

Report from Paris by Joëlle Leconte

France warned of pressure on Bonn

While the Schiller Institute rallies for the Western alliance, Le Figaro debunks media lies of a "crumbling Soviet empire."

On Aug. 16, Paris was shaken out of its summer lethargy by a demonstration at the Soviet embassy, led by well-known political figure Jacques Cheminade and supporters of the Schiller Institute, the new institution fighting to save the Western Alliance.

Cheminade, the head of the European Labor Party and candidate for the National Assembly from Chamalieres—where he will run against former French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing—says that the Soviet Union is about to claim hegemony over all of Western Europe, thanks to a "New Yalta" deal between Moscow and appeasement-minded forces in the West. He warns of the immediate threat to West Germany, faced with military intimidation and pressures on the eastern border.

The Schiller Institute must have stirred something up, because besides the picketers, 200 policemen showed up to screen the Soviet embassy, and confined the rally to only 15 minutes! Evidently, some people in high places here don't believe the line being peddled in France's major media.

The media all say that the East/West German rapprochement, illustrated by the upcoming visit of East German party chief Erich Honecker to Bonn, is a strong sign that the Soviet Empire is crumbling, and that the Eastern satellite countries are gaining maneuvering room because of a so-called faction fight in Moscow.

One press figure not buying this story is *Figaro's* Bonn correspondent, Jean-Claude Picaper, who called it

"hodgepodge" and sheer nonsense in a four-part series published the week of Aug. 6. Picaper's series is useful in pointing to the fact that the most politically relevant thing anyone could do in France would be to bolster West Germany as part of the Western Alliance.

Picaper says there is no dislocation of any sort within the East bloc. The East/West German rapprochement is a game played masterfully by the Soviets, the old "carrot and stick" trick, in which West Germany is the manipulated dupe who pays all the costs of the show.

1) While the East Berlin regime made overtures to Bonn, the Kremlin masters escalated their media campaign against West German "revanchism" and "imperialism." This is very convenient for Honecker: The West Germans make all the concessions, grant credit lines and other economic advantages for very little return . . . because of Moscow's pressure.

2) Picaper settled accounts with the story of the so-called "allogeneic satellites" supposedly distancing themselves from the "Slavic satellite" group closer to Moscow. Bunk again, he said. The whole disinformation campaign is run by Moscow: "... East Germany ostensibly affirms her 'German essence' and works in tandem with two nations, Romania and Hungary, formerly in coalition with the Third Reich. It is a false-bottom trap that the Kremlin has worked on for a long time, adding historical reminiscences and calls to the unconscious,

to hand over to the conservative leaders in Bonn and Munich, whom Moscow believes are nationalists."

In short, Moscow is trying to capitalize on the delusion of some West German and European circles of the possibility of creating a neutral Central Europe with Moscow's blessing. But, say the Soviets, Western Germany has to behave—distance herself from NATO and the Western European Union—as a pre-condition to continuing relations with East Germany. Nothing less! As Picaper wrote, the Soviets only want West Germany to become a satrapy of the Kremlin.

But the harsh truth of the German rapprochement is that East Germany is training her youth to hate capitalist West Germany and is rearming heavily with Soviet aid. In a recent speech, the secretary of the East German communist youth, Volker Voigt, said that the party wants to educate youth "in love of East Germany and hatred of capitalist West Germany," reported Picaper. The new civic education program tells teachers to emphasize "hostility to imperialism in the Federal Republic of Germany."

The Soviets are reinforcing the East German army. During the visit of Soviet Minister for Aerospace Industry Ivan Silaiev on July 12, it was announced that East Germany will buy modern and expensive Soviet planes. The ammunition plant of Lubben, in East Germany, has begun producing around the clock, with no break, doubling its production.

Picaper recalled that the last big Soviet maneuvers of July were only a repeat of the mid-February maneuvers in East Germany, with the same theme: Two divisions crossed over the Elbe from East to West. These February maneuvers involved 60,000 troops of the three East German divisions of the Brandenburg and the 21st Soviet division of Perleberg.