultural land out of cultivation, and financial incentives for "ethanol production," that is, the production of gasoline out of food. No wonder that farmers are deserting the CDU in droves.

Since the CDU has given up any effort to link economic and cultural policy with Christian ethics—a connection formulated in December 1985 by Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, and widely publicized by the Patriots with their advertisements—it is hardly surprising that many former CDU followers have responded to the Patriots with these words: "Finally, there is again someone who represents the values of a Christian party and understands at the same time how to get youth enthusiastic about classical culture."

Panic in the CDU leadership

How is the CDU leadership reacting to the prospect that the Patriots will mobilize precisely the voters who are now deserting the CDU in droves? "With panic," according to Volker Hassmann, a spokesman for the Patriots. "Of course, the well-known composure which the CDU puts on show for the public won't change at all. But behind the scenes, things look quite different.

"Many of those who signed have told us," Hassmann said, "that they were pressured by their CDU 'friends' to renege on their signatures. The slogan 'enemy, deadly enemy, party enemy,' which the CDU formerly enjoyed throwing around so much, seems to be current again today.

"But none of that will keep us Patriots from standing up for Germany. When the future of Germany and the West are at stake, petty party considerations must take second place. The Patriots will work further to make sure that traditional CDU voters, above all the middle class and the farmers, have a political home. Mafia-style tactics, by which some of the CDU leadership in Hanover and Bonn are trying to put pressure on some signers of the Patriots' advertisements, will not change that. Some signers may be frightened off; others are even threatened with the destruction of their economic existence.

"If CDU politicians are bragging about the fact that they have already 'won back' some of the signers, they'll get some more headaches," Hassmann said with confidence, "when they find out how many of those will further represent the program of the Patriots *in the CDU*; then they won't be able to rest as easily as I."

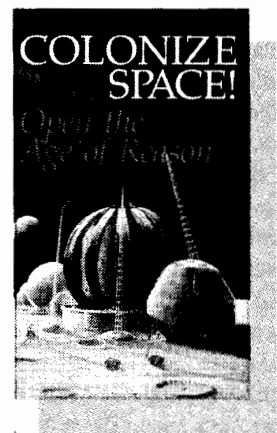
According to Hassmann, the CDU leadership was not alone their panicked reaction to the Hassmann, the CDU leadership was not alone their panicked reaction to the Patriots' mobilization; the leadership of the SPD has also gotten nervous. "Those gentlemen don't want to show it so openly, since they see themselves totally on the road to victory. But the attractiveness and the practicality of the Patriots' program is causing Willy Brandt and his fellows considerable worry. Primarily because they, exactly like Geissler, are obviously steering toward a grand CDU/SPD coalition, which will create a tremendous potential for the Patriots, not only in the CDU, but also in the SPD.

"The many hundreds of telephone calls and letters received in the Patriots' office in the first few days after the third advertisement show clearly," Hassmann concluded, "that the political influence of the Patriots has increased enormously in the last months. The next months will show that we know how to make this influence work for Germany."

Colonize Space! Open the Age of Reason

*From New
Benjamin
Franklin
House
Publishing
Co., Inc.*

Proceedings of
the Krafft A.
Ehrlicke
Memorial
Conference
June 1985



Sponsored by the Fusion Energy Foundation and
the Schiller Institute
ISBN: 0-933488-41-6

Order from: Ben Franklin Booksellers, Inc., 27
South King St., Leesburg, Va 22075

\$9.95 plus shipping (\$1.50 for first book, \$.50 for
each additional book).