

# The Christian Democratic Party Congress

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## WEST GERMANY

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Spokesmen in the West German Christian Democratic Union (CDU) led by Federal Parliament President Karl Carstens attempted to manipulate a special party congress on "Germany Policy" held in Duesseldorf this week into a cold war circus in support of U.S. President Carter's international "human rights campaign." Carstens' chief supporters in this endeavor were the Westfalen-Lippe regional organization, which constitutes one wing of the large North Rhine Westfalia state organization, and is presently under the control of former party General Secretary Kurt Biedenkopf.

Opposition to the "human rights campaign" was led by Gerhard Stoltenberg, CDU Prime Minister of the province of Schleswig-Holstein and spokesman for industrial leaders in West Germany. On March 10 Stoltenberg rose from the floor to demand that the CDU begin a national campaign on the subject of economic growth, built around a series of expert congresses on the subject of energy production. Stoltenberg emphasized that these congresses would also be a competent forum for discussion of environmental protection, whose prerequisite is economic growth.

The congress delegates did not participate in the debate between Stoltenberg and the "human rights" defenders. More concerned with local political problems, and swept up by the attacks on the socialist bloc, many of which centered on the controversial subject of East

## Scandals Heaped On Western Europe

Hard on the heels of last week's double-barreled scandal salvo against the West German government and the intensification of the Lockheed affair in Italy, a new array of scandals has suddenly broken open in both countries, and threatens to hit Sweden as well. The sheer number of these affairs suggests to even the most skeptical observer that there must be a method to this madness.

This week's incidents:

— An alleged East German spy has been discovered working in the office of Rainer Barzel, former chairman of the Christian Democratic Union.

— *Der Spiegel* magazine has accused the Militarische Abschirmsdienst (MAD, West Germany's Military Intelligence Service) of illegalities in the agency's investigation of an Air Force pilot killed last year in a plane crash, who was under suspicion of working for a foreign intelligence agency.

— Swedish state radio, an outspokenly pro-Carter outfit, has predicted the fall of the Swedish government around a fission energy report to be issued next week.

— An independent truckers' union in Italy has struck the Milan-Turin region, forcing the shutdown of several major automobile plants. A leading official of the regional Italian Communist Party has publicly linked this action with the disruption of the government caused by the Lockheed affair.

Several reliable sources close to U.S. intelligence circles have raised the possibility of an early

collapse of the Italian government of Giulio Andreotti; in West Germany, however, the maximum effect of the scandals would be to create a "Watergate" atmosphere of confusion and lack of trust in the government. But if West German prospects change, one of last week's scandals could do the trick: the Federal Supreme Court has declared that a number of advertisements placed by the government in newspapers during last year's election campaign constitute a violation of funding regulations. Karl Carstens, President of the Bundestag and a prominent figure in the Christian Democratic opposition, has already formed a committee to investigate whether the elections could be declared null and void, thereby forcing reelections.

Their damaging effects notwithstanding, most of these scandals are patently 90 percent hot air. For example, in the West German "bugging scandal," which has drawn so many calls for the resignation of Interior Minister Werner Maihofer, the original *Der Spiegel* exposé described the bugging victim, Dr. Klaus Traube, as one of West Germany's three top physicists working on fast-breeder reactor technology. In addition, the *Frankfurter Rundschau* reported that Dr. Traube now wants to work on the joint European JET fusion project. This week, however, Dr. Traube stated in an interview with *Der Spiegel* that he is not a physicist at all, but merely a skilled mechanical engineer! And in a telephone interview with this press service, Traube denied any desire or intention of working on JET.