

The skies have not cleared in Germany

by Rainer Apel in Bonn

Concluding a two-day debate on the stationing of the U.S. Euromissiles, the West German parliament resolved by 286-226 (with one abstention) on Tuesday, Nov. 22 that the Pershing II missiles be stationed on German territory. Spokesmen for the governing coalition of Christian Democrats and Liberals presented this vote as a "firm decision which will improve our country's security and strengthen NATO." Spokesmen for the Social Democratic and Green parties, both of which had voted against the resolution, termed the vote a "Pyrrhic victory."

They said that now, rather than merely facing parliamentary opposition, the Bonn government would have to face "a broad opposition among the population which is not backing this decision." Green Party leader Otto Schily went so far as to hint darkly at the rage which would emerge "now that the people will see that this decision means NATO's defense is from now on based on the extinction of and genocide against the German people in the West and in the East." The theme was embroidered by none other than the Social Democratic Party chairman, Willy Brandt, in his parliamentary speech. He hinted threateningly that he would like to know "how all those who will realize now that peaceful protests couldn't influence the decision will react now."

All this, said against the background of probably the heaviest campaign ever of intimidation and harassment of pro-stationing parliamentarians by the "movement," means that now, after the vote, violence, blackmail, and terrorism will hit West Germany as the country enters a period of accelerated economic decline and deep erosion of the leading institutions of the state. The Soviet Union is likely to fuel this disintegration process by escalating its threats against West Germany. Reviewing prominent statements to this effect by a series of leading international political figures, Lyndon H. LaRouche, a candidate for the U.S. Democratic Party presidential nomination who was in West Germany during the parliamentary vote on the Euromissiles, warned of "a severe strategic crisis" certain to develop from the expected Soviet reactions to the German missile uproar. As he said, West

Germany has already been rendered virtually ungovernable by the extent to which its leading institutions had already been giving in to the pressures exerted on them by the Soviets from the outside and the "movement" from the inside.

The vote in the Bonn parliament does not tell the whole truth about stability in the country, nor does it indicate the "strength of the government versus the protest movement," as some imagine. While the parliament debated the stationing, Green Party members and supporters from all currents of the anti-NATO protest movement were battling police outside the parliament building, but *inside* the off-limits government district. Police arrested 182 radicals and had to use water-hoses to stop the wave of several thousand protesters who planned to storm the parliament building. Meanwhile, the Green Party deputies tried all sorts of tricks to interrupt the debate and spark confrontation inside.

Additionally, numerous parliamentarians, including the assistant secretary of defense, Juergen Moellemann, the head of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Werner Marx, and the minister of labor, Norbert Bluem, reported that they had been subjected to unprecedented psychological and political intimidation, including up to 150 anonymous threatening telephone calls reaching their private homes at all hours of the night. In one case, a Christian Democratic parliamentarian known for his support of NATO was sent an envelope containing several 7.65 millimetre bullets, with a note saying he would be shot dead next if he voted for the stationing.

Another Christian Democratic parliamentarian, Mrs. Verhuelsdonk, who had taken a courageous stand against the "movement's methods" during the parliamentary debate, reported that the efforts of intimidation and low-intensity threats she had had to face during the previous days reminded her strongly of the practices the Nazis had used on her own father, a Center Party deputy who came under attack by the SA at the end of the Weimar Republic.

West Germany's security authorities, lagging behind in protective measures against the expected wave of violence, are trying to make up for their weakness. Following recommendations from Washington, the U.S. Army fortified the Mutlangen Camp, the first stationing site for nine Pershing II missiles, with additional barbed-wire fences put up on Nov. 22, and the interior ministry convened an emergency meeting of industrial security experts and officials to discuss how to protect industrial plants, especially those in the "military-industrial sector," against the terrorist attacks expected to hit when the first missile is emplaced.

There is good reason to fear such attacks: On Sunday, Nov. 20, the police in Duesseldorf defused a detonation device posted at the building of Honeywell Bull, a U.S. company. In early November, the Krupp Company's subsidiary MAK in Kiel was hit by a similar device, as was the computer center of MAN in Gustavsburg. Security officials interpreted these incidents as "test-runs for a broader wave of attacks to come."