

Report from Bonn by Volker Hassmann

Schiller banned in Germany—again!

Remarkably, a Christian Democratic mayor colluded with a Communist front group to silence the Poet of Freedom.

For the third time in history, as under the infamous *Karlsbad Decrees* of 1819 and the Nazis in 1942, Friedrich Schiller, the great poet whose "Ode to Joy" was set by Beethoven to music in the Ninth Symphony, has been banned from the stage in Germany.

The magistrate of Friedrichsdorf, near Frankfurt, prevented a performance of Schiller's *The Conspiracy of Fiesco in Genoa* on Nov. 9 by the Academy for Humanist Studies. It was argued that the Academy is part of a network of "fascist" and "right-wing extremist" organizations, "linked to Lyndon and Helga LaRouche."

Mayor Gerd Schmidt claimed that the Academy had deceived him, since it did not intend to stage Schiller's play that night, but a "right-wing extremist political rally with Helga Zepp-LaRouche as a speaker on this sensitive day"—Nov. 9, the 50th anniversary of the Nazi pogroms against Jews. Despite immediate court action by the Academy, the performance was finally prevented, after corrupt local courts dragged the case from one appeal to the next until Nov. 9 had passed.

It is politically remarkable that the mayor and the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) in the area, which backed his attack on the Academy, acted in collusion with a notorious Communist front group, the Association of Victims of the Nazi Regime/League of Anti-Fascists, or VVN. The local head of the VVN group, one Hermann Volk, started the slander campaign by "informing" the mayor, who had signed a contract with the Academy in the first place, that he had been "deceived" by "neo-Nazis." The

VVN handed over forged "documentation," which turned out to be a pack of lies, chiefly drawn from Soviet disinformation campaigns against LaRouche in the United States.

It is widely viewed as a scandal that the CDU has allied with a well-known Moscow covert operation. What is the VVN? According to the most recent report of the German Intelligence Service (Bundesverfassungsschutz), the VVN is the most important of many different Moscow-run organizations of influence in West Germany. A *Special Report* by the Federal Ministry of the Interior, "Moscow's Covert Helpers—The Activities of Soviet-Run International Organizations of Influence in West Germany," describes the *modus operandi* of this communist group:

"Communists: They are the ones to decide what shall be called 'fascist' and 'anti-fascist': practically everybody, who criticizes the Eastern system, risks to be classified 'fascist'. . . They try to recruit new followers among the youth by pointing to a supposed virulent 'fascism' in 'capitalist' countries and by applying the notion 'resistance' to all possible forms of fight against existing institutions and order."

Two-thirds of the national VVN leadership are members of the Moscow-financed German Communist Party (DKP). Despite these facts, which are known by the local authorities and the CDU, they spread the falsehood, that the Academy was classified as "extremist" in the Secret Service Report. Political observers are reminded of the witchhunts and Goeb-

bels-inspired denunciations under the Nazi regime, when they witnessed the hate campaign and refusal of the mayor and the CDU to stop their conscious lies against the Academy. "It is not important, what is played, or how it is played, but who plays it," was the cynical response of the mayor to local school authorities who had planned to send their students to attend the Schiller play.

The slander campaign was actively supported by the local CDU-run newspaper *Taunus-Zeitung*, as well as the traditional liberal-Green daily *Frankfurter Rundschau* and the vicious LaRouche-haters in the Hesse state radio, Hessischer Rundfunk. Ammunition was provided by corrupt elements in the Ministry of the Interior of the state of Hesse.

The case of Friedrichsdorf is by no means a local affair. It is just one example of a growing pattern of political alliances among the VVN, the DKP, Social Democrats, trade unionists and now also Christian Democrats. Such alliances are the political and psychological part of Moscow's irregular warfare against the country. It is a well-established fact that the VVN has entered many alliances with the militant autonomist terrorist forces in the anti-nuclear and peace movement.

The attack on the cultural work of the Academy, which aims at reviving the values of the German Classics and the humanist educational system in Germany, has a political goal. Politicians like Gerd Schmidt and his CDU backers have joined a Soviet-instigated disinformation campaign, which aims to destroy everyone who does not fit the present pro-Moscow political sentiment in the country. The VVN slander campaign targets all those who refuse to bow down to this treasonous dogma, and this is why it has singled out Helga Zepp-LaRouche, the chairwoman of Patriots for Germany party.