
Conference Report

West German Protestant Church prepares to bolt to Moscow

by Luba George

From June 17 to June 21, the leadership of the West German Protestant Church (EKD) staged its bi-annual Church Congress in Frankfurt. The theme which pervaded the conference was, "Reconciliation with the Soviet Union." Under this heading, the over 120,000 people participating each day were subjected to intensive conditioning to prepare the way for the "neutralization" of Germany and its transformation into a Soviet satrapy. The West German population as a whole was bombarded with pro-Soviet propaganda in unprecedented media play-up of the conference.

Whenever the name of Mikhail Gorbachov came up, he was described as "the Great Reformer," and "the Bringer of Peace." The "Reconciliation" theme was hammered home by President Richard von Weizsäcker, his brother Carl-Friedrich von Weizsäcker (a "guru" of the pro-Moscow German "peace" movement), and Social Democratic Party executive members Johannes Rau and Erhard Eppler (both notorious advocates of the "decoupling" of Europe from the United States), to name but a few. Most of the speakers called for abolishing the "Enemy Image" of the Soviet Union that was "hatched in the 1950s Cold War," and replace it with a "Friend Image."

The Church Congress was timed to coincide with the preparations for the July 6-11 visit to Moscow by President von Weizsäcker. The President, the son of Ernst von Weizsäcker, number-two man in Hitler's foreign ministry and one of the key figures involved in the Hitler-Stalin Pact, is a leading member of the Protestant Church elite in West Germany, currently promoting a German-Soviet strategic accommodation. He made an unscheduled appearance at the Congress, and met with the Soviet attendees, who included Russian Orthodox Metropolitan Pitirim, the number-two man in the Russian Church hierarchy. Contrary to popular belief in the West, the Russian Orthodox Church functions as a full-fledged partner in the *nomenklatura* that runs the Soviet Union today.

This escalation of the "decoupling" drive is a direct result of the U.S. administration's drive to sign a "zero-option" arms-control agreement. The proposed withdrawal of U.S. nuclear missiles from Europe is correctly seen in Bonn as a move to throw West Germany to the Russian wolves, and the

attitude of many in Europe is to explore deals with Moscow now, before the situation gets worse.

On June 18, the "Reconciliation with the Soviet Union" day of the conference, President von Weizsäcker made his guest appearance. The forum included Metropolitan Pitirim and Bishop Longin, representing the Moscow Patriarchate in West Germany. Later in the day, von Weizsäcker returned for a tête à tête with Metropolitan Pitirim.

The climactic spectacle of the forum was broadcast nationally on television. On the podium, conducting a joint Protestant-Russian Orthodox prayer for German-Russian "union" and "reconciliation" were German oligarch Klaus von Bismarck, a leading promoter of a strategic accommodation with Moscow, the head of the Protestant Church, Bishop Martin Kruse, and Metropolitan Pitirim. A West German male chorus, who trained specially for the occasion, sang in Russian, the church chant "*Mnogaya Leta*."

The East bloc attendees included no fewer than 1,500 East Germans, 51 of whom were high-ranking government officials. Side by side with the official EKD literature tables were the Communist Party of West Germany and the Soviet-led VVN "Nazi-hunting" organization, based in Frankfurt. No such courtesies were extended to anti-Soviet groups. The West German-based International Society for Human Rights was booted out, accused of working for the "imperialists" and the "CIA."

Western nuclear energy, SDI attacked

"There are certain technologies . . . like nuclear energy . . . that are the Devil's work," said Hanover sociologist Oskar Negt at the Congress. Negt made this statement during a discussion of so-called "Human Technology," conducted by the Christian Democratic Minister President of Baden-Württemberg Lothar Späth.

"Chernobyl, Challenger: We've reached the limits of mastering human capability and complexity," said American professor Joseph K. Weizenbaum in his presentation. Proceeding in the spirit of "reconciliation," he added: "We have to have a great restructuring. [*perestroika!*] One thinks of revolution, blood flowing, heads rolling. But I believe that a bloodless revolution can be made, and this is where the Church

Congress comes in.”

Speaker after speaker called the realization of the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) “unpardonable.” “Invulnerability and mercilessness are one and the same; therefore, it would be unpardonable if the SDI should be realized. . . . The Prophet Isaiah speaks not of another world, but of a changed world, which would need no security as power, kingdom or hegemony to live in a safer world,” sermonized an EKD theologian.

Meanwhile, back at the “Reconciliation” gathering of over 6,000, Vladimir Berezkhov, a former Red Army official and a member of the Georgi Arbatov’s U.S.A.-Canada Institute in Moscow, defended the U.S.S.R.’s accelerated nuclear energy push, declaring: “We cannot renounce . . . for economic reasons . . . nuclear energy. . . . We’re not going to go backwards. We are working towards developing fusion energy but that cannot be done soon.”

At this point occurred yet another submission spectacle. West German TV reporter Lutz Lehmann, just returned after five years as Moscow correspondent, interjected that “what Berezkhov forgot to mention is that the Soviet Union is promoting the ‘peaceful use of nuclear energy.’” Berezkhov then remarked that Chernobyl shook up everyone in Germany much more than in the U.S.S.R. “There were terrible excesses in the German reactions to Chernobyl.” The EKD conference dutifully adopted resolutions to “Stop Nuclear Power” in West Germany.

The full display of Soviet contempt towards a conference of appeasers came when Berezkhov praised the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. “Unlike what the Western press had reported . . . there was a revolution there and we were invited to support the revolution. The mistake was that we didn’t understand what epoch we were in and how difficult it was to make the changes. . . . That’s why the Monarchy has been invited to aid in the solution. . . . We want to solve these problems . . . and like those in the Persian Gulf, by political and not military means.”

When Vladimir Kondratiev, Soviet TV and radio correspondent in Bonn, spoke, the wildly anti-SDI EKD audience missed the import of his remarks.

Kondratiev spoke of Gorbachov’s *perestroika*, and defined it to mean “speeding up scientific and technological progress . . . e.g., computer technology and *laser* technology. . . . We don’t want to miss or pass up any modern technology . . . And for that we need peaceful and good-neighborly relations with West Germany, our strongest Western trading partner.”

This was the conference in a nutshell. A Soviet speaker demands West Germany help Soviet laser and computer technology programs, while the EKD Church Congress passes resolutions denouncing SDI and “computerization,” and calling for scrapping nuclear power in West Germany and de facto unilateral disarmament.

After *perestroika*, Kondratiev turned to *glasnost*. He at-

tacked the West German Defense Ministry for revoking permission to the Soviets to film the Bundeswehr (West German army). He failed to mention that permission was revoked *after* Warsaw Pact warships fired on the West. No West German present mentioned this either. Once again, Lutz Lehmann “out-russkied” the Russians, interjecting: “Western journalists are more free in the U.S.S.R. than Russians in West Germany. . . . I met with four Soviet General Secretaries (Brezhnev, Andropov, Chernenko, Gorbachov) Mr. Kondratiev . . . and how many Chancellors did you meet?” Lehmann forgot to mention that Kondratiev has been in West Germany for only 16 months!

The climactic moment of this forum was when SPD member of parliament Dieter Sperling proposed that at the next EKD Church Congress (1989) in Berlin, “that both the Red Army Orchestra and the Bundeswehr Band will be playing together.”

Pope the target of EKD feminists

Surrender to Moscow is a function of total moral degeneracy, which was the “other” leitmotif of the Church Congress. EKD feminists, witchcraft adherents, lesbians, and homosexuals challenged papal moral authority with posters, leaflets, newsletters, and diatribes at the different forums, especially targeting the Pope’s “Mary Encyclical,” his anti-abortion and anti-homosexual stand.

Radical “Catholic” theologian Ute Ranke-Heinemann, recently reprimanded by the Pope for her attacks on the “Mary Encyclical” and forbidden to teach in the name of the Catholic Church, became the “heroine” for the EKD feminists. A VVN (a Soviet “anti-fascist” front) leaflet was distributed attacking the present Pope for his “purge measures” and his “hostility against women.”

A pro-abortion poster obscenely depicted the Pope’s face superimposed on a pregnant woman’s body; there was a “Peep Show” at the Church Congress where people could see a film of a prostitute doing her routine off-duty activities e.g., shopping, cleaning, walking her dog, etc.; a book on *Homosexuality & the Church* (published in East Germany) was on display; and other obscenities.

The EKD’s push to internationalize this submission to Moscow, was exemplified by Carl-Friedrich von Weizsäcker’s initiative for a “World Ecumenical Peace Council” which got top billing at the EKD Church Congress in Frankfurt, West Germany. Speaking before an audience of 15,000 on June 20, Carl-Friedrich von Weizsäcker, re-issued his call for a “Peace Council of the Christian Churches.” He said that 14 countries, including all the Orthodox Churches within the East bloc, have already agreed. Von Weizsäcker said that due to the objections of the Catholic and Greek Orthodox Churches to calling it a “Council,” it has been recommended that the “Ecumenical Peace Council” be changed to “World Conference on Peace, Justice, and Responsibility for Creation.”