

WEST GERMANS DEMAND UPGRADED MILITARY

WEISBADEN, WEST GERMANY, Jan. 11 (IPS)--Right-wing and formerly liberal members of West Germany's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) Parliamentary opposition party opened up a campaign this week to force a massive increase in West German military spending.

CDU propaganda on this issue reached a new level of hysteria today when the ultra-conservative capitalist daily, Die Welt, laid out in black and white the international political consequences of a West German move in this direction. Die Welt writes: "As long as the present government keeps up billions worth of credits to the Eastern bloc, it cannot sell us the argument that there is no more money available for defense."

The cold war escalation coincides with a diplomatic venture by neo-fascist Franz Josef Strauss, chairman of the Bavarian Christian Social Union, intended to intensify panic in the Soviet Union. Today, Strauss departed for consultations with the hysterically anti-Russian Red Chinese, demanding that "the East Policy must be extended beyond Moscow." At the last moment, Strauss also let it be known that he will make a stop-over in the CIA's fortification in the Middle East, Iran.

Change of Government

The CDU's military spending propaganda has been coupled with increasingly brazen claims by its leadership that it will soon be entering the national government, now controlled by a paralyzed coalition of Social Democrats and Free Democrats.

The CDU military spokesman Woerner, generally reputed to be a party moderate, announced in a widely publicized speech Jan. 8, "If the CDU were to take responsibility for governing, it would strengthen the military and increase its financial expenditures."

The next day, the once-liberal CDU chairman, Helmut Kohl, made the campaign official at a party conference on the theme of "security policy," attended by small industrialists. In an atmosphere of intense anti-communism, Kohl demanded a "continually increasing" military budget, and the allocation of a "key roll" to West Germany in military affairs.

West German diplomatic circles in the U.S. have expressed dismay at the CDU's endorsement of military spending as their solution to the depression, explicitly defining this as wasteful and provocative to the Soviet Union. The same circles have pinpointed CDU'ers Carl Carstens and Gerhard Schroeder as the key manipulators behind the sudden policy initiatives. Carstens, in his capacity as a member of the Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Auswaertige Politik, the German equivalent to the U.S. Council on Foreign Relations, has long-term connections to the American CIA and NATO.

1/11/75

IPS B1

Schroeder was Defense Minister under the emergency Grand Coalition government of all political parties during the recession and political crisis of the late 1960s.

U.S. and West German government officials similarly recognize that in order to implement military expansion in Europe, the CDU must lead or at least participate in the West German government. Speculations on how this will happen range from a complete collapse of the present coalition, to an invitation to the CDU to join in a new Grand Coalition after state elections in the industrial heartland this May in the Ruhr region. A spokesman for the U.S. military greeted this growing possibility for the CDU to assume governmental power: "From our point of view, we need all the help we can get... When we see we can get it, then fine."

FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY GUTS SP AND LAUNCHES ORGANIZING DRIVE

Jan. 11 (IPS)--Spearheading the West European Communist Parties drive leftward, the French Communist Party (PCF) has declared all out warfare against the CIA-controlled Socialist Party (SP). The PCF has launched a three-pronged attack to halt the SP's pro-Rockefeller austerity drive and gut its internal organization. In addition to continuing its polemic against the figure of SP leader and CIA agent Francois Mitterand, The PCF is consolidating its working class base and preparing its cadre for hand-to-hand combat on the regional and local level.

Symptomatic of the determination behind the PCF's offensive is that right-wing PCF General Secretary Georges Marchais has been forced, under pressure, to become the most militant spokesman for the left-wing tendency of Politburo members Rolland Leroy and Jean Kanapa. The fact that Marchais is now attacking SP leader Mitterand--an unheard of tactic in recent French left politics, by name, has sent Mitterand scurrying into the shadows, pitifully declaring that he can't understand what the PCF is making such a fuss about.

Marchais in a Jan. 7 radio broadcast was equally firm. "Mitterand is still acting as though there were no problems...And I say, he's covering them up, that's all." Mitterand is vainly trying to cover up his Rockefeller script as the most vocal spokesman for Rockefeller's austerity policies. He has not hesitated to allow the SP to ally with local right wingers against PCF candidates on the local level, in an outright breach of the Union of the Left agreement which was signed years ago and which until recently had guaranteed the PCF's submission to the SP.

Marchais has retorted that the PCF is responsible for breaking the Union because of its aggressive attitude: "Unity in itself doesn't mean a thing...What is in question today is precisely: unity to do what?"