

# Banning the Greens

*Susan Welsh reports on the West German effort to declare the neo-fascists unconstitutional, and the Christian Democrats' cowardice.*

The political life of West Germany has become increasingly polarized around the issue of the Greens since the radical environmentalist party won nine seats on the City Council in Hamburg on June 6. This party, which goes under different names from one state to another, calls itself the "anti-party party." The Greens have organized violent demonstrations against nuclear power plants, against construction projects like the expansion of the Frankfurt Airport, and against President Reagan's visit to West Berlin in June (the violence generally attributed after the fact to "fringe elements." Yet leading officials of the left wing of the Social Democratic Party (SPD) from Chairman Willy Brandt on down are mooting electoral alliances or unofficial collaboration with them.

Even the firebombing July 20 of construction companies involved in the Frankfurt airport expansion has apparently awakened no second thoughts in Brandt et al., since they are committed to using the Greens to topple the government of Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and to purge the SPD of Schmidt's supporters, i.e., advocates of economic growth. Up-and-coming SPD leftist leader Oskar Lafontaine, mayor of Saarbrücken, went so far as to denounce Schmidt in an interview in *Stern* magazine dated July 15, saying that the Chancellor's so-called virtues of "calculability and constancy" are "virtues which would also allow one to run a concentration camp."

While Brandt, Lafontaine, and other leftists are courting the Greens because they share their zero-growth ideology, there are others in the SPD who have convinced themselves that alliances with the Greens are necessary to keep the SPD in power, now that the party's Bonn coalition partner, the Free Democratic Party, is making overtures to the Christian Democrats and has disappeared from several state parliaments. As for the Christian Union parties, they too are refusing to forthrightly attack the Greens. The Christian Democratic Union (CDU), ostensibly the conservative opposition party, is becoming more and more a vehicle for the anti-technology, genocidal zero-growth ideas of the Club of Rome,

which ideas the Green Party shares in an even more overt and radicalized way.

## 'A new Sturmabteilung'

Only the European Labor Party (EAP) in West Germany is demanding an alliance of all parties to combat the Green danger and to declare the Greens unconstitutional. The Greens are a fascist party, like the shock troops of Hitler's Sturmabteilung (SA), whose ideology was a similar blend of "back to nature" communalism and political violence, declares the EAP. While courageous individuals from the other political parties have stepped forward to demand action against the Green fascists, the party hierarchies remain committed to one version or another of an appeasement policy.

The EAP's campaign on this issue has begun to draw blood; sources report that Petra Kelly, national head of the Greens, is preparing a lawsuit and a defamation campaign against the EAP.

An SPD member of the European Parliament, Fritz Gautier, has filed a complaint against Kelly with the European Commission in Brussels. Kelly is an employee of the EC, yet "she doesn't seem to work very often in Brussels," he said. "I would like to know whether Ms. Kelly's continuous travels around Germany are known about in Brussels and why they are tolerated." Kelly is in fact campaigning for a parliamentary seat in Bavaria in upcoming elections.

A Christian Democratic (CDU) Senator in West Berlin, Rupert Scholz, has issued a call for an investigation of the legal basis of the Alternative List (AL), Berlin's version of the Greens. Referring in an editorial published in *Die Welt* newspaper July 10 to the riots against President Reagan which the AL helped organize, Scholz questioned the right of such a party to keep its seats in the city council. "If parliamentarism means recognizing the priority of parliamentary democracy," he said, "and the acceptance of parliamentary codes of conduct, we can say that no such values are held by the Alternative List."

The West Berlin Small Shopowners Association (AGS) of the SPD demanded the expulsion of the AL from the city council, since "the Alternatives are neither mature [enough] for democracy, nor are they acceptable as a coalition partner." The AGS demand was blocked, however, by West Berlin SPD chairman Hans-Jochen Vogel, who insisted that the SPD must become "a party of emotions, of a policy which moves with the mainstream of the masses, and the masses are afraid of technology. They want conservation of nature." Vogel subsequently indicated his agreement with Lafontaine's drive to topple Schmidt and "strengthen" the SPD in the opposition.

### The CDU punts

Leading spokesmen for the Christian Democrats have refused to make more than token attacks against the Greens. Alfred Dregger, the CDU's candidate for governor in the state of Hesse, where elections are set for Sept. 26, called for all parties in the state parliament to make a pact against the Greens, allowing whichever party has the most votes to form a government, even if it does not have a majority (Dregger naturally expects this tactic to yield him the governorship). Yet when interviewed in *Der Spiegel* magazine July 19 on this subject, Dregger indicated that his proposal was not "anti-Green," but is a temporary measure to bridge the time until the Greens become mature enough to be treated with respect.

"I do not want to put the Greens in quarantine," he said, "I am not the one to keep the doors closed to them. They are the ones to lock themselves out from the formation of a government. . . . I do not want to ally with the other parties against the Greens. . . . I have always been much more moderate toward them than anyone else. I do not want to lock them out; they are not extremists; they are not Nazis; they are, apart from a few exceptions, not Communists." Asked whether the Greens are enemies of the constitution, Dregger replied: "No, not at all. They adhere to a conservative utopianism with an essential concern which I share, namely, to protect nature and the landscape. I love nature like I love the arts."

Christian Democrat Walter Leisler Kiep from Hamburg also refused to attack the Greens in an interview with *Der Spiegel*. CDU demands for nuclear energy development have anyway been "too undifferentiated" in the past, he said, so it is not surprising when the Greens capitalize on popular discontent.

Lothar Spaeth, the CDU Minister President of the state of Baden-Württemberg, declared that among the Greens are "young people with good ideas," and that the Green deputies in Stuttgart, the state capital, are "especially joyful individuals who are doing their jobs, sometimes badly, sometimes well."

## Soviet military chief: 'upgrade our defense'

by Rachel Douglas, Soviet Union Editor

In a 5,000-word *Pravda* article published July 12, Soviet Defense Minister Dmitrii F. Ustinov gave a view of the danger of nuclear war and of strategic doctrine in which he identified an upgrading of Soviet military posture that may be said to "tighten the hair-trigger" on nuclear war.

Ustinov drew a strategic line on which all Soviet factions converge, upon perceived threats to the existence of the Soviet state. It dictates not only a war-fighting strategic doctrine that rejects every version of "limited nuclear war" cooked up by NATO, but—under conditions of world economic collapse and brushfire wars in the underdeveloped sector—a global attempt to expand Soviet power at every point of opportunity, at the expense of the United States.

If the countervailing political impulse in the West and the developing world, a drive for a growth-centered new world economic order, were to defeat the collapse, there could still be a Soviet response of détente. But neither the military message or the political narrowness of Ustinov's survey pointed that way; rather, he conveyed the Soviet command's assessment that the world is in a pre-war phase.

Ustinov set about to justify, in military terms, the pledge made by Leonid Brezhnev in June never to use nuclear weapons first. Alluding to possible objections to this pledge from within the U.S.S.R., he asserted that even if the United States struck first, the Soviet armed forces would be capable of a full nuclear strike-back. Ustinov linked a U.S. effort to achieve a "first strike" capability to the installation of new medium-range rockets in Western Europe, the Pershing IIs that have a five-minute flight time to Moscow.

The Defense Minister's words about an "all-crushing retaliatory strike" referred to a Soviet Politburo decision that "countermeasures" against the Pershings, already threatened by Brezhnev months ago, will consist not in