

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?"

Pulling Off Cover

Marchais' broadside attacks on the now discredited Mitterrand are being carried out militarily on the local level of party machine politics in France. In upwards of ten areas the PCF has, as the right-wing daily *Le Nouveau Journal* recently put it, shoved the SP "up against the wall" for its practice of alliances with the right and especially its attempts to pass austerity budgets in regional councils where the left is hegemonic. As part of its overall cost-cutting drive, the government has been trying to "decentralize" expenses through progressive regionalization policies which simply amount to increasing taxes on workers on the regional level. The SP has been pushing the same policy and running into heavy PCF resistance.

In Nancy, in the northeast, the Meurthe-et-Moselle federation of the SP was pressured by the PCF to demand that its members resign from the centrist-run municipal council. In a display of complete impotence, two of the SP'ers decided to drop out of their party in order to keep their seats in those warm leather armchairs in the council. In Chauvigny where the right-wing majority of the municipal council supported a SP candidate instead of presenting its own, the PCF demanded that the Socialist resign from the race. As a result of the latter's refusal, the PCF candidate's vote increased by 8 per cent between the two rounds.

In Lille, SP Mayor Pierre Mauroy is refusing to give the PCF representation in the socialist-dominated municipal council despite the 1972 agreement. While this feud has been simmering for years, the PCF demanded a few days ago in no uncertain terms that "as of this week" it be included in the council. Gustave Ansart, head of the PCF's powerful North Federation recently blasted the SP for being "dominated by its electoral alliance with the right."

Working Class Consolidation

The PCF's moves to pull the rug out from under this agent-ridden party are accompanied by an aggressive campaign to consolidate its base in the working class. Central Committee member Laurent Salini, hammering the point home in the Jan. 7 issue of the PCF daily, *L'Humanité*, stressed that the PCF is the "class party, the revolutionary party, the vanguard party" while the PCF weekly, *France Nouvelle*, launched a drive to recruit trade union members who recognize that "a more influential CP is truly the security of the working class."

The turn of events has not gone unnoticed by the capitalist press. Pro-Rockefeller editorialist in *Le Figaro*, Xavier Marchetti, noted with concern Jan.6 that the only area of political uncertainty in France has become the left, where "local tensions" between the PCF and SP could lead to a complete rupture. All hell can be expected to break loose at the SP Congress at the end of the month as pressure continues to build.