

Who is steering the Rostock riots?

by EIR Staff

“An economic bombardment of Germany” is being planned by the United States, Great Britain, and France, to force down the deutschemark and to blame the “wicked Germans” for the current financial crisis, a senior British strategist told this news service on Aug. 31. “There will be a general gang-up on the Germans. The big boys will buy the hell out of the D-mark. Bush is acutely embarrassed by the state of the dollar. It won’t be a military bombardment, but there will be an economic bombardment of Germany. Either the Bundesbank brings down the rates by a half percent, or 1%, or there will be a concert at the top against Germany.”

Alongside this campaign, the British are resurrecting idiotic charges that Germany is becoming a “Fourth Reich,” expanding into eastern Europe and the Balkans, while neo-Nazis rampage in the streets. Playing into this propaganda is the fact that several German cities, particularly Rostock and Cottbus in the east, have been hit with rioting by right-wingers and by terrorist bombings.

“The English, who are pretty cynical, will attempt to make capital out of the Rostock events and develop a closer relationship to France,” our source said.

The London *Sunday Times*, in an Aug. 30 editorial, spared no rhetoric in linking the Rostock riots to the “threat” constituted by the Bundesbank policy. “Rostock’s rioting has reminded the world of nightmares it thought were behind it,” the paper wrote. “Across Germany, mainstream politicians and public figures have voiced their horror and warned of the menace of resurrected fascism. . . . Neo-Nazi street fighters and an over-mighty D-mark bode ill for the new Germany.”

British diplomacy operates on several tracks with respect to Germany: On the one side, obstacles are placed in the path of the German government’s Balkan policy; the French government is encouraged to take advantage of Bonn’s difficulties and undertake for itself a leading role in the Balkans; on the other side, it is insinuated to the Germans that there is no trusting the French in European matters, and anyway they will probably vote against the Maastricht Treaty on European Union, and therefore England is the best partner for the new Germany. The French, meanwhile, are told that there is no trusting the Germans, as proved by the Rostock neo-Nazi outbursts, and that therefore the English are the better foreign policy partners for the French.

‘A strategy of tension’

It is becoming apparent to many that the Rostock events are not some sociological eruption. Wrote Henry de Bresson in the French daily *Le Monde* on Sept. 1:

“The German government could well, for the first time, find itself faced with a strategy of tension carefully put into place, and which would progressively try to exploit the dissatisfaction of large sectors of the population, in the East as in the West.”

Chancellor Helmut Kohl himself told a meeting of his cabinet in Bonn at the end of August that the Rostock riots had been “prepared in the manner of a general staff” and contrived by “former Stasi people.” The Stasi was the communist East German secret intelligence service.

The interior minister of the state of Brandenburg, Alwin Ziel, charged in an Aug. 31 television interview that “there are indications that these actions have been orchestrated from outside. We have to be aware that such things are pre-planned, there is a strategy behind it, which we have to stand up against.” After three nights of unrest in Cottbus, Alwin Ziel said: “We had the impression in Cottbus, that the radical rightist youth were being directed.” Certain persons, equipped with walkie-talkies, were seen giving directives to the mob.

At least three people were taken into custody in Rostock on Aug. 23 who had earlier belonged to a special unit of the Stasi, and who now played a significant role in the instigation of the unrest. The radical right groupings are sprinkled with people who formerly had leading positions in the East German communist apparatus.

But who benefits from the work of such former Stasi collaborators? The communist German Democratic Republic no longer exists. The U.S.S.R. and the KGB, of which the Stasi was an appendage, also no longer exist. Admittedly, the Russians have a successor to the KGB and continue to carry out espionage in Germany, but the Russian media are making no use of the incidents in Rostock and elsewhere for propaganda purposes.

The leads from Rostock and Cottbus point rather toward the West than toward the East. News agencies report that Rostock police are investigating the behavior of several foreign TV crews—French and either British or American—in bribing teenage youths to give the Nazi salute in front of the cameras. “The information will be turned over to a prosecutor for possible legal action against the teams,” said a police spokesman.

The same method was applied in May 1985, shortly before a visit to the Bitburg cemetery in Germany by President Reagan and Chancellor Kohl. A *Newsweek* team placed flowers on the tombstones of two German youths who had died in the last days of the Second World War as forced conscripts of the Waffen SS. The picture, printed on the cover of the magazine, was intended to convey the idea that the Germans are still worshipping the Third Reich.