

Since coming to power the new Washington Administration has markedly increased the striving of the United States to restore its leading position in the capitalist world at the expense of the interests of its partners and allies...

Another knot of contradictions is the sale of nuclear equipment and technology, as well as nuclear fuel. Washington is trying to get undivided American rule over the world market for atomic power station equipment and nuclear technology, and shuns no methods to crush competitors, especially the BRD...

As we can see, harmony of interest is still a long way off. But our attention is drawn to something else — during the talks in Washington differences appeared which go beyond the bounds of purely interimperialist rivalry and contradictions. At issue here is the concern and alarm which Western Europe is experiencing in connec-

tion with the dangerous “improvisations” in the policy of the Washington Administration — the uproar around “human rights” and the rush to deploy qualitatively new types of strategic weapons. The *New York Post* wrote that Schmidt went to the USA to “ask Carter to dampen his ardor...”

Speaking abroad before the National Press Club, Schmidt resolutely endorsed the policy of détente in Europe. It is difficult to say to what extent Washington is inclined to consider the opinions of its allies in this question so vitally important for the whole world. But one thing cannot be doubted: to the previous, one might say traditional, contradictions between the USA and its western partners have been added qualitatively new ones. They concern the future of the policy of détente, the policy of peace and cooperation in international relations. And this is an extremely remarkable phenomenon.

N-Bomb ‘Perversion Of Human Mind’

The following are excerpts of an official statement by Egon Bahr, Federal Business Manager of the West German Social Democratic Party (SPD), which appeared in Die Welt, July 18.

For some years, we in the German Social Democratic Party have been conducting a discussion on the quality of life. After the economic revival brought us incomparable reforms which have benefited the entire population, the question now arises of the purpose of all this development. Man would become impoverished if this material success were to become the only measure of success in general.

The fact that (with the use of the neutron bomb) industrial plants, streets and communications systems can almost immediately be used “afterwards,” — this is the

idea behind it. The progress represented by this is that it is easier to remove human corpses than the rubble of cities and factories. With his brain, man is making himself into even less than a slave of his machines. When a decision must be made, it is not the man, but the machine which should be saved. The neutron bomb is a symbol of perversion of the human mind.

It makes no difference whether one thinks in terms of Christianity or with maxims of humanist ethics, whether one questions what is worth defending against enemies or thinks about the discussion of the sanctity of human life in connection with abortion reform: With the neutron bomb mankind has removed himself from the center to the edge, since the center is now occupied by material things. The triumph of materialism or human life — which do we want to defend?