

Strauss-Mao Axis Against Soviets Praised in Press

Sept. 18 (IPS) — The recent conversion to Maoism by West Germany's most prominent rightwinger Franz-Josef Strauss has been greeted by the Chinese with the offer of a tactical alliance. The basis of agreement for this odd-couple Bund is the dismemberment of the Soviet Union and the East bloc.

The events of the past three weeks, centered around the China visit by Strauss ally Helmut Kohl, leader of the Christian Democratic Union, and the reports of that trip — independently confirmed by sources as diverse as the pro-Strauss Springer press, the Soviet Union's *Izvestia* and the East German *Neues Deutschland* — provide solid evidence that Kohl, acting as Strauss' plenipotentiary, has concluded in principle a German-Chinese axis directed at territorially dismantling the Soviet bloc.

"I've never heard of Kaliningrad, but I have heard of Koenigsberg" and "I support Germany's right to self-determination" were among the seductive phrases cooed by Chinese Premier Chou En-lai to Strauss minion Kohl. Chou thus agreed "in principle" to the obliteration of East Germany, the truncation of Poland, and some surgery on the Soviet Union — in recognition of the fact that West Germany alone would make far too small an empire for Mao's chubby disciple Strauss.

It should be noted in this context that China has longstanding "claims" against Soviet territory in Siberia and Central Asia; and in all probability, Strauss at some point will reciprocate Chou's support. The present Strauss-Mao Axis, the result of China's insane policy of supporting "A strengthened NATO against Soviet Imperialism," already has the Springer press crowing with headlines such as "Peking Wants to Wipe Away the GDR" (East Germany) and following that, "No disagreements during the entire range of Kohl-Chinese talks."

The Axis has not gone unnoticed in the Soviet press, whose articles on the lackeys of the two Maos exhibit a

paranoid hysteria resulting from their realization that a NATO-Chinese two-front nightmare is now developing. Similar shrill outrage characterized East German coverage of the Kohl trip.

Illegal Axis

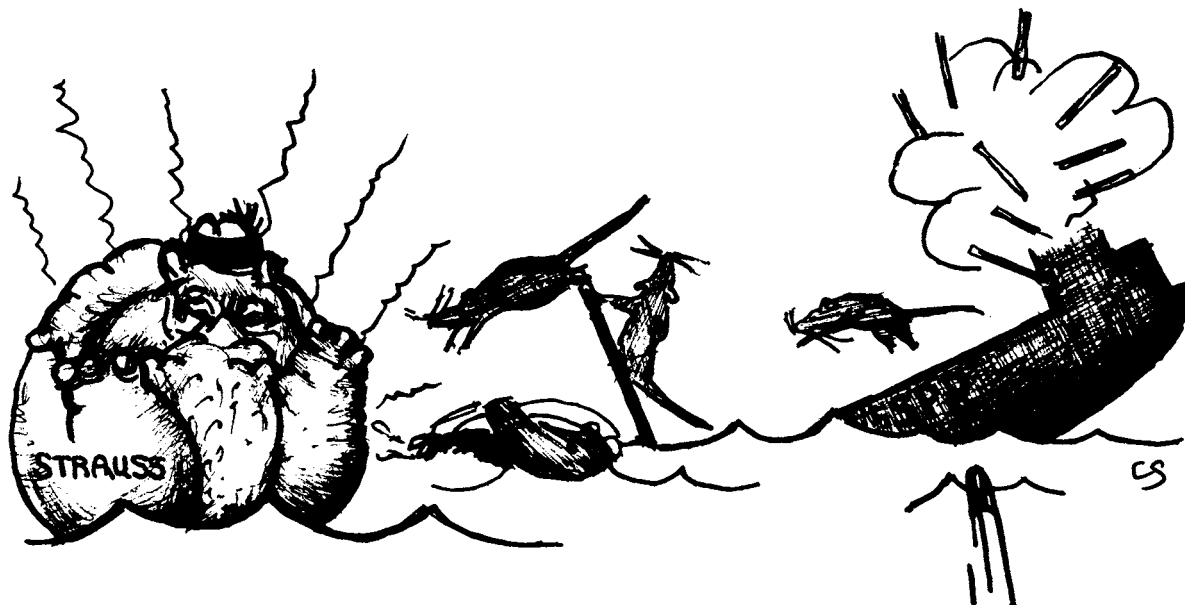
Heavy circumstantial evidence exists that the Axis, illegal by even bourgeois standards since Strauss-Kohl are not the government in West Germany, already has passed the "principle" stage towards activity of a somewhat more sensuous nature. This is indicated by the reports in all West German newspapers a few days ago that 3,500 ethnic German Soviet citizens living in Soviet Central Asia had sent a letter to West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt protesting their "oppression." West German Intelligence has a long history of attempting to foment subversion among ethnic minorities in the European regions of the USSR (Baltic peoples and Ukrainians), while Central Asian subversion attempts have been the domain of the Chinese. Judging from the extreme amicability of the Kohl-Chinese talks, mutual West German-CIA-Chinese consent seems to lie behind the recent stirrings in central Asia.

Now that the ground has been thoroughly laid, Strauss' newspaper the *Bayernkurier* has dropped its previous policy of printing long, effusive articles on the "disciplined" paradise of "great leader" Mao — but only because this line now has been taken up by the straight bourgeois press. Leading liberal papers in West Germany continue to fill columns with praise for the "Chinese Way" and the stale news of the Chinese attack on the GDR, long after the Kohl visit. Not coincidentally, this propaganda campaign has been adopted most energetically by the national press outlets of Axel Springer, one of Strauss' most important political allies, and the supposedly liberal *Sueddeutsche Zeitung* which is published in Strauss' Bavarian stronghold.

Rats Deserting SPD Ship for Strauss

Sept. 15 (IPS) — Now that a bombardment of scandals has riddled West Germany's governing Social Democratic Party (SPD) with holes, rats are beginning to desert. The *Frankfurter Rundschau* reports that a small

number of rightwing SPDers have dropped their social democratic cover and come out openly in support of West Germany's biggest Maoist Franz-Josef Strauss, as part of an accelerated campaign to build a national



SPD rightwingers sniff out political winds

fascist party around the bulky Bavarian.

The list of SPD rightwingers includes local party leaders, former government officials, and one trade-union functionary. Indications are that these “new” Strauss recruits merely have chosen the appropriate psychological moment to make public their earlier ties to West Germany’s rejuvenated rightwing.

Lothar Meyer, a former SPD city councilman who has climbed on the Strauss bandwagon, was reportedly a longtime funder of the Bund Freies Deutschland (Free Germany League), a rightwing front group now being expanded into an openly pro-Strauss machine. The latest SPD recruit to the new fascist movement, West Berlin party official Walter Jaroschowitz, claimed that his

recent conversion came as a result of reading a frenzied nationalist tract — which had originally been published in a large-circulation newspaper two years ago!

Not surprisingly, some of these “new” Strauss fans emit a characteristic CIA odor. Many of them are based in West Berlin, a notorious CIA hotbed. And Lothar Meyer runs an ad agency in West Berlin, a time-honored CIA cover operation.

Strauss’ forces already have shown that they intend to use this handful of renegades to demoralize the SPD further. The Social Democrats, terrified by the wave of scandals overtaking the party and unable to respond programmatically to the anger of their working-class base, are fair game for Strauss’ attacks.

Schmidt on ELC: “Thoroughbred Communist”

Sept. 23 (IPS) — Undercurrents within the Social Democratic Party and Helmut Schmidt’s own recognition of his expendability to the Rockefeller forces burst to the surface this week at an SPD workers’ organizing committee meeting in West Germany.

Schmidt addressed an audience of largely trade-union leaders and membership who the SPD hopes will help

secure the SPD’s place in government a little longer. When one union member rose to attack Schmidt because of his credit policy towards Italy and his tolerance of the multinationals, Schmidt screamed, “You present yourself as someone from the European Labour Committees — a thoroughbred communist!” The ELC had no representatives at the meeting.