

INTERVIEW

'West Germans Rebel? Impossible!'

NEW YORK, March 27 (IPS) — What follows are excerpts from an interview with Richard Loewenthal, a member of the pro-NATO American Council on Germany currently teaching at Columbia University in New York City. Loewenthal, a collaborator of John J. McCloy former High Commissioner during the occupation is well-known as a vehemently anti-Communist right-wing ideologue of the West German Social Democratic Party (SPD), and a close associate of SPD Chairman Willy Brandt. The interview with Loewenthal took place March 24, the day after he addressed a luncheon session of the Council. Loewenthal's remarks were made available to IPS by an independent source:

Q: I'm calling to discuss the luncheon meeting at which you spoke under the auspices of the American Council on Germany. I was told by the Council that you spoke on European unity.

Loewenthal: I spoke on Soviet strategy and Western European communism not on Western European unity. Who told you I spoke on Western European unity?

Q: The corporate secretary of the American Council on Germany. But what I want to discuss with you is the international payments crisis building toward the March 31 quar-

terly deadline. Wall Street is demanding that pro-U.S. West German industrialists upvalue the mark, and since the West Germans know an upvaluation would wipe out their export markets, they are resisting. The industrialists are additionally boxed in by brewing mass strike ferment around current contract negotiations in Italy and West Germany.

Loewenthal: Where do you get this? What is your source? This is impossible!

Q: The clear picture is that West Germany is resisting heavy Wall Street pressure to create a dollar-deutchemark axis to keep the rest of Western Europe under austerity control.

Loewenthal: West Germany will not revalue the mark, that is what is known.

Q: What is occurring is a crisis for hegemony. West Germans are resisting for the first time since World War II ...

Loewenthal: I would not use the term, "crisis for hegemony." West Germany is not resisting U.S. hegemony. There is opposition, and there may be differences on the currency level, but West Germany remains one of many Western European allies of the U.S. I just don't see how you are saying what you are saying. (Mr. Loewenthal then hung up.)