

# A New Quality Develops In German-Russian Ties

by Rainer Apel

On Nov. 9, Germany and Russia celebrated the tenth anniversary of the signing of the German-Russian Treaty on Partnership and Cooperation, which came four weeks after the reunification of the two German states. Days before the anniversary, numerous leading Russian politicians recalled, in interviews and speeches, that if measured against the great expectations for economic and technological cooperation in 1990, the development of mutual relations had lagged far behind the potential.

Mikhail Gorbachov, the last leader of Russia's Soviet era, made explicit reference to the role of the pro-monetarist "reforms" in Russia, from 1991 on, as having neutralized the potential for Russian cooperation with Germany. Gorbachov added that he saw those potentials being revived under current Russian President Vladimir Putin, who has developed a good personal rapport with Germany's Chancellor Gerhard Schröder.

Putin himself addressed these issues, in an article he wrote for the German daily *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, which published it on Nov. 9. Putin evaluated the general course that German-Russian relations have taken since the signing of the 1990 treaty, as good and solid. He added, though, that future relations must, and can go beyond what has been achieved, particularly in the area of economic cooperation. The gas and oil imports by Germany from Russia, and industrial exports from Germany to Russia, are characteristic of the limited scope of cooperation, he said.

"In my view, the real potential of Russian-German economic cooperation can be developed through the expansion of cooperation in science-intensive and high-technology industrial sectors. Russia possesses *breakthrough* developments, which we offer to our European and, especially, our German partners for joint utilization—for example, in the area of aircraft technology and modernization, as well as in outer space," Putin wrote.

Putin particularly recommended

that the potential of eastern Germans, whose industry lost most of its links to Russian industry during the last ten years, should be utilized for future cooperation, because these Germans not only have studied at Russian universities, and know the industry there, but also speak Russian.

Putin indicated, that besides the new initiatives that Moscow has launched for a broad revitalization of economic relations with all of western Europe (which was discussed at the Oct. 30, Paris EU-Russia Summit), it has a special interest in Germany. The timing of these Russian initiatives coincides with a sobering on the part of those German bankers and industrial managers who have come to realize that their years-long solidarity with Anglo-Saxon monetarism is proving to be ruinous for them. Economic perspectives for after the crash are being mapped out by German industry, and Russia, a former prominent trade partner and recipient of substantial German industrial investments in the East (that have been neglected for almost ten years), is again gaining in status.

## Russia Can Provide More Than Raw Materials

This became visible in an interview in the Russian daily *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* on Nov. 23 with Klaus Mangold, head of the Eastern Trades Division of German Industry—the famous "*Ostausschuss*." Mangold said that European, and particularly German relations with Russia, must now go beyond the Cold War-era paradigm. The Russian economy, he said, can produce more than just raw materials; it also has the capacity to provide developed industrial products to the West. Therefore, a new European approach is required, to reach a



German President Johannes Rau (right) greets Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, in Berlin, Nov. 24, 2000. Russian and German leaders are discussing the perspectives for grand infrastructure projects spanning the entire Eurasian continent.

new level of economic cooperation and partnership, Mangold said, mirroring what President Putin had written in the *Frankfurter Allgemeine* exactly two weeks before.

As Mangold's interview was published, Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov arrived for almost four days of talks in Berlin with German political and industry leaders. That visit proceeded with little publicity, and the term "working visit," with which these meetings were characterized by German and Russian officials, indicated that the diplomatic agenda included topics which, for the time being, are considered not ripe enough for release to the media. The four hours of "private" talks that Putin and Schröder had in Moscow on Sept. 25, were of the same type, and little was made known about their content as well.

The interview with Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov that the German weekly *Der Spiegel* published on Nov. 27, revealed a bit about the agenda of the ongoing Russian-German talks. There, Kasyanov, who was expected for meetings in Berlin on Dec. 1, addressed economic cooperation in an unprecedented way: He spoke about perspectives for grand infrastructure projects spanning the entire Eurasian continent. Kasyanov said that Germany is a leading Russian trade partner of "strategic importance," because already now, 26% of all its machine imports come from German production. "Also in the future, we count very strongly on German technologies," he added.

Kasyanov then discussed big projects, beginning with the new role of the Baltic Russian enclave of Kaliningrad. "Take only that project of creating a ferry link from the St. Petersburg area to Kaliningrad, for big flows of crude oil, coal, and other commodities to German ports," he said. "Our interest is focused on better transport routes from Berlin via Warsaw, Minsk, Moscow, and an extension toward Yekaterinburg. Then, the North-South route from Finland via St. Petersburg to the Caspian Sea. Kazakstan is ready to join."

In answering whether what he was talking about implied "a Eurasian big project," Kasyanov said: "We have now signed the agreement on the construction of this corridor, between Russia, Iran, and India, so that commodities from that part of Asia reach Europe via Russia. German exporters, which are supplying India, soon will no longer have to use the Suez Canal, but can use this route, with a fourfold time advantage."

In terms of cooperation around the Eurasian Land-Bridge, Kasyanov's remarks have been the most detailed from a Russian leader in recent years. It will be interesting to see what the official response by German leaders will be. If Germany, the biggest economic power on the western end of the Eurasian continent, joins the kind of cooperation sketched by Kasyanov, it will change the character of political and economic relations between East and West profoundly. Chancellor Schröder, who was scheduled to meet Kasyanov in Berlin on Dec. 1, will also meet President Putin in Russia, for yet another "private working visit," in early January.

## LaRouche on Mexican Radio: 'This Will Be A Time for Ingenuity'

*On Nov. 25, former U.S. Democratic Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche was interviewed live for 40 minutes on Radio Mujer station, in Ciudad Obregón, Sonora, which covers much of the northwest of Mexico. The interview was conducted by journalists Aracely Martínez and Francisco Pérez Díaz, and by two invited guests: Jaime Miranda, of the Permanent Forum of Agricultural Producers, and Alberto Vizcarra, northwest coordinator of the LaRouche-associated Ibero-American Solidarity Movement of Mexico. The full text of the exchange follows:*

**Q:** Good afternoon. Our first question for you, Mr. LaRouche, is: What is your view of the current lack of definition of the electoral process in the United States, the battle that's going on in the courts, and what are the conditions that have led to this? There has always been the great myth of United States being a bastion of democracy, but now it seems to have collapsed. What is your view of this situation?

**LaRouche:** First of all, you can say in general, the truth has begun to become apparent to people around the world. When you look at the election, and the campaign which preceded it, especially since about early March of this year, this is a political and strategic catastrophe for the United States. Neither of the candidates is fit to be President. Neither was chosen on the basis of their ideas. They were chosen almost by appointment, and there was the greatest amount of money, mass media orchestration, and other technical manipulation of the election that we've seen in modern history in a Presidential campaign.

The voters who turned out were not voting for either candidate. They were voting *against* the other candidate. And so, what happened was that the machinery of money and electro-technology among equally strong forces, resulted in a really zero result.

For example, if you look at the Florida election count, the amount of vote being contested there is very small, compared to the vote that Al Gore stole from me, openly and directly, in one state, in Arkansas, in the primary campaign. And what makes it worse, is the present effort to try to determine the outcome of the election in the courts. This simply makes everything worse. The intelligent thing would be to simply let it go to the so-called Electoral College, which is the constitutional solution in the United States, and then solve any final problems in the Congress, which is what