

Northern Flank by Poul Rasmussen

Reality factor was Schiller Institute

In the May 10 Danish election, none of the government parties had the courage to state why NATO was so important.

When faced with important and historical decisions, it is paramount that those responsible for making the decisions be in touch with reality. Looking at the results of the May 10 elections in Denmark, it is fair to say that somehow the principles of reality were not apparent for the Danish population.

When Prime Minister Poul Schlüter decided that the April 14 referendum represented such a serious and dangerous threat to Danish membership in NATO, that he had to call new elections on the issue, one would expect a clear answer from the government on why it is so important. The referendum had called for direct guarantees from visiting allied naval vessels that they are carrying no nuclear weapons. A three-week election campaign should have given the government parties ample time to answer this question.

The only real answer came from the Schiller Institute, a political-cultural movement with a particularly strong base among Danish farmers, and never from the established parties. As soon as the elections were called, the Danish chapter of the Schiller Institute, an institution founded in 1984 by Helga Zepp-LaRouche with the explicit purpose of saving the Western alliance, issued a leaflet, which was distributed nationwide in 50,000 copies by hundreds of members and supporters.

The text of the leaflet outlined both the continuous threat to Danish sovereignty coming from the Soviet empire, and the danger of the Western alliance crumbling, bargained away by

the appeasers in the Reagan administration.

The Schiller Institute pointed out that the May 10 elections represented a rare occasion on which the Danish citizenry had to make a decision with historic implications far beyond the borders of their tiny nation. The Schiller Institute leaflet expressed full faith in Danes to make such an important decision.

The text of the Schiller Institute leaflet was also placed as a political advertisement in two of the major national newspapers, which resulted in dozens of phone calls from people who wanted to support the campaign. On May 5, the anniversary of the 1945 Danish liberation, the Schiller Institute placed a special quarter-page ad in the conservative newspaper *Berlingske Tidende*.

The ad featured a large picture from Copenhagen city hall square May 4, 1985, when so-called peace demonstrators led a riot at the 40th anniversary celebrations of the Danish liberation. The picture showed Prime Minister Poul Schlüter trying to make a speech, standing behind a wall of protective police shields while eggs and stones were thrown at him. The text of the ad read: "On the 40th anniversary of the 1945 Danish liberation, Moscow's peace friends showed their true 'peaceful face.'" And then under the picture: "Say yes to NATO."

This advertisement created a hysterical reaction from the Social Democratic newspaper *Det Frie Aktuelt*. Under the headline: "The American Support," the newspaper repented the ad full-size next to a picture of U.S.

Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche, and then spent the rest of the page raving against this "American intervention" in general and Mr. LaRouche in particular (who, of course, except for the influence of his ideas, had nothing to do with the ad).

Except for the repeated references to the harsh reactions from NATO allies to the parliament referendum, the government parties did almost nothing to explain to voters why it was important for Denmark to stay in the alliance. An enlightened exception was the founder and leader of a small government party, the Center Democrats, Erhard Jacobsen, who repeatedly stressed that Denmark was in imminent danger of sharing the fate of the small Baltic countries, Lithuania, Estonia, and Latvia.

So, what went wrong? As reported in *EIR* last week, the voters did give the parties behind the infamous April 14 referendum a whopping defeat. Still, looking at the results, it is clear that that was not enough. In the 179-seat parliament, the three parties who sponsored the anti-nuclear warship referendum, the Social Democrats, the Radical Liberals, and the Socialist Popular Party, still command 90 seats—a one-seat majority.

By not presenting the unpleasant reality of Soviet military build-up, the Schlüter government designed its own defeat, and while this column is being written, a new Danish government has not yet been formed. The first round of negotiations, led by the speaker of the parliament, Svend Jacobsen, has broken down, and a new round will begin, this time led by the leader of the small Radical Liberal Party, Niels Helveg Petersen. This process may go on for weeks, while NATO is nervously awaiting the fate of its northern flank.