

WEST GERMAN GASTARBEITER UNION RUMORED

WIESBADEN, West Germany, Dec. 31 (IPS)--An article in the French daily Le Monde Dec. 27 has intensified recent rumors about the possible formation of an independent organization of West German foreign workers--gastarbeiter--many of whom are threatened with a total loss of income if they are laid off in the coming months.

The secretary of the Catholic Office of Immigrants is reported to have stated that "The DGB's [German Trade Union Federation] greatest fear is that the foreigners will create a competing union which will really take charge of its own problems." Le Monde reports that movement among gastarbeiter is greatest in the metal industry, where the immigrant workers are most thoroughly integrated into the work force.

Although the rumor of an independent organization may be true--given the widespread ferment among gastarbeiter--the actual call for such an organization is most probably an effort to funnel gastarbeiter away from the rest of the West German working class and into impotent outpourings of rage. With slogans such as "Foreigners Out of Germany!" already being scribbled on walls in various cities, Economic Minister Hans Friederichs is trying to focus this reactionary sentiment. Indicative of this is Friederichs' recent statement, "I hope that the numerous foreigners who are going home for the Christmas vacation will not return."

WEST GERMAN COMMUNISTS BLAST SHAH

WIESBADEN, West Germany, Dec. 31 (IPS)--The factional split in the international Communist movement between those supporting a pro-working class internationalist outlook and those in favor of the Rockefeller-CIA line of "national roads to socialism" erupted again in the Dec. 31 issue of Unsere Zeit, the newspaper of the West German Communist Party (DKP).

Aiming squarely for Rockefeller's Mideast jugular, Unsere Zeit reporter Hubert Beichel destroys the CIA's carefully forged image of the Shah of Iran as an enlightened, anti-imperialist monarch. In an article entitled "Pahlevi's Model," Beichel writes: "Democratic rights and freedoms are disgusting to the despot on the Peacock Throne,...The Iran of Reza Pahlevi--that is the immeasurable wealth of a handful of great families and the immeasurable wretchedness of the masses. The decay of labor, the brutal terror of the secret police, the murder of democrats, political spies."

The DKP, however, reserves its attacks for Rockefeller puppets in the distant Mideast and fails to identify the Rockefeller ideologue within its own ranks.

12/31/74

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In an article in the same issue of *Unsere Zeit*, the DKP falls right into Rockefeller's trap for a "historical compromise"--that is, a coalition between the capitalists and the Communists to enforce brutal austerity on the working class.

According to the article, headlined "Model in Venice," "The Christian Democrats, Socialists, and Social Democrats, who jointly occupy the [Venice] city administration, have concluded a long-term agreement with the Communist Party. It concerns the realization of the program for the rationalization of the lagoon city, but it has importance as a model for the entire country. The Communist Party is striving for an historical compromise, which aims at the agreement of the Christian Democrats to the participation of the Communists in the government, so that the serious crisis of this country can be overcome by a progressive policy."

VENICE PCI ENTERS GOVERNMENT TO ENFORCE AUSTERITY

Dec. 31 (IPS)--On Christmas Eve the Communist Councilmen of the city of Venice ratified an accord supporting the municipal coalition of Christian Democrats (DC), Socialists (PSI), and Social Democrats in exchange for a consultation role on important decisions and for unofficial responsibilities in the government. The Venice Accord is a step toward practical implementation of Rockefeller's policies for Italy as promoted by two of his leading agents: Giorgio Amendola, self-admitted CIA infiltrator in the politburo of the Italian Communist Party (PCI), and Piero Bassetti, former president of the Lombardy Region 9 and a member of the Trilateral Commission executive.

Any tolerance of the Venetian model as an acceptable "national way to socialism" on the part of other European Communist Parties and within the East bloc will seriously weaken the recent factional left turn led by French and East German Communists.

The Venice Accord, touted both by *Unita* (the Amendola-controlled PCI press) and the *New York Times* as a model for potential national government in Italy, fulfills the doctrine of "new democratic understandings" put forward last September by Renato Zangheri, the mayor of "Red" Bologna. Zangheri, a leading member of Amendola's faction in the PCI Central Committee and a rabid zero-growth advocate, proposed that de facto agreements be arranged between local administrative coalitions and opposition parties in the leading Italian cities in order to meet austerity conditions. This would mean that a Communist-dominated administration, such as the one in Bologna, would welcome "participation" of the DC (Italy's main bourgeois party) while in other cities, the DC would make deals with the Communists. As Zangheri implied, and is now being carried out in Venice, the PCI would deliver its mass forces