

west germany

The Guillaume Affair: Who Will be Next?

August 21 (IPS) — In only four months' time, CIA forces have succeeded in ending the detente and dealing crippling blows to parliamentary rule in the West by forcing the resignations of Willy Brandt and Richard Nixon. With Phase One of Watergate-type maneuvers barely over, the next round of CIA orchestrated scandals already is commencing in West Germany's press — in timely coordination with the current setting up of Henry Kissinger on the pages of the *New York Times*.

In West Germany the opening phase of a barrage of "new revelations" centers around the Guillaume Affair hoax which toppled the Brandt regime. The tar and feather brush is now being applied to the hapless Schmidt-Genscher government, as well as to the parliamentary leader of the Social Democrats, Herbert Wehner. The same press, in the person of NATO's own Theo Somer, chief editor of the weekly *Die Zeit*, proclaimed — in the same breath which "hailed" Schmidt's inaugural — the "transitional" character of his regime.

This week an all-party parliamentary committee was formed to investigate the Guillaume Affair. In a pattern reminiscent of U.S. Watergating, opposition Christian Democratic Union and Christian Social Union (CDU/CSU) members of this committee have already begun feeding "leaks" to the press at appropriate moments to discredit SPD rule. The production rate of such leaks will no doubt increase geometrically in weeks to come.

The Guillaume Hoax

In the past four months, the West German Intelligence Services have done a complete flip-flop on their original story of a "Guillaume spy-ring," replete with "proof" of accomplices — two of whom had been arrested. This charade was effectively demolished within 48 hours — the "accomplices" released "for complete lack of evidence." The line now? Guillaume acted alone; this too is "proven."

The flip-flop and similar seemingly ridiculous gyrations are setting the stage for another CIA aim — blowing official CIA activities and personnel to cover the activities of the real CIA.

In the USA, the process is amply illustrated by the recently-published Marchetti book, a phony "expose" of the CIA, and this week's spate of *New York Times* ar-

ticles "blowing" 25 years of CIA operations in Greece.

The government's response to Guillaume Committee activities so far has been to plead that the CDU/CSU members of the investigating committee can have access to the Guillaume case "secret files," but may not make any public statements concerning what they find. Thus, instant credibility is given to the belief that the government is trying to hide its skeletons.

Outside the scandal realm, Helmut Schmidt is ably assisting his own discrediting through his inaction, as the Second Great Depression engulfs Germany. If Schmidt's suicidal tendencies are not enough, the SPD core compounds the matter by refusing to disassociate themselves from his policies.

That the expose of the Guillaume Affair and other leaks are a manufactured scandal was confirmed to the European Labor Committees by an authoritative West German source who told us bluntly that the "scandal" is designed to bring down the present SPD-Free Democratic Party coalition in Bonn, and is known by parliamentary circles to be aimed against Wehner and Genscher.

Considering the clearly telegraphed intentions of Rockefeller to create a situation for imposing a military-backed "Grand Coalition," National Unity-type government, a concomitant aspect of the scandal must entail discrediting the FDP side of the present coalition as well. Former Interior Minister (presently Foreign Minister) "tough cop" Hans-Dietrich Genscher would make a perfect FDP fall guy — in line with standard CIA policy of blowing its blatant and "expendable" personnel. Genscher, with his boorish, conservative base, is, in fact, a potential obstacle to the radical fascist mobilization the capitalists have planned.

Will They Fight?

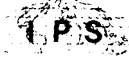
As stated above, there are CIA parallels in both the Nixon and Brandt cases. Yet the process leading to the end result was different. For the one determinant which the CIA could not manufacture, the subjective response of a Watergated national leader, was markedly dissimilar in the two cases.

The point was succinctly stated by ABC-TV's Howard K. Smith following Nixon's resignation: "It took only a few hours to remove Brandt, but a year and a half to

remove Nixon." Once the "going got rough," i.e., the publicizing of Guillaume's alleged "espionage for East Germany in Chancellor Brandt's Office," Brandt wilted without protest.

Brandt, like Nixon, was the victim of a skillful press campaign (spearheaded by the weekly magazine *Der Spiegel*) which did a professional psywar job on a Brandt made distraught by the "betrayal" of one of his closest friends.

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The Guillaume Affair first broke with the West German FBI (Verfassungsschutz) privately informing Brandt of their "suspicions" concerning his colleague. Invoking the issue of "national security," they recruited Brandt to degrade himself daily by becoming a spy — Guillaume's tail.

The psychologically devastating game of spy-and-report was kept up for a year. The day-to-day strain inherent in playing this double role was redoubled through the constant bitterness of feeling betrayed. The worsening of the international situation from Fall 1973 on plunged Brandt into further depression, which the press skillfully featured in many articles.

The importance of the subjective factor cannot be overstated. Had Brandt elected to fight, he could have marshalled his working-class base to support him, with no organized anti-Brandt forces capable of opposing him. Furthermore, subsequent developments prove even to the most credulous that the whole "affair" was a stage-managed hoax.

The government's weakness today provides the opportunity for the press and the right opposition CDU/CSU to escalate their attacks. The press revived the long dormant "Steiner Affair" involving allegations of SPD pay-offs to parliamentary deputies in a crucial 1972 vote of confidence — with Wehner figuring prominently in the allegation rumors — by speculating that Guillaume may utter new "disclosures" on the matter.

The CDU further broadened the range of allegations, charging that the Chancellor's Office was and is a nest of BND (West German CIA) operatives. The Schmidt government answered meekly with mumbling about CDU "indiscretion," in effect confirming the disclosure.

Will the SPD actually wait until the Watergate noose is placed around the necks of Schmidt, Wehner, et al. before they act on the European Labor Committee's assertion that "the SPD needs a head"?

[For the full story on the Guillaume Affair, see IPS No. 5. Reprints are available for subscribers.]