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## A Front-Line Campaign

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# Patriots for Germany launch election drive in Lower Saxony

Just before the election offices closed on May 12 in the state of Lower Saxony, a new political party was born in the Federal Republic of Germany. To the shock of the nation's predominantly liberal news media, the Patriots for Germany stepped forward to officially file 100 candidates for the June 15 state legislative elections, with all the petitions and other legal requirements signed and sealed. That is one candidate for each of the state's 100 election districts.

The new party has vowed to rally the population of West Germany to reject the pressures of both Moscow and the Western "decouplers," and to uphold the Western alliance. At the same time, the Patriots will mobilize for urgent measures to restore the world economy.

We can be sure that these developments in Lower Saxony are being watched in Moscow with about as much anxiety as the latest reports from the Chernobyl "disaster zone."

At the party's election congress in the state capital of Hanover on May 4, Renate Müller, the top candidate on the Patriots' slate, explained that the weakness of the ruling Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and the treachery of the opposition Social Democratic Party (SPD) have necessitated the founding of the Patriots at this time. The CDU is under constant blackmail pressure from the tiny Free Democratic Party (FDP) of "decoupler" Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the foreign minister. The SPD, on the other hand, is obscenely courting the environmentalist-fascist Greens, in hopes of regaining the government and breaking off all collaboration with the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative—as Moscow has ordered. Müller described the policies of the Patriots: No decoupling from the U.S.A., no neutralization of Germany, yes to NATO, extensive collaboration with the Strategic Defense Initiative, and work on a European Defense Initiative.

She emphasized that the economic problems of Lower Saxony, a largely agrarian state that has been devastated by the agricultural crisis, can only be solved on an international basis. "The world economic crisis is our chief security problem," she said. "The budget cuts in the United States under the Gramm-Rudman law are endangering NATO, and sooner or later will lead to the withdrawal of American troops from Europe. And here, the economic crisis is hitting the 'forgotten majority,' those who in Illinois nominated the two La-Rouche Democrats, Mark Fairchild and Janice Hart. The solution to the crisis is simple and international: long-term,

low-interest credits to the debt-strapped developing countries as well as to hard-pressed farms and factories; a global debt adjustment; destruction of the International Monetary Fund and the establishment of a new just economic order in the world."

### The importance of Lower Saxony

The June 15 elections in Lower Saxony are important for a number of reasons. First, they will be widely interpreted as a preview of federal elections throughout West Germany next year. Current polls give Christian Democratic Chancellor Helmut Kohl a very poor chance of remaining in office. He would probably be replaced by Johannes Rau of the SPD, with the backing of the Green Party.

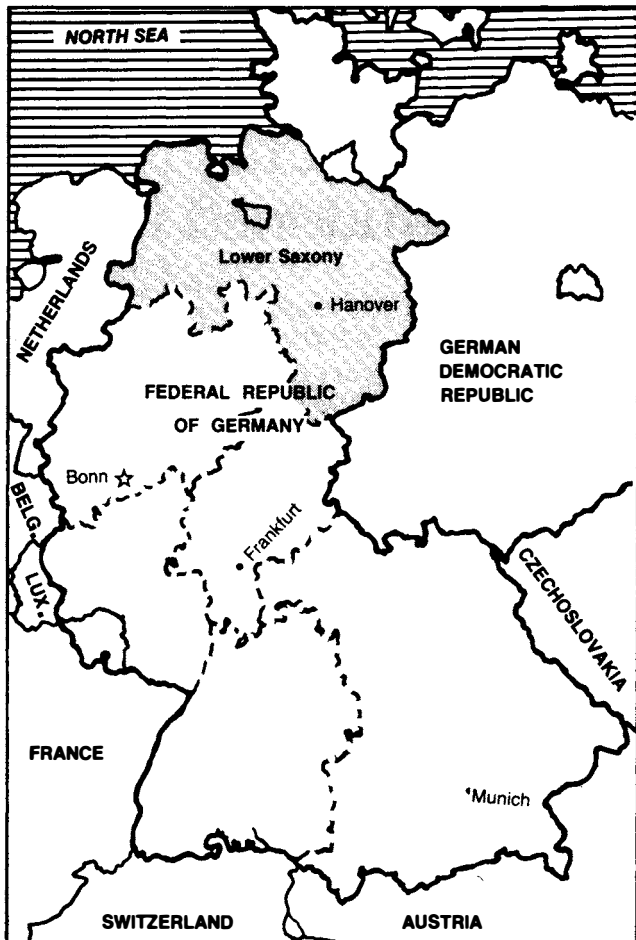
Already, this arrangement is being described as a "Watermelon Coalition"—green on the outside, red on the inside. If Kohl is replaced with such a coalition, that government would implement a promise the SPD-Green leaders have already made—to join the Soviet bloc in a "nuclear-free zone," making Russia the dominant force in Western Europe.

This plan has the approval of traitors in the United States. A number of U.S. State Department officials have privately confided that they have already "written Germany off," and so-called American conservatives around the Heritage Foundation, are pushing for a U.S. troop withdrawal, to "punish the ungrateful Europeans" by leaving them to Moscow's mercy. This is a gameplan for the speedy collapse of the United States, which is too weak economically, militarily, and culturally to face Russia without support from Europe.

Lower Saxony is situated on West Germany's northern plains, only a few kilometers from the Warsaw Pact tanks and missile-carriers. For Americans, the Russians may seem far away at times; but for these citizens, the concentration camp which is East Germany is all too real.

But because Chancellor Kohl and other pro-American West German leaders have embraced the "free market" stupidities of the Reagan administration, the country is in the throes of a devastating economic crisis. Lower Saxony is predominantly agricultural, and thousands of farmers—who up to now have supported the ruling conservative coalition—are quitting in disgust as they see their government doing nothing to halt the wave of farm shutdowns.

According to the present forecasts, the conservative CDU



state government of Ernst Albrecht will probably lose to a Watermelon Coalition.

As late as six months ago, there seemed no possibility of changing that outcome. However, in November 1985, a series of advertisements appeared in West Germany's major national-circulation newspapers, signed by the Patriots for Germany, and calling for a new movement to save West Germany from being "decoupled" from the West. In what some observers described as an "underground political earthquake," word of the new initiative spread rapidly. Members of middle-size industry and middle-class entrepreneurs driven into bankruptcy, conservative politicians disgusted with their government's capitulation to East bloc pressure on such issues as participation in the Strategic Defense Initiative, outraged farmers, and Social Democrats disenfranchised by their pro-Moscow party leadership responded enthusiastically, flooding the Patriots' office with letters and telephone calls.

The Soviet KGB responded with a barrage of threats and intimidation. But the achievement of a full slate now makes the Patriots into a major party in the elections. According to German election law, the party will enter the state legislature if it wins at least 5% of the total vote in the state. But its spokesmen say it aims at much more than that.

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## Interview: Karlheinz Derbfuss

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### 'The middle class is being wiped out'

*Karlheinz Derbfuss ran a supermarket in Melle before his retirement. He was a member of the board of the Retail Traders' Association of Osnabruck-Emsland and is a member of the Chamber of Industry and Commerce of Osnabruck. He was a co-founder of Patriots for Germany, and is now a member of its state executive committee. Here are excerpts from an interview published in the weekly newspaper Neue Solidarität.*

**Q:** Mr. Derbfuss, you are a member of the state executive committee of the Patriots for Germany in Lower Saxony and a candidate in the 81st election district, in Melle. How did you come to join the Patriots for Germany?

**Derbfuss:** A couple of months ago, I met two of my current colleagues organizing in the street, and discovered that their views corresponded to a large extent with my own. I set about to find out more about these ideas. After long consideration, reading newspapers and books, especially those of Mrs. Helga Zepp-LaRouche, I came to the conclusion that the only way to end the misery which we find in Germany and in the world, is for us to come forward publicly as patriots. After much discussion, we finally decided on the founding of a party on March 23, 1986, since only a party can really take part in political life and realize political conceptions.

**Q:** You are first of all opposed to the SPD [Social Democrats] and the Greens?

**Derbfuss:** Yes, I am convinced that both of these parties are on Moscow's line. When I think, for example, about Gerhard Schröder of the Lower Saxony SPD—who wants to become governor of the state, who had previously participated in the riots of the political leftists in Berlin, and who, according to what I have heard, worked in the office of lawyer Schily for many years [Otto Schily, Green Party leader and lawyer for terrorists—ed]—that's enough for me. And then when I find out about his numerous trips to the G.D.R. [East Germany], particularly his meetings with Erich Honecker [East German party chief], then I really get the feeling that he is trying to sell us out to the East.

**Q:** What about the CDU [Christian Democratic Union]?

**Derbfuss:** Oh, the CDU! When I look at the list of candidates that the CDU in Lower Saxony has put forward for the