

## A leftist insurrection against Helmut Schmidt

by Susan Welsh

Leftist opponents of West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt have gone into open insurrection against the government. The goal announced by the Socialist International at its conference in Washington last December—of unleashing 1968-style “social convulsions” against the governments of France and West Germany—has entered the implementation phase.

During the last two weeks, a wave of rioting hit the cities of West Berlin, Frankfurt, Hamburg, and Stuttgart. But the uprising has an important difference from the 1968 case: side by side with the bearded, wild-eyed anarchists are high-ranking officials of Schmidt’s Social Democratic Party (SPD), notably former Chancellor Willy Brandt, the chairman of the SPD and of the Socialist International.

For the first time, the rioting has begun to take the form of outright terrorism, including the planting of bombs aboard two U.S. military helicopters. A newsletter circulated by one war-resisters group (the Deutsche Friedens gesellschaft/Vereinigte Kriegsdienstgegner) linked to the German Communist Party is calling for sabotage and blocking of military transport. The newsletter publishes detailed maps of military installations and armaments factories.

At press time, the rioting included:

- **West Berlin:** Continuing extensive disturbances growing out of the “squatters” movement which has been occupying the city’s derelict housing. Police report 130 violent incidents in the last several days, including arson, trashing of stores and banks, and shooting at

police with sling shots and heavy nuts and bolts. A police car was called into one area only to be bombarded with small explosives. At least 45 houses are now occupied by the squatters.

- **Frankfurt:** An anti-American demonstration of 15,000 against the El Salvador junta and President Reagan was held the weekend of Feb. 1, organized by the Social Democratic Party and the DGB national trade-union federation. The protest ended in violence as a split-off group attacked the police and smashed local shops. At the podium of the Frankfurt demonstration was Karsten Voigt, the SPD leftist who recently called for West Germany to reconsider acceptance of NATO’s “Euromissiles” since the United States has failed to ratify the SALT treaty.

- **Hamburg:** On Feb. 2, 12,000 demonstrators began a protest against the construction of a nuclear power plant in nearby Brokdorf. Soon they took over the entire city, smashing automobiles and shop windows.

Alongside this uprising in the streets is an insurrection in the SPD, with leftist parliamentarians denouncing Chancellor Schmidt as a Nazi. The party was first shaken by the call of 24 of its members of Parliament for the government to lower its defense budget. Then leftist Karl-Heinz Hansen escalated the battle, publishing an article in the radical magazine *Konkret* accusing Schmidt of “political obscenities in foreign and security policy,” including the supply of arms to Chile’s Pinochet dictatorship. The left is also trying to obstruct a major arms deal with Saudi Arabia.

Although Hansen's statement was censured by the SPD parliamentary caucus, SPD chairman Willy Brandt announced that he was against the *form* of Hansen's article, but not the *content*. The SPD youth, the Jusos, are fully backing Hansen.

Indications began to emerge Feb. 4 that Schmidt and his supporters in the SPD were launching a counterattack. For the first time in months, the chancellor came out strongly in favor of nuclear energy, at a speech to the Federation of German Industry. (In his government declaration last November, he advocated only "limited" nuclear energy development.) He has vowed to support the Brokdorf nuclear power project, even though the Hamburg city SPD opposes it.

The so-called *Kanalarbeiter* faction in the SPD, led by Egon Franke, is mobilizing to have Hansen expelled from the SPD and is said to hold Willy Brandt personally responsible for the current state of affairs in the party.

## The Network

The demonstrations and riots now being orchestrated against West Germany's cities and against the Schmidt government are the result of a revamping of the country's leftists over the past year. Coordinated through a banking and financing cooperative known as "The Network," the movement draws together the remnants of the 1960s radical left, lawyers and support networks of the Baader-Meinhof terrorists, radical Lutherans and Jesuit "Solidarists," and the left wing of the Social Democratic Party (SPD).

The protest movement unifies the "no-nukes" environmentalists with a growing "ban the bomb" campaign, directed particularly against the deployment of NATO "Euromissiles" in the Federal Republic of Germany. Added to this are the anarchist "squatters" movement and the ideologists and practitioners of a communalist, zero-growth future.

The movement is in turn supported by a faction of the KGB, the East German Stasi intelligence service, and the Moscow IMEMO political-economic think tank. While *Pravda* praised the SPD's peacenik rebels against Schmidt, IMEMO representative Pavel Podleznyi was a special guest recently at a conference on disarmament sponsored by the SPD's youth organization in the state of Hessen. The meeting was organized by Manfred Coppel, an SPD parliamentarian and one of the closest supporters of Karl-Heinz Hansen, who has publicly attacked Chancellor Schmidt as a supporter of Chilean dictator Pinochet. The Soviet factions backing this new "peace movement" are the same ones in open insurrection against the "peaceful coexistence" policy of President L. I. Brezhnev, which is based particularly on an alliance with Schmidt and French President Giscard.

"The Network" in West Germany (Das Netzwerk) raised 240,000 deutschemarks during 1980 and redistri-

buted the funds to various projects. West Berlin is its strongest base of operations, where it currently functions as a government within a government, financing a large number of shops and cooperatives. It has officially endorsed the squatters movement, and unofficially finances it.

Also financing the squatters is the Neue Heimat company, Europe's largest housing development agency, which is owned by the Deutsche Gewerkschaftsbund (DGB), the major trade-union federation.

"The Network" is effectively turning West Berlin into one big free enterprise zone, according to the blueprints worked out by the Club of Rome, the German Marshall Fund, the Heritage Foundation, and the British Fabian Society.

These various left and right libertarian organizations converge through their hatred of industrial capitalism—and industrial socialism—and advocacy of what they call "guild socialism," a feudalist throwback.

The German Marshall Fund, which was founded in 1972 through the efforts of Willy Brandt, Averell Harriman, Guido Goldman, and others, has sponsored numerous studies on how such a "decentralized future" was to be attained. Notable among them was the report "Revitalizing Inner Cities: a Trinational Perspective." It called for a "thinning strategy" for dying cities, citing West Berlin as a model, in which "advantage is taken of declining densities and population to improve the quality of urban life and housing." The report advocated a program "in which old structures are not destroyed, but put to new uses that enhance the area's livability"—the "squatters" program in West Berlin today. The report opted for an overall strategy of community "self-help," the slogan of the counterculture and of the free enterprise zone.

The German Marshall Fund et al. have effectively turned West Berlin over to "The Network," whose leaders include key controllers of the radical youth movement from the 1960s to the present:

- **Joseph Huber**, who founded it in 1978, is a prominent "futurologist" and theoretician of the environmentalist movement, and a member of the Club of Rome.

- **Helmut Gollwitzer**, a cofounder, is a Lutheran theologian who teaches at the Free University of Berlin. He is the grey eminence of the West Berlin left, the theoretical godfather of the 1960s student movement, and a personal friend of Rudi Dutschke ("Rudi the Red"), the head of the 1968 West Berlin SDS student organization.

- **Ekkehardt Krippendorf**, a member of the board of directors of "The Network," is the theoretician of the "autonomist" movement against constituency-based parties. "The parties are finished," he proclaims. "Mass action is the key." Krippendorf is an "expert" on Italian terrorism, having spent 10 years at Johns Hopkins's Bologna center.