

British, Soviets team up against Germany

by Mark Burdman

The British and Soviet governments are effectively working in tandem to undermine the reunification of Germany, and to counter the nascent West German-French-Polish "axis for development" emerging in continental Europe.

EIR has learned that a senior official of Moscow's U.S.A.-Canada Institute, one Karaganov, has been in London during the early-to-mid-November period. He has approached leading British policymakers with the frank message: "We don't want reunification of Germany, and you don't either. Why won't we work together to make sure it doesn't happen?"

On Nov. 16, the *Times* of London, a pillar of the British establishment, published a signed commentary on Germany that could have been dictated from 10 Downing Street. The headline epitomizes the London-Moscow convergence: "Events in Germany must not weaken Gorbachov." Writer Ronald Butt insisted, "We need a stable Soviet Union. Control of the vast Soviet armory must be in responsible hands as NATO and the Warsaw Pact seek to reduce their arms. That is also the crucial fact about German reunification. The danger is not of the *eventual* reunion of Germany, but of precipitate action that might cause the Soviet Union concern about its forces in East Germany. . . ."

"Mrs. Thatcher's reassurance that the West will not try to poach East Germany is timely. . . ."

An informed London source told this correspondent Nov. 17: "The British position, quite simply, is that everything is subordinate to Gorbachov's survival."

Even official utterances from Moscow and London on the subject have been complementary. Since the dramatic developments at the Berlin Wall beginning Nov. 9, Gorbachov, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, and other Soviet spokesmen have come out unambiguously against German reunification. Gorbachov's statement on the subject was reported in the Nov. 16 *Daily Express* of London under the heading, "Gorbachov Nyet to a United Germany."

Speaking before the Lord Mayor's Banquet Nov. 13, Mrs. Thatcher declared, "Once the demand for reform starts, there is a tendency for it to run very fast. Indeed, the very speed of change could put the goal of democracy in jeopardy. Strong emotions have been aroused on all sides by recent events. The need now is to take a measured

view of the way ahead."

Recently appointed British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, while visiting Berlin Nov. 16, echoed Thatcher, proclaiming that reunification was "not on the agenda."

One fascinating corollary of the London-Moscow pincer is that both are encouraging "democratic socialism" in East Germany, as a means of heading off reunification. Erstwhile "anti-socialist" Mrs. Thatcher has become a latter-day Social Democrat, and both the British and Soviets are supporting the Socialist International! (See article, p. 34.)

Fighting World War I again

From the British side, several factors are motivating the hysteria on the German question. British insiders state frankly that Mrs. Thatcher is petrified that "if Gorbachov doesn't survive, she doesn't survive." After all, despite her occasional public skepticism about Reagan's opening to Moscow, she has, especially recently, insisted that Gorbachov is a man "to do business with." Moreover, 10 Downing Street is trying to exploit hysteria about a "Fourth Reich," to divert attention from increasingly bitter internal squabbles.

But there is something much more basic behind the British campaign against a reunited Germany, and charges that a "Fourth Reich German economic superpower" will arise. What erupts at such moments as these, is a British obsession, that might be characterized as "18th-century balance of power politics." One British observer said Nov. 17: "We have fought countless wars to prevent one country becoming dominant on the continent. In the past, it was France, Spain, just about everybody except Portugal. In this century, the problem has been Germany."

Oddly enough, the main public propagandist for the Downing Street-dictated "Fourth Reich" campaign has been Conor Cruise O'Brien, a left-liberal scribbler based in Ireland. Days before the Berlin Wall was opened, O'Brien wrote a piece in the *Times* of London, with the headline, "Beware the Reich Resurgent." He raised the specter not just of a Germany reunified, but the German people's alleged denial of the occurrence, and guilt for, the Nazi anti-Jewish holocaust, etc., once Germany were reunified. His "Fourth Reich" insanity soon became a *leitmotif* in numerous British papers. Typical was a lead editorial in the Nov. 12 *Sunday Times* of London.

On Nov. 17, Cruise O'Brien struck again, again in the *London Times*. Cynically admitting that his first article was characterized by "hyperbole," he asserted: "The good thing about hyperbole is that it attracts attention." By the end of the article, Cruise O'Brien revealed what his real obsession is: the revival, not of the Nazi "Third Reich," but the "Second Reich" of the late 19th-early 20th "Hohenzollern Germany."

In other words: the British imperial mind-set of World War I. Such hysteria points to one simple fact: the Anglo-Soviet combination is *not* in control of the continental European political dynamics.