

Schmidt Leads Puppets in Europe To Early Grave

BONN, BRD, June 11 (IPS) — It is becoming increasingly probable that the Schmidt government of West Germany — Rocky's linchpin satrapy in Western Europe — will not last more than a few weeks. The process leading to Helmut Schmidt's ouster, after barely over a year as head of Rockefeller's Occupation regime, is now all but irreversible.

The fall of Schmidt would seal the fate of every social-fascist Second International regime in Europe — from Scandinavia to Britain.

Within the last three days, the anti-Schmidt Ruhr "Smokestack Barons" have succeeded in consolidating the opposition Christian Democrats (CDU and Bavarian Christian Socialist Union) on a parliamentary strategy to topple Schmidt.

The rising anti-Schmidt groundswell has brought an open split in the ruling Social Democracy, with leading SPD Parliamentary leaders, Herbert Wehner and Buchstaller of the right-wing Kanal faction publicly disassociating themselves from the defense and foreign policies of the agent Schmidt government. This indicates the existence of strong "behind the scenes" motion on the part of the SPD Kanal faction in Parliament and the various regional-metropolitan porkbarrel based machines it controls, to link up with the CDU-industrialist opposition.

To round off the tightening noose around Schmidt, his junior coalition partner, the liberal Free Democratic Party (FDP) is making public statements proving its readiness to jump off the sinking ship at the first available opportunity.

The showdown debate on which the fate of Schmidt hangs must begin by June 16. Yesterday, here in Bonn, a meeting of the combined Presidiums of the CDU-CSU — directly following strategy sessions of the parlia-

mentary leaderships of both parties — produced a joint communique which states: "The CDU/CSU have engaged in thorough consultations concerning the political situation and...on strategy. In both areas agreement was reached, also concerning further moves in the handling of these questions...."

One day prior, the official spokesman for the CDU Executive laid out precisely what this strategy would be:

•Within the parliamentary debate that the CDU is already forcing (on Economic Policy), the CDU will raise an "urgency motion" which the Minister of Economics must answer.

•If unsatisfactory to the CDU, his answer will be declared so, causing the CDU to call an extraordinary debate (Aktuelle Stunde) on Economic Policy, a type of debate that would normally culminate in a no-confidence resolution against the government.

The probability of the Schmidt government's early demise is already provoking breaking developments among lesser Rockefeller satrapies in the Low Countries:

This afternoon, the Belgian government of Henry Kissinger's prctege Leo Tindemans faces a vote of no-confidence around the issue of defense police and Belgium's decision to purchase the jet-fighter YF-16. The vote will be extremely close, and even if Tindemans should squeak through, his position in the next few weeks is nearly untenable — as all knowledgeable politicians in Belgium openly concede.

•The Dutch Progressive Radical Party has opened a parliamentary debate — also on NATO defense policy and the YF-16 purchase.

The developing German situation is now having a tremendous impact on Gaullist and Italian Christian Democratic bourgeois factional opponents of Rockefeller, especially in light of the

upcoming National Congress of the Gaullist UDR Party June 16, and the June 15 nationwide regional elections in Italy.

Events directly preceding yesterday's CDU/CSU Presidium meeting witnessed the rout of the party's corporatist, pro-Schmidt and anti-Schlotbarone wing, as key sections of the Party machine swung into line behind Schlotbarone-Stoltenberg motor force. Under the code of blasting Mitbestimmung (co-determination) and other key phrases of the corporatist planks of Rockefeller agents in the CDU, typified by CDU General-Secretary Biedenkopf and Party Treasurer Kiep, one ranking figure after another in the CDU lined up behind the Stoltenberg-Smokestack Baron steamroller.

The climax was reached on Monday when:

•Karl Carstens, CDU Parliamentary leader and hitherto a key Rockefeller agent in the Party jumped ship and publicly declared support for Stoltenberg's economic policy, calling Stoltenberg's inclusion in "the new cabinet" a must — a statement which received widespread press coverage.

•Open statements of support by key southwest CDU leader, Filbinger, for Stoltenberg's policies and corresponding hatred of Biedenkopf's corporatist dribble. The same day, the Stuttgart-based Badische Zeitung published a call for expanded East-West trade by the Stuttgart Chamber of Industry and Commerce — the representative institution for West Germany's powerful southwest industrialist lobby.

Lines Drawn for Bundestag Debate

The latest actions of the Schmidt government have assured that the showdown will occur — barring a last-minute Schmidt capitulation. The Federal Cabinet has announced a 25-point "Development Policy" whose core is the slashing of develop-

ment funds from 6 billion DM to 3 billion and "the Federal government will promote labor-intensive technologies (sic) for developing countries... to solve their employment problems." The CDU deputy, Todenhoefer, whose 44 questions on economic policy posed to the government sparked the Bundestag debate, had warned that the CDU would draw the line over any moves to cut development funds — and had retorted with a call for a massive increase for such funds. Todenhoefer has already blasted the cabinet's decision.

SPD Leaders Bolting From Schmidt Policy

The factional situation in the SPD has now busted wide open. The Kanal must stay in government at all costs to preserve their regional and urban porkbarrels and are thus now openly attacking Schmidt and SPD corporatists, in readiness of striking up a deal with a new CDU-smokestack baron regime. In addition to the code-worded factional attacks against SPD corporatist features, the kanal faction is using the issues of defense and foreign policy towards the Soviet Bloc to blast Schmidt and nuclear war maniac Defense Minister, Georg Leber, for their confrontation stance with the Soviet Union. These are issues which the CDU must — for reasons of their right wing base — relatively soft-peddle in public.

On the national level the irreparable rupture in SPD ranks has emerged in near-simultaneous blasts at the Schmidt government's defense and foreign policy by SPD Parlia-

mentary leader, Herbert Wehner, and the SPD Chairman of the Bundestag Defense Committee, Buchstaller. Wehner, speaking on Deutsche Welle Radio, endorsed speedily and successful call to the Soviet-sponsored European Security and Cooperation Conference — with meaningful results. In this regard Wehner directly echoed the Soviet stance.

Wehner also emphasized — in an obvious blast at Schmidt — that "no obstacles on the path of further normalizing relations with Eastern Europe could be permitted." Buchstaller, in a direct reference to the Schmidt government's criminal all-out support of Schlesinger's nuclear war confrontation policy, stated bluntly that the choice lies between peaceful co-existence and the danger of war breaking out. Buchstaller's resolution of the choice: "I'm for peaceful co-existence." These moves, considering the positions of Wehner and Buchstaller, indicate the parliamentary clout available to the Kanal in combination with the CDU, to topple Schmidt in the coming showdown.

FDP Smells the Wind

In parallel developments, leading FDP'ers starting with Foreign Minister Genscher and Economics Minister Friderichs, have assumed positions to expedite their departure from the Schmidt bunker before the roof collapses. Genscher's rapid "transformation" shows how fast the situation is moving. Until last weekend, Genscher, as Foreign Minister, unflinchingly launched provocation upon provocation

against the East bloc, particularly the Soviet Union and East Germany. Like the proverbial "bull in the china shop," the Foreign Minister consistently found his specialty for provocation in Berlin. Genscher is now quoted as saying "I want to free myself from the reputation of being a Berlin cold warrior," and has warned West Berlin Mayor, Schuetz, "not to overreact to Soviet statements." Genscher has also joined the "winning side" by contributing his own attacks against Mitbestimmung.

In related developments, FDP Economics Minister Friderichs' Ministry is now lavishing praise on expanded East-West trade, following a meeting of the joint Soviet-West German Economic Commission.

The Schmidt government's early fall combined with the SPD factional break-up and the ensuing chain of reaction throughout Western Europe, especially among Second International regimes is creating ripe conditions for an early European Labor Committee consolidation of mass left Social Democratic working class forces. Current gains to this end will expand exponentially once the programless left Social Democracies are driven into opposition, as Smokestack Baron regimes spring up in Europe. Schmidt's fall will also provide a decisive impetus to the anti-Rockefeller factional drives in Italy, France and Great Britain to dump Moro, Giscard, and Wilson respectively — if one or more of them should not fall even before Schmidt does.