

expelled a dozen or so right-wing SPD members, for supporting Strauss's nascent fascist party. Left SPD agents grouped around SPD chairman Willy Brandt are threatening to split if the SPD does not adopt corporatist policies.

A surprisingly abrupt outcry by both left and right over the SPD-controlled government's inability to increase federalized pensions by 10 per cent is the latest development in the factional brawl, adding what the press has characterized as a Weimar Republic aura of instability to the situation.

CDU Spokesman Opposes Transfer of Control of Nuclear Weapons

Dec. 7 — The following are excerpts from a news article in the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, one of West Germany's national circulation daily papers, entitled "Woerner Demands Strategic Clarity":

The opposition in the Bonn Parliament is expecting clarifying statements on the strategy of flexible response from the upcoming meeting of the NATO council, especially from the meeting of the defense ministers. Namely, something must be said on flexibility... (Christian Democratic military spokesman Manfred) Woerner has opposed drawing tactical nuclear weapons more strongly into the defense planning for Europe, in the sense, particularly, of handing over disposal of certain nuclear weapons to military commanders. The stated considerations of military leaders (who have requested such control, such as West German General Schnell... ed.) are certainly legitimate, he states, but unrealistic, because it would be entirely uncertain whether the opponent would agree to such a western scenario. Tactical nuclear weapons should also not be withdrawn from the European continent and stationed on the northern sea.

Warsaw Pact Proposal Should Be Considered

Dec. 7 — The following are excerpts from a press commentary by Adalbert Weinstein in the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, West German's national circulation daily, entitled: "Soviet Tanks Against Tactical Nuclear Weapons":

"The proposal of the Warsaw Pact for both sides to 're-nounce first strike with nuclear weapons' should thus not only be seen as a 'routine psychological intervention' with which to provoke confusion in the western camp during this year's NATO conference. One must certainly

accept that the Soviets will repeat the proposal. They will want to 'test' the new American President and his foreign minister. They know too that the socialists in the European Parliament are vulnerable to such ideas. Not least, the proposal propitiates those American experts who for years have favored a drastic reduction of tactical nuclear potential in Europe.

"Considering this, Atlantic military politicians have come to the conviction that a strict rejection of the Soviets' thoughts is not sufficient by itself. A psychological counter-offensive by the west is called for. Why should the Warsaw Pact proposal not be discussed, and thereby a new nuance be given to deterrence through an Atlantic political initiative! The Soviet initiative is technically in the foreground, and politically utopian. It needs, should it be taken seriously, filling out; better, to be strategically broadened.

"Everyone knows that the application of atomic weapons on a battlefield would eliminate all standing prescriptions for battle... A simple abandonment of 'first use of nuclear weapons' can also only benefit the Soviets with their conventional superiority... It should thus be proposed to the Soviets, NATO experts believe, that the abandonment of first strike be politically clarified in such a fashion that in military praxis, genuine advantages result for both sides... The west could pull the majority of its tactical nuclear weapons behind the Rhine, the East withdraw the greater portion of its tank troops behind the Weichsel.. Both sides would have no disadvantages through such strategic regroupment..."

Bonn Denies Bid for Nuclear Weapons

Dec. 7 — The following is a translation of a press release by the Bonn government published in the Frankfurter Rundschau, a local liberal daily. It is an official statement by the Bonn government on the proposal that control of certain categories of nuclear weapons be handed over to field commanders:

"The Federal government, according to government spokesman Klaus Boelling, is not striving to be given a partial voice in the use of nuclear weapons. Boelling stated before journalists on Monday in Bonn, 'in the quarters of the federal government' such proposals, as that voiced by Free Democratic Defense expert Juergen Moellemann, have never been discussed. The Federal government learned of these proposals exclusively from the newspapers. The decision on the use of nuclear weapons within the Atlantic Alliance lies in the hands of the U.S. President."