

## Report from Bonn by Rainer Apel

### Still in the West?

*West German politicians yelp that they will no longer serve as "vassals of the United States."*

Ever since President Reagan made up his mind to go for electioneering rather than policy-making, the Kissingerites have moved into the vacuum.

Thus West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher saw a chance to appear on German TV immediately after U.S. Gen. James Abrahamson, the head of the Strategic Defense Initiative, was interviewed on the American beam-weapons program. Genscher announced that he wanted to intervene in the research phase of these systems: "This will be a subject of discussion with the U.S. government and, of course, also in the [NATO] foreign ministers' council, which will meet this spring in Washington."

Genscher has moved far beyond obstructionism against the U.S. beam-defense program; there is evidence that he has already defected to "the other side." Genscher's travel plans for May included visits to Libya's Qaddafi was listed on May 1, to Teheran for meetings with members of the Khomeini regime, and to Moscow for a visit with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko.

It was only because of the shooting at the Libyan embassy in London and the break of diplomatic relations between Britain and Libya that he called off his trip to Tripoli—for the time being. As foreign ministry spokesmen commented, the Libya trip is still on the agenda, but "had to be postponed." The trips to Teheran and Moscow are still on schedule.

Meanwhile, Hans Friderichs, the

director of the Dresdner Bank and a prominent member of Genscher's Free Democratic Party (FDP), led a delegation of ranking West German bankers to Tashkent. They met with Soviet officials to discuss "the idea that the unreliable U.S. dollar could be replaced by the European Currency Unit as a reserve currency in East-West trade." And back home, other FDPers called for the creation of a special "Central European Bank" for the financing and accounting of trade between East and West Germany.

On April 3-4, the German Social Democrats (SPD) met with a delegation of the French Socialists in Luxembourg to discuss how to decouple from the U.S. dollar. The plan presented to this private gathering by France's finance minister, Socialist Jacques Delors, called for the replacement of the dollar as a universal reserve currency in Europe by the ECU, the European Currency Unit. The main speaker for the SPD at the meeting, Bonn parliamentarian Peter Mitzscherling, added that the realization of this plan was necessary to stop Europe from "being a mere vassal of U.S. economic and monetary policies."

While these developments document that the ongoing strategic decoupling from the U.S.A. is now being accompanied by a rapid decoupling in the economic-monetary sphere, more ample proof for this conspiracy was provided by Kissinger's allies on the left side of West Germany's policy spectrum. The Social Democrats are leaping toward the East: Horst Ehmke,

author of the decoupling document titled "The Self-Assertion of Europe" (see *EIR*, May 1), gave an interview to the daily of the Italian Communist Party (PCI), *L'Unità*, in which he praised the PCI as "the only party in Europe really on the left" and announced closer collaboration with them in ending the "present state of Europe as a vassal of the U.S.A." Before giving that interview, Ehmke—who had up to now preserved a pro-Atlanticist façade—had met with the head of the Italian PCI-controlled labor union, Luciano Lama of the CGIL.

Back home in Germany, Egon Bahr, Kissinger's collaborator since the late 1950s, commissioned his own SPD branch in the north of Germany to start an official exchange and dialogue with the "neighboring sections of the [East German] Socialist Unity Party [SED] on nuclear disarmament questions."

This party section is located in Schleswig-Holstein, the main military target for a Warsaw Pact surprise attack or surgical strike; in a meeting in early May the SPD and the SED "reached agreements on most of the key questions of international disarmament." The withdrawal of the U.S. nuclear missiles from Europe was demanded as a precondition for a Soviet commitment to resume talks with the U.S.A., and the creation of a "nuclear-free zone in Middle Europe" was called for as well. The "nuclear-free zone" idea was originally worked out by the Norwegian socialist Arne Treholt, now detained for being a colonel in the Soviet KGB.

If things continue at this pace, Americans should have doubts whether the leading politicians of West Germany are still in the Atlantic Alliance. Does the United States have to invade Normandy again, exactly 40 years after the June 6 invasion which saved Europe for the West?