

Anti-nuclear riots hit Wackersdorf nuclear facility

by Rainer Apel

The Bavarian village of Wackersdorf became, over the May 17-18 weekend, the synonym for a new quality of mob violence against the state. Under the pretext of protesting against nuclear technology, terrorists and their "peaceful" supporters gathered at the site, where construction of Germany's planned nuclear-fuel reprocessing plant is going on. The demonstrators called for an end to nuclear technology, which they claimed had been proven "dangerous to man" at Chernobyl.

Lodging at a camp of several hundred wooden huts and tents, more than 4,000 prepared themselves for the big rally on Pentecost Sunday.

On Sunday morning, May 18, the main rally of several thousand moved toward the construction site, which was guarded by about 1,000 policemen with water cannons posted behind the construction fences. Slogans proclaimed, "Nuclear power means war to the people," or that "Wackersdorf will build the German A-bomb."

Then, having come close enough to the construction fence, an estimated 1,200-1,300 demonstrators formed a mob to fight the policemen with slingshots, steel bolts, stones, firecrackers, and Molotov cocktails. After the melee, 183 policemen were left injured, with 24 of them having received serious injuries such as bone fractures. Had there not been massive use of tear gas, dropped from police helicopters, the violence would most likely have left several policemen dead on the scene.

Police spokesmen, caught off guard by the rioting, were in a state of shock. The character of the attack was new, since the mob advanced in three waves. The first provoked the police to move outside the fence and counterattack the mob, to make some arrests. Then the second wave hit the police with full brutality, and the surprised police squads were then hit by the third wave, which carried out targeted attacks on individual policemen. Firecrackers and Molotov cocktails were thrown into the faces of policemen, as well as steel bolts and sharp steel splinters.

Police response was made more difficult by the fact that the hard-core terrorists were operating out from the other 3,000 "non-violent" protesters gathered close to the fences, and withdrew there after every new assault. This served the

violent mob as sort of "human wall" against the police. This technique had been perfected by the radical anti-nuclear movement several times before, at other nuclear power projects, or at the Frankfurt Airport runway construction site.

The scene at Wackersdorf was accompanied by acts of violence and sabotage against railroad tracks, electricity towers, police stations, and trains, for several kilometers around. At the same time the mob was attacking the police at the construction fence in Wackersdorf, another, smaller mob stopped a passenger train between Schwandorf and Fuerth, smashed windows, stole fire extinguishers, and harassed passengers. Several hours later, a freight train was stopped, the cars were decoupled, and the conductor's cabin bombarded with stones. The conductor managed to flee with his locomotive, leaving the freight cars behind, which were demolished by the mob. Numerous police cars and vehicles belonging to companies working on the construction at Wackersdorf—even several kilometers distance from the main construction site—were set on fire or smashed.

The logistical operation of the mob was carried out by squads of between 30 and 50 heavy motorbikes, which circumvented the police barricades on the roads. In several cases, police managed to stop such squads only at gun-point, but without being able to arrest anyone. Radio communication was used by the mob during the whole operation to connect the various confrontation theaters and to report on police moves.

The riots continued on Monday, May 19, with more sabotage of railroad tracks, attacks against police cars around Wackersdorf, and the like. Telephone poles were cut and barricades built on roads. On Sunday night, a high-voltage electricity tower was demolished.

On Monday morning, a group of 30 policemen in two vans drove into an ambush of about 1,200 protesters, of which 300 began attacking the vans directly. Police helicopters had to fly in at low altitude to fire tear gas grenades into the mob. Police spokesman said later that the scene had been "close to a catastrophe," close also to the use of guns by the encircled police. Officials stated that the use of firearms would have been fully justified in this life-threatening situation.

The riots and acts of sabotage continued throughout Monday night. Railroad tracks were blocked by trees in several locations, telephone poles destroyed, and windows of police stations in the region smashed. On Tuesday, a mob of about 50 on heavy motorbikes attacked a police station, with the intention to free three rioters imprisoned there. Again, the mob was chased away only at gun-point.

On Tuesday, police finally had brought in enough reinforcements to be able to clear out the rioters' encampment. This removed at least one of the logistical bases from where the mob had been operating, but acts of sabotage continued.

Of about 1,200 violent rioters, police succeeded in arresting only 22. As we go to press, police are braced for further violence on June 7, when the anti-nuclear protesters are threatening to break the ban on further demonstrations at

the site, and renew their offensive.

Behind the masks

While the identity of more than 1,000 of the Wackersdorf masked rioters was not determined, their origin is certainly known. The Pentecost riots had been building for several months, and were prepared propagandistically and logistically by the same groups which had launched the violent anti-nuclear riots of previous years.

Tageszeitung, one of the principal mouthpieces of the pro-terrorist underground in West Germany, had already mentioned long before that groups from Brokdorf, Lueneburg, and Grohnde were part of the mobilization against the Wackersdorf project. These were the sites where the first violent mass riots occurred against nuclear power, during the period from 1977 to 1981. Also groups from the anti-runway movement at Frankfurt Airport were pouring into the area. The anti-runway movement, which emerged in late 1981, has turned into a training ground for violence-prone groups, which can test their mobility and strength against the police guarding the runway area.

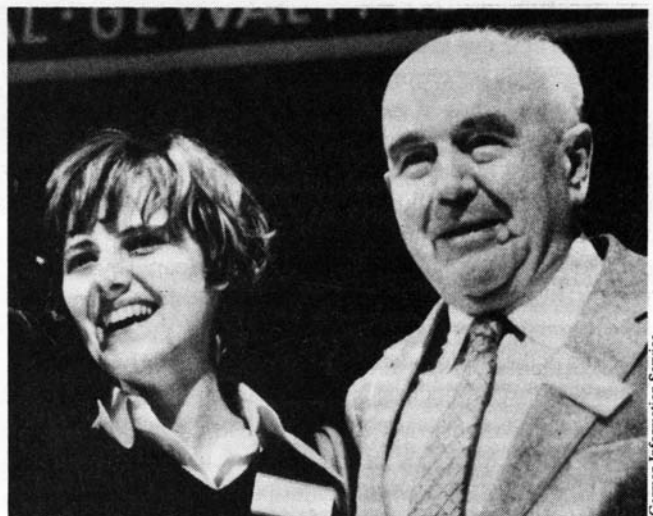
It is from the anti-runway movement that connections to violent opponents of Japan's Narita Airport, have been cultivated over the years. It is from the Narita-Frankfurt connection, that the image of civil war against the state has been built up in the minds of the most radical groups. Film clips of the bloody battles between the Narita protesters and the Japanese police in the early 1970s have been shown at "solidarity events," as well as films of the violent riots at the German nuclear power sites Brokdorf (1977-81), Grohnde (1978-80), and Gorleben (1979-81).

The 10-12,000 violence-prone "streetfighters" in Germany, organized around the Revolutionary Cells, the "Autonomous" movement, the Nicaragua Solidarity Committees, various anarchistic grouplets, and the like have declared Wackersdorf the center of violent confrontation with the West German state, which they call "the pig system."

These groups hold public meetings; their intentions are known, as are their targets. The so-called Anti-Imperialist Congress of 900-1,000 extremists, which took place at Frankfurt University in February 1986, discussed the formation of a European-wide terror front, as well as the importance of the anti-nuclear movement. A document of more than 60 pages was circulated among congress participants, which mentioned Wackersdorf as one of the "fronts," where the linkage of terrorist, anti-NATO, and anti-nuclear-power groups had to occur.

Thus, it came as no surprise, that portraits of Ulrike Meinhof and Gudrun Ensslin, two of the founders of the Red Army Faction terrorist gang, appeared on posters at the rioters' camp at Wackersdorf as early as in March 1986.

Several generations of radical squatters, ecology extremists, "anti-imperialists," punks, and motorbike gangs have helped to produce a hard core of about 2,000 German youth willing to commit violence against the state. This circle of



Green Party leader Petra Kelly is shown here with August Haussleiter (right), whose Nazi past was exposed in 1980, leading to his resignation from the party.

German Information Service

extremists, which overlaps the terrorist organizations of the Red Army Faction, the Revolutionary Cells, and the "Autonomous," has built its own health service, its own communication network, its own logistics, its own police countersurveillance, and can be assembled by telephone chains at any point in Germany in 24 hours.

There are around 10,000 fellow-travelers of the hard-core terrorists, who would join acts of violence at little risk to life or limb. They build encampments and help with the logistics—from food, blankets, and radios, to megaphones and munitions needed for sabotage. These groups are violence-prone enough to cause problems for the police, even when they gang up in mobs smaller than the one at Wackersdorf. The police in West Germany have had bloody experience with them for more than 15 years, and clashes have become more violent over the past 7 or 8 years.

In direct confrontations with such groups, the police, who are under a great deal of pressure not to use weapons, can gain the upper hand only if they have a clear majority over the rioters. At Wackersdorf, 1,000 policemen confronted more than 1,000 rioters, who were committed to kill. This problem will be addressed further, later in this report.

The role of the Greens

Law enforcement officials are confronted, however, with a much more difficult political problem in dealing with such riots. Eleven years of campaigns for ecology and against nuclear power have produced several hundred thousand German citizens, who consider a "green" issue a higher value than the state and its institutions. All in all, the ecology movement in West Germany adds up to more than 2 million citizens—the voting base of the Green Party.

Not only is the Green Party a harbor for terrorists, with some of them even seated in state and federal parliaments; it has also become the main political mouthpiece for anti-nu-

clear hysteria. The Green Party held its national convention just at the time that the riots at Wackersdorf were developing, and cheered on the terrorist victories. The convention, which took place in Hanover, more than 500 km from Wackersdorf, was in close communication with the rioters. When the news about the first bloody clashes and the casualties inflicted on the police at Wackersdorf was communicated to the convention delegates, they applauded enthusiastically.

The atmosphere in Hanover had been prepared by leading Greens like national executive member Rainer Trampert, who termed "every single one of the 374 nuclear power reactors in the world a declaration of war against humanity." He added that all nuclear projects had to be stopped, since they were "acts of state terrorism" and "nuclear murder against the people."

The Wackersdorf project, the planned construction of Germany's reprocessing plant for spent nuclear fuels, was declared a "project to build a German nuclear bomb." This absurd charge sounded like the propaganda put out by the Soviets, the East bloc, and the German Communist Party (DKP). There may have been more than just "verbal agreement" of the Greens with the Soviets: Trampert had been in Moscow, conferring with Soviet President Andrei Gromyko and other Kremlin officials, just a few days before the Green convention in Hanover began.

The way the Greens reacted to the Chernobyl disaster indicated how much they view the world through the screen of the Kremlin's propaganda. They called the nuclear accident "a warning to mankind," and called for the immediate closing down of nuclear reactors in Germany. For the first three weeks after the Chernobyl accident, the Greens refused to say a single critical word against the Soviets, because they didn't want "to join ranks with the anti-Soviet campaign in the Western media."

The post-Chernobyl hysteria campaign in Germany about how nuclear radiation would contaminate West German food, was whipped up prominently by the Greens, who considered this a transmission belt for their mobilization against Wackersdorf. Green Party member Joschka Fischer, minister of ecology affairs in the state of Hesse, first boycotted an effort by his minister colleagues in the other states to get the hysteria under control; then he marched ahead with extreme decrees banning the sale of all fresh produce in Hesse, and then he presented a document calling for the "withdrawal from nuclear technology at all costs."

Fischer is prominently linked to the anti-Wackersdorf mobilization. On Dec. 12, 1985, he was sworn in as minister of ecology affairs in Hesse, and two days later he appeared as one of the prominent guests at the anti-nuclear encampment near Wackersdorf. For several years, Fischer has been co-publisher of the Frankfurt rag *Pflasterstrand*, which is a mouthpiece for numerous violent groups, including the movement against the Frankfurt Airport runway. *Pflasterstrand* is also one of the most anti-American publications in the Frankfurt region.

Apart from the Green Party leadership, the organizers of the anti-Wackersdorf project itself also maintain direct contact to Moscow. The leader of the ecology group at Amberg (in the vicinity of Wackersdorf), Helmut Wilhelm, who is one of the organizers of the protest actions leading up to the Pentecost riots, spent time in Moscow in January. He had been invited by the Soviets, who had already lyingly attacked the Wackersdorf project as part of "a plan to build a German nuclear bomb."

The German Communist Party

Far more important than the more numerous, but also heteronomous Greens, is the tiny German Communist Party (DKP). A proto-Stalinist cadre organization, dependent on an annual subsidy of 50-60 million deutschemarks (\$22-26 million) from East Germany, the DKP has been a central element in the emerging of the West German anti-nuclear movement.

The DKP has helped, with funds, manpower, and its printing capacities, to build the movement against nuclear power since the mid-seventies. Its party organ, *Unsere Zeit (UZ)*, has been a mouthpiece of the anti-nuclear and anti-American movement for more than 10 years. Soviet nuclear technology has never been attacked by *UZ*, naturally. The DKP also played a prominent role in building and broadening the mass movement against the "NATO airport project" of the Frankfurt runway between 1981 and 1983. The DKP printing press also did good service to slander critics of the movement as "CIA agents."

Thus it came as no surprise, that from the very beginning of the protest actions against Wackersdorf, the DKP was present. Members of the DKP from the region around Wackersdorf helped to build the first anti-nuclear encampment in August 1985, and the second one in December 1985. At the end of 1985, *UZ* reported: "The chairman of the Regensburg DKP section personally helped to raise the wooden cross of resistance" in the encampment. On Jan. 7, 1986, *UZ* revealed: "In the construction of the camp, the logistical supply, DKP members from Oberpfalz [the region around Wackersdorf—ed.] participated. At the same time, the communists organized information campaigns in the cities."

Since then, the DKP and its press have given the growing protest movement against Wackersdorf regular support. The DKP press portrayed the riots of Pentecost weekend as "police brutality" against the protesters.

The DKP has maintained a certain political distance, at least for public purposes, from the Greens. It sticks to the idea of a "popular front," rather than an organizational merger with other parties. This leaves room for political and financial blackmail, for changes of alliances, and shifting political emphasis. The DKP has, for example, defended Soviet nuclear reactors even after Chernobyl, attacked nuclear power in the Western countries, criticized the Greens as "irrational," and at the same time, supported the movement against Wackersdorf—all without any ideological problems.

If politically convenient, more direct alliances are made, however, and in the case of the movement against Wackersdorf, the DKP has dropped its caution and merged with the Greens for the Bavarian state elections in October. Thus the DKP's election front, "Peace List," has placed its member Schramm on the slate which the Green Party from Mittelfranken is fielding in the upcoming elections. Mittelfranken is the region directly neighboring on the Oberpfalz region, where Wackersdorf is located, and contributed a sizeable contingent to the recent riots.

In addition to the direct infiltration of the green and anti-nuclear movement by DKP cadre, one must not forget the direct role of the East German intelligence service in steering these movements. A report of the West German federal interior ministry mentions "active measures against the nuclear industry in the Federal Republic of Germany" as part of the long list of "active measures" aimed at destabilizing the state. The report, which was published in February 1985, says:

According to current evaluations, the Chief Investigation Department of the Ministry for State Security (MfS) [the central East German intelligence service—ed.] had plans in the mid-70s for long-term measures directed at severely disrupting the economic development and economic capabilities of Germany. Through influence and support of press campaigns against the supposed dangers of nuclear power designed for civilian use, the intent was to achieve a broad mobilization of the population against nuclear facilities.

As an example of a planned but ultimately not realized action, there were deliberations in the MfS to deposit small, harmless amounts of radioactive substances in the surroundings of nuclear power stations or processing plants. The projected nuclear processing plant of Gorleben was chosen as a target. For reasons of political opportunity, this measure was delayed. The MfS reasoned that it would be a bigger success, if the project could be hit with such a measure shortly before the completion of the plant.

Traditionally, West German intelligence services and the media are ordered by the faction of the government around Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher to "keep their hands off" such stories.

Social Democrats join the fray

The German Social Democrats (SPD) are playing a leading part in the escalation of the anti-nuclear destabilization. Opposing the Wackersdorf project from its very beginning, SPD officials in the Wackersdorf district have played the main role in legal sabotage of the plant. The two district commissioners, Hans Schuierer and Benno Zierer, responsible for the administration of the Wackersdorf district, have delayed the beginning of construction of the reprocessing plant, and encouraged the actions of the "movement."

Both Schuierer and Zierer were regular participants in anti-nuclear rallies on the site, and both have attacked the police for "brutality against peaceful demonstrators." Police actions prior to the latest confrontations were called "terrorism in its pure form" by Schuierer, and he has not changed his view even after the Pentecost riots, but attacked the Bavarian government. Schuierer is now facing disciplinary charges by his superiors.

On a national level, the SPD has denounced the Wackersdorf project, and called for the end to all nuclear construction activity in West Germany after Chernobyl. Concerning the Greens, the SPD pursues a policy of close political alliance, and in the state of Hesse, has even formed a coalition government with them. The SPD also maintains close contacts to the liberal Free Democrats on anti-police and anti-nuclear issues (the Free Democrats have also denounced the Wackersdorf project).

Because of its position of power nationally, the SPD plays a much more destructive role than the Greens and DKP taken together. The SPD forms a political shelter for both the Greens and the DKP, helping them to proceed with their subversive activities. For the SPD, the two minor parties and the "movement" are pawns in its game to decouple West Germany from the U.S. nuclear umbrella, and then from membership in NATO. Encouraging the movement against nuclear power, means an entry into a mass movement against nuclear weapons for the SPD.

SPD executive member Erhard Eppler, addressing a major anti-nuclear rally at Wackersdorf on Feb. 12, summed up this political game, when he defended the radical ecologists: "I always keep telling my friends in the SPD, these are your friends, they make your policy possible."

The Bavarian state section of the SPD, which wants to topple Franz-Josef Strauss, Bavaria's pro-nuclear governor and the chairman of the Christian Social Union party, in the upcoming state elections in October, has documented how these "friends" indeed make their policy possible. When on March 16, riots near Wackersdorf injured 22 policemen, Bavarian Justice Minister Lang accused the SPD of having encouraged the clashes through its alliance with the "movement," and of "allying with enemies of the state." The SPD parliamentary group marched out of parliament in protest, demanding that Lang resign or be dismissed from office. On all issues pertaining to security questions, the SPD has boycotted the parliamentary sessions ever since, as a sign of "fundamental disagreement."

Since this incident, and even more so since Chernobyl, SPD spokesmen have repeatedly charged the Bavarian government and the police with "exaggeration" and "brutality." On Easter day, the whole state executive of the Bavarian SPD joined ranks with the anti-nuclear movement at Wackersdorf for an "Easter rally." This one remained relatively non-violent, however.

During the Pentecost demonstration, the SPD prominents did not put in an appearance at Wackersdorf. SPD state slate-

leader Fred Hiersemann and his energy policy spokesman Hans Kolo, one of the leading anti-nuclear voices in the Bavarian SPD, were in East Berlin the day after the bloody clashes of Wackersdorf. They were shaking hands with Socialist Unity Party chairman Erich Honecker and discussing "ecology issues" with him. This meeting was a public gesture from both sides, but certainly an encouragement of the Bavarian SPD's anti-nuclear policy by the political leader of the East German regime.

Requirements for the security forces

Very few political leaders in Germany have responded adequately to the new escalation of violence. The CDU/CSU federal parliamentary faction chief, Alfred Dregger, commented on the Wackersdorf riots: "For the first time after the Hitler dictatorship, the threat is not coming from the outside, but from within." He added that under red-green alliances, democratic rule would be abolished. "The right of the fist would take over more and more, as it did under the rule of the brown power."

State Attorney General Kurt Rebmann also issued a harsh warning: The rioters of Wackersdorf represent a possible pool of personnel for the terrorist Red Army Faction, Revolutionary Cells, and other autonomous terror-groups. The spokesman for the conservative police union came out with similar statements.

For years, competent security and police specialists have demanded effective measures against the escalation of street violence. The first measure must be the creation of a federally effective special file on violent rioters and the terrorist support apparatus, which would allow effective police measures *before* violence breaks out. This measure was constantly sabotaged by former interior minister Gerhard Baum, a Free Democrat, until 1983. Since then, SPD- and SPD/Green-governed states have kept up such sabotage of internal security. Anti-police groups controlled by Greens, Communist Party specialists, or even "former" terrorists have gained influence.

A second urgent measure is the reinstatement of the anti-riot law which was thrown out in 1970, when the Willy Brandt government took over and started a vast sweep against the German security apparatus. This law guaranteed efficient crowd control, since if violence were committed, the police could issue three warnings, and if unheeded, then the whole crowd, violent or "nonviolent," could be subject to arrest or other measures. Today violent criminals can always hide behind the human wall of "nonviolent" demonstrators, preventing police measures and resulting in almost no arrests.

Another requirement is the introduction of police shotguns and pistols designed for anti-riot ammunition, which could keep attacking crowds at a distance of 50 meters.

These minimal measures will have to be implemented immediately, in order to demonstrate that the state is not willing to compromise with the kind of mob rule which destroyed the Weimar Republic in the early 1930s.

State Department courts the Greens

by Scott Thompson

Since the founding of the fascist Green Party in 1979, a dialogue has been underway with these modern "Brown-shirts," which is reminiscent of the U.S. Eastern Establishment's attempts in the 1920s and 1930s to coopt Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini. This traitorous *pas de deux* with the Green fascists, one of the greatest U.S. foreign-policy blunders since World War II, has been coordinated by the New York-based Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), the Eastern Establishment's flagship institution, through its members in the U.S. State Department.

The State Department's "dialogue" with the Green fascists was the secret backdrop against which Greens staged violent demonstrations against U.S. bases in West Germany. When Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger protested against the State Department's policy of turning a blind eye to these actions, sources report that he was overruled by an irate Secretary of State George Shultz.

Since CFR member Shultz has held office, the State Department has had an "open door" policy of talking to all opposition forces within allied nations, including those linked to that Soviet-backed, "state-sponsored terrorism" which Shultz publicly decries. So the State Department meets with West Germany's Green fascists, and organizes tours for them in the United States, although it is well known that Green leader Petra Kelly knew terrorist leader Muammar Qaddafi before co-founding the Green Party, which has received covert Libyan funds to stage violent demonstrations against U.S. bases in Europe.

Ambassadors or traitors?

Even after the "low-intensity warfare" staged by the Greens and the German Communist Party (DKP) at the construction site of the Wackersdorf nuclear reprocessing facility in Bavaria, Arthur Burns, former Federal Reserve Board chairman (1970-78) and U.S. ambassador to West Germany (1981-85), believes that reports of Green Party ties to terrorism are "exaggerated."

It was Burns, an influential CFR member, who initiated the State Department's dialogue with the Green Party, taking its leaders Petra Kelly, Gen. (ret.) Gert Bastian, and terrorist