

WEST GERMANS PUSH FOR ECONOMIC REALPOLITIK IN EAST GERMANY

Nov. 16 (IPS)--A series of informal meetings between leading East German government representatives and West German bankers is reported by West German press sources to have set the basis for long-term economic cooperation on a magnitude of 15 to 20 billion Deutsche Marks (approximately \$8 billion). Press descriptions, especially in the CIA-allied weekly Der Spiegel, indicate that the purpose of the talks was not economic, but political: they were aimed at wearing down the often militant resistance of the East Germans to any Western attempt to seize influence over the Eastern bloc.

Overseeing the West German side of the negotiations were Krupp-head Berthold Beitz and the former State Secretary in the Defense Ministry Ernst Wolf Mommsen. In an effort to sugar-coat the political implications of broadening West German influence over the East, discussion of financing the deals was handled by the Bank fuer Gemeinschaft, the official bank of the West German trade union movement, and its "Social Democratic" banker chairman Walter Hesselbach.

Hesselbach, according to Der Spiegel, told the East German representatives not to fall into the same trap as the Soviets and concern themselves with low interest rates. Attempting to indicate that the East German hard-liners would be willing to make political concessions if they were offered trade deals, Beitz then bragged that "Without economics there is no politics."

West German Communist Party press coverage Nov. 15 of the last month of talks gives strong indication that the bankers probably met more resistance than their bravado shows. While the exceptionally high figure of 15 to 20 billion DM in long-term trade deals is cited, the source given is not East Germany, but the West German capitalist press organ, the Frankfurter Rundschau. Furthermore, it could not be hidden--even by the CIA-allied Der Spiegel--that all of the talks were of a preliminary nature and have so far yielded no concrete results.

POLAND BACKS THE CIA'S SHAH

Nov. 16 (IPS)--The Polish Communist Party paper Trybuna Ludu has given Iran's CIA-controlled Shah Reza Pavlevi a progressive white-wash to prepare for Poland's getting a piece of the Shah's new economic empire. Trybuna Ludu's feature article Nov. 7 by Barbara Stasko openly endorsed the Shah's use of the oil weapon as "the realistic politics of the Shah." This oil weapon is leading Rockefeller's Oil Hoax looting of the European working class.

Stasko stated: "Oil stands as a successful indicator of the accelerated development of machinery to industrialize and modernize the country." This disgusting public acclaim of the Shah as an anti-imperialist national-liberation hero was the levy of self-degradation the Polish Communists paid in preparation for Polish Premier Jaroszewicz's visit to Iran Nov. 11. Jaroszewicz and Prime Minister Amir Abbas Hoveyda of Iran discussed plans for further Polish involvement in the enormous economic "development" projects slated for the Iranian desert.

The Soviet paper Izvestiia similarly had hailed the Shah's policies last month, just before the Soviet news agency TASS announced that His Imperial Majesty shortly will pay a friendly business visit to Moscow.

FRENCH GOVERNMENT ESCALATES "RED SCARE" CAMPAIGN

Nov. 16 (IPS)--French Prime Minister Chirac and Interior Minister Poniatowski have stepped up a major "red scare" campaign designed to break the current wave of strikes and to demoralize and decimate the French Communist Party (PCF). Following statements this week by the French employers' association CNPF, which declared that the postal strike is "on the verge of creating general economic chaos," Poniatowski ordered the police to clear out the post offices occupied by the strikers. Since Nov. 14, the military has been handling the mail and removing garbage from the streets of Paris.

Both decisions indicate that Poniatowski is ready to employ any means necessary to intimidate the working class and the PCF. So far, the response of the unions and the Communists has consisted of symbolic protests and street demonstrations in Paris and other cities.

The "red scare" campaign officially started 10 days ago, when Prime Minister Chirac accused the PCF of "politicizing" the postal strike, as well as other sporadic job actions. His frequent invocation of the "national interest" and the adoption of a Bonapartist style of delivery, unheard since De Gaulle's 1958 coup, set the tone of the attack.

Following this, Poniatowski termed the PCF a "fascistic party" at the tribune of the National Assembly, arousing anger among Communist militants around the country. A purposely irate Jacques Duclos, long-time member of the PCF's politburo, responded in kind, amid a torrent of invectives flowing from both sides. To prove its respect of the national interest, the PCF finally decided to publicize highly its participation in the Nov. 11 celebration of Armistice Day. Numerous party delegations were seen depositing floral wreaths on the tombs of PCF members who served in the Resistance and died under the Nazi occupation.