

tional role in counteracting Carter's fantastic military scenarios was thrown into sharp relief by an interchange between a systems analyst from Essen, Klaus Meyer-Abich, and Karl Kaiser of the Institute for Foreign Policy. Meyer-Abich transmitted a veiled threat from Carter: West Germany ought to concentrate on domestic energy conservation, so as to reduce "the international conflict potential." "Will that really help?" was Kaiser's pointed response. "A Middle East crisis could break out Monday." He proceeded to argue in favor of the government's export of nuclear technology "both to secure the

nation's energy supply and as economic cooperation aimed at development and peace."

Contrary to past instances, most of the press and media have been open about the fact that Schmidt's policies are now hegemonic. In an American television interview Schmidt said that "The Federal Republic will sell its nuclear technology to anyone who wants to buy it." A West German radio station has stated flatly that "American and German energy interests are not the same."

— George Gregory

'Brandt Era' Comes To Close In West Berlin

The resignation this week of West Berlin Lord Mayor Klaus Schütz is the outcome of a long-seething confrontation between two factions in West Germany's governing Social Democratic Party for control of the city. The estimation of a number of informed observers is that Schütz's decision to resign, following a series of financial and mismanagement scandals, constitutes a decisive defeat for SPD chairman and former West Berlin Mayor Willy Brandt, and a victory for Federal Chancellor Helmut Schmidt.

The right-wing daily *Die Welt* called Schütz's resignation "the end of the Brandt era in West Berlin." It is well known that Brandt's international reputation, which soared with the 1961 crisis around the Berlin Wall, began under the personal sponsorship of Supreme Allied Commander for Germany, John J. McCloy, who was also a director for Chase Manhattan Bank. The Brandt machine in West Berlin has been committed to the use of the city as a source of provocations against the Warsaw Pact. Now, with the replacement of Schütz by Schmidt's man Dieter Stobbe, the likelihood that West Berlin will emerge as a major source of tension between NATO and the Warsaw Pact has been greatly reduced.

In a special feature on the city in the London *Sunday Times* May 1, the suggestion was floated that West Berlin become a center for negotiations on European-wide East-West trade. The Times reported that the Japanese as well as a number of Soviet Bloc countries are attempting to set up trade fairs there, and the Chamber of Commerce and the business community are very receptive to the idea.

Within West Germany's Social Democratic Party, the fight around Berlin is just one of a number of issues which have brought Schmidt and Brandt onto a collision course. Brandt is a firm supporter of the U.S. Carter Administration on energy, environmental and monetary policy, and is actively coordinating with the U.S. Administration to weaken Schmidt, who recently has been

thrust into the position of Europe's leading spokesman against Carter's international economic programs. At the same time that a large number of Italian newspapers predicted this week that Schmidt will be in an all-out fight with Carter at the May 8 western summit meeting, Brandt has been coordinating an extremist fringe of the SPD to topple Schmidt.

The Italian daily *Corriere della Sera* responded to the news of Schütz's resignation by reporting that "this Brandt-Schmidt dualism, which seemed destined to emerge from the underground labyrinth to which it had been long confined, has now surfaced to aggravate the SPD crisis." Schmidt, the paper asserts, "has crossed the Rubicon" and decided that he will consolidate his control of the party at all costs. If necessary, *Corriere* claims, he is willing to enter into a Grand Coalition with industrial-tied Christian Democrats, presently in the parliamentary opposition, to defeat his extremist opponents within the SPD.

SPD Business Manager Egon Bahr, a former member of the cabinet when Brandt was Chancellor, has made a number of efforts to undercut Schmidt on Brandt's behalf. Before Stobbe's appointment, Bahr went to West Berlin and attempted to rally support around another candidate, Juergen Wischnewski. The *Süddeutsche Zeitung* commented in an editorial that Schmidt made a mistake in appointing Bahr business manager earlier this year, since he is only an "operative" and has no base in the party.

The conflict between the chief figures in the party also includes a fight over legislation and judicial means to fight "terrorism." The regional daily *Mainzer Allgemeine Zeitung* allowed a potentially explosive leak through this week on the disagreements over terrorism. Recently, Chancellor Schmidt called together a conference of security and judicial experts from all parties to work out a joint policy on the terrorist threat. Brandt chose, according to the daily, to boycott the proceedings.