

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

IPS C3