

## France, W. Germany Coordinate Efforts For Nuclear Development

The now emerging Franco-German alliance on the question of nuclear energy is facilitating the strengthening in West Germany of an informal "Grand Coalition" between Social Democratic Chancellor Schmidt and the progrowth faction of the opposition Christian Democratic-Christian Social Union.

The CDU-CSU published this week a nine-point program on energy development for discussion at a special October 10 energy congress to be held in Hanover. The program is a complete repudiation of zero growth, and demands "intensive promotion" of fusion power research and fast-breeder technologies. Significantly, the program "supports all efforts for peace in the Mideast" as a basic feature of guaranteeing energy supplies.

The level of cooperation between the SPD and the CDU was underscored by the presence of leading SPD member and Mine Workers Union leader Adolf Schmidt on the podium. CDU energy spokesman Heinz Riesenhuber commented on the importance of the question to the Social Democrats' working class base,

"Isn't it funny that the Christian Democracy now represents the real interests of the workers."

Negotiations for the "Grand Coalition" accord were sparked by a national security crisis around the September 6 terrorist kidnapping of Hanns-Martin Schleyer, head of the German Association of Industry. On October 1, government-opposition cooperation in the Schleyer affair resulted in a groundbreaking all-party vote in the national parliament for more stringent anti-terrorist regulations.

This joint action against the terrorist threat has produced a national consensus in all parties that a direct connection exists between "environmentalist" organizations (which have succeeded in halting an ambitious government program for nuclear power development) and terrorist organizations. This consensus was voiced on October 4 by Finance Minister Hans Apel in a nationally circulated interview. The antinuclear forces, through a series of court actions banning power plant construction, had "created a national state of emergency," Apel declared, "in preventing 25 billion marks in desperately needed investments."

### West Germany's CDU Proposes Nuclear Development Program

On October 5, West Germany's Christian Democratic opposition party issued a groundbreaking nine-point program for nuclear energy development and petroleum imports to be discussed at its October 10 special energy congress.

Supported by leading industrial spokesmen such as Frankfurt Chemical Industries Association spokesman Heinz Riesenhuber, the program has made rapid development of nuclear energy the central issue of debate in ongoing negotiations between Social Democratic Chancellor Schmidt and the Christian party opposition for an informal "Grand Coalition" accord around pressing questions of national security and economic development.

The nine points of the CDU program are:

- Increased security in provision of energy resources than in the past.
- More rapid transition from petroleum to alternative energy sources.
- Support for all efforts for peace in the Mideast and the world.
- Encouragement of diversification of petroleum importing sources.
- Bilateral and multilateral cooperation with OPEC and other raw materials states.
- Establishment of greater security stockpiles.
- Further development of crisis management in the International Energy Agency.
- Usage of oil, natural gas, nuclear energy and regenerative energy resources.
- Usage of all technologically feasible forms of uranium as an energy supply, including breeder reactors, and intensive promotion of fusion power.
- Introduction of a fair relationship between industrial and developing countries, on a free market economy basis, within the framework of a New World Economic Order.
- Cooperation within the European Economic Community, and with other western partners for the development of nuclear reprocessing and waste disposal facilities.

### French Support

In August, the French government offered to West Germany usage of its nuclear waste disposal facility in La Hague to hasten West German fast breeder research and construction. This week, the provincial governments of Rhineland-Palatinate and the Saarland announced that they will join the federal Franco-German commission on nuclear power construction in border regions.

The province of Bavaria has also given official implementation orders to a regional program for construction of 12 power plants, previously stalled by environmentalist action. Rheinland-Palatinate will similarly begin construction "in the near future" of two nuclear plants on the planning board.

These provincial decisions have been encouraged by a recent decision by the Federal Parliamentary Committee on Research and Technology to defend construction of the Kalkar fast breeder reactor, in opposition to a Münster court decision earlier this year imposing a construction moratorium on the site. The committee stated in its recommendations that the present "Atomic Law" should be changed to include provisions for technological development, if the court decision is not reversed.

The effort to develop nuclear fusion technology has been another major focus of cooperation. In a major article in the Oct. 5 *Le Figaro*, Alain Vernay heralded the goals of France's nuclear energy industry with a call for a full fusion-based economy by the year 2020.

In West Germany, the parliamentary research committee has held a private hearing on the prospects of fusion power. According to the commercial daily *Handelsblatt*, Christian Democratic members of the committee were "very positive and optimistic" about fusion in spite of the collapse of talks over the European "JET" project. More and more Christian Democrats are reportedly in favor of either developing fusion technology unilaterally or else proceeding with one other partner, presumably France.

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### Le Figaro:

## Fusion Required To Solve Energy Crisis

*The article here was written by Alain Vernay, economics specialist for the Paris daily Le Figaro and appeared on that paper's front page Oct. 5 under the headline, "Energy: To Avoid The 'Great Crisis'."*

How to avoid a great energy crisis in 1985 when oil demand will have become greater than supply? This is

the anguished question which the ministers in charge of energy in 19 industrialized countries will have to study today in Paris on the occasion of the second session of the Executive Committee of the International Energy Agency (IEA).

The 19 believe that a serious shortage could only be avoided through double action on two levels, to begin without delay: on the one hand through an increase of uranium production and an effort to catch up after delays recently incurred in the area of nuclear electricity; on the other hand, through new attempts to save petroleum by fixing a global Western import target for 1985...

Progress comes via getting rid of illusions.

The first illusion, which explains, without excusing, the prolonged absence of France from the IEA Council, is to think that it has remained as in the times of Henry Kissinger. For him, in 1974, the energy problem was brought down to a confrontation whose stakes were the fixing of crude prices between a producing cartel, OPEC, and a cartel of consumers which should be formed to stand up to it. The enemy, for the industrialized democracies, was OPEC... This view of the world has been overcome, in Washington as elsewhere. The enemy is now the laws of the market. If the conditions in which these laws function could be changed through an effort towards energy diversification, these laws would cease to be threatening...

The second great illusion which must be dismissed for the IEA, is that it is only interested in hydrocarbons and not in the totality of the energy field... In the energy field, it (the IEA) has passed from a product strategy to a market strategy. To satisfy the increased petroleum needs, it is essentially counting on a tripling of uranium production, at least until 1985...

Then a new grave deadline would come towards the year 1990, if between now and then a sufficient number of fast breeders — wasting less fuel and producing more thanks to recycling — have not been made operable. Another danger of shortage would occur between the years 2000 and 2020, if we have not passed from fission to fusion.

Perhaps we must see an even broader perspective. An attempt to respond to the energy needs of the next generation is undoubtedly the only task which can permit a rapprochement between statesmen from the Northern and Southern countries, and perhaps in the shorter term, between West and East. Recently — notably in Paris — there are those who think that such an enterprise could give meaning and content to the ambiguous proposal by Leonid Brezhnev to study energy problems in a conference which would follow up Helsinki...