

## Report from Bonn by Rainer Apel

### What can Germany do for the Chinese?

*China is not just a market for West Germany, it is a country, a nation under repression.*

‘Naturally not,’ responded Chancellor Helmut Kohl in an interview June 7 by the mass-circulation daily *Bildzeitung*, which had asked him whether after the Chinese massacres, there could be “business as usual” between the government in Bonn and the regime in Beijing. Kohl declared: “These pictures are disgusting. How can you fire with machineguns into the masses, or have tanks roll over human beings? This is a very bad lesson. I have personally taken the side of the policy of reforms, you know.”

“The call for freedom can not be rolled down by tanks, in the long run,” said Kohl, reporting that once, he had received Zhao Ziyang at his home to discuss perspectives of economic and political reform in Red China. Kohl is, according to insiders in Bonn, deeply shocked that Zhao is stripped of all leadership functions and is said to face a show trial soon.

The remarks Kohl made put him at least in verbal opposition to Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, who sails with the Kissinger geopolitical cabal and opposes sanctions against the regime in Beijing. Like Kissinger, Genscher said that sanctions would “reduce the West’s influence in China and drive the Chinese into the hands of the Soviet Union.” A rather duplicitous statement for a politician who would not miss any chance to show how closely he’s working “with Moscow.”

In fact, the Gorbachovite majority faction of German big industry is also with the “Dengists” in Beijing. Since Deng Xiaoping took power in the 1970s, German industry has become

Red China’s first trade partner in Europe, and fourth on a world scale (behind Hong Kong, Japan, and the United States). In 1988, West German industry exported goods (machines, industrial equipment, turn-key facilities, and transportation technology) of a total volume of 5 billion marks, and imported raw materials (such as coal, textiles, straw carpets, bamboo) and light-industry products from Red China of a volume of DM 4.3 billion.

Before 1988, when U.S. trade with Red China saw a dramatic increase of 45% to a level of \$5 billion (exports) and \$9.2 billion (imports), West Germany was even the first Western trade partner of the Beijing regime outside Asia.

The big names in the China trade are the same in the Soviet-German business. Volkswagen and Daimler-Benz resolved to continue their car and truck operations in Red China along the line “business as usual, the [Deng] reform policy will go on, once this chaos is settled.” When the AEG company closed its offices in China and pulled back its personnel after the massacre, this was the exception. Many other companies like Siemens are staying, but have moved their staff out of Beijing for the time being.

Vereins- und Westbank, having a dominant position in the German-Chinese business through its daughter bank, East-West Consultants, is telling German businessmen not to move out, assuring them financial and other support. The line is given out that once German industry gives up the Red Chinese market, other rivals will take over. Also Otto Wolff von Ameron-

gen, gray eminence of Eastern trade of West German industry, declared that the contracts between Germany and Red China “can not simply be frozen, even after this military action in Beijing.”

It would make a great difference, though, if West Germany, which trains several thousand scientists, engineers, and students from Red China, imposed economic sanctions against Beijing. Chinese who demonstrated in numerous cities here over the past two weeks, have called on the Bonn government to declare an economic and political boycott on the regime that killed thousands of unarmed people on Tiananmen Square.

At these public protest rallies of the several thousand young Chinese living in the Federal Republic, Chinese from Taiwan and the mainland joined hands in the call for democracy and human rights. Although Bonn broke relations with Taipei when the Nixon-Kissinger “China card” policy imposed the shift to relations with Beijing, the Germans still have a good reputation among the Nationalist Chinese of the Kuomintang party in Taiwan.

There is a strong tradition dating from the days of Sun Yat-sen which German-Chinese relations can build on. A member of the first revolutionary government in China, Sun Yat-sen called in specialists from Germany to develop the water supply system and farming in the 1920s. German military instructors helped Gen. Chiang Kai-shek build his army in the 1920s and 1930s.

when Nazi Germany’s ally Japan invaded China in 1937. It was revived, then with Taiwan, by West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer in 1950.

Reopening diplomatic relations between Bonn and Taipei would send a clear signal of support to the democratic movement in mainland China.