

## Report from Bonn by Michael Weissbach

### Soviets mobilize their Church networks

*Catholic and Lutheran groups alike are allied with the Socialist International's KGB wing to try to stop the SDI.*

**L**In the campaign against West Germany to knock out the Kohl government's support for the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), the Soviets are playing every game in the book including psychological warfare. They have started to revive the "collective guilt campaign" of the postwar period around the upcoming, 8th of May commemoration of Germany's capitulation 40 years ago, and for this their networks in the Lutheran and Catholic churches are fully geared up.

The current church-linked activation draws on decades-old Anglo-Soviet secret intelligence cooperation. After World War II, the British used the Lutheran Church in particular to tell all Germans that they had been guilty of the crimes of the Nazis. This campaign helped to break Germany as a nation psychologically and set it up as a bargaining chip in the Yalta order.

Timed with the general Soviet mobilization against the Western allies of the SDI, "Action Reconciliation" of both East and West Germany put out a statement dressed up as an appeal to both superpowers for the 8th of May anniversary. It calls on the "former allies of the Anti-Hitler Coalition to do everything possible today to not expand the arms race into space but to stop it on earth." Dripping with hypocrisy, the declaration demands that both superpowers instead form a "global anti-hunger coalition" to fight the hunger catastrophe in the Third World. Not a word is said, of course, about the International Monetary Fund and the KGB-backed Club of Rome's

austerity policies that are killing off millions in the Third World!

The appeal then develops its main theme that fascism and Nazism "could not have come about accidentally, but had its roots in the fatal traditions of our history. The fascist state owed its initiation a great deal to the economic interests of big industry. Our people became guilty and only part of the sufferings we caused fell back upon us. . . ."

What is Action Reconciliation? This Protestant church group has a long record as a valuable asset of the Soviets since World War II.

The whole operation started in the 1950s when East and West Germans were brought together especially to do reconciliation work in Poland, the Soviet Union, and Israel. Behind the scenes, the Soviets built up an operation which they have used ever since to push their strategic aims. Recently, the East and West German affiliates of Action Reconciliation acted as major logistical and propaganda arms of the West German peace movement. The two groups have been promoting the strategic decoupling of West Germany from the United States, by backing the KGB-authored plan for a nuclear-free zone in Central Europe.

Such Action Reconciliation leaders as Andreas Zumach have been in tight collaboration with the circles of Olof Palme, Andreas Papandreu, and Willy Brandt of the Socialist International—all currently being exposed in the Norwegian spy trials as direct conduits of the Soviet KGB. Leading

members of Action Reconciliation sat on every board and steering committee which prepared the big peace demonstrations and violent activities of the peace movement.

But Catholic networks are also much involved in this same dirty work. Especially telling is the timing of the statements for the 8th of May, issued weeks in advance of the event. In early March, the Catholic bishop of Berlin, Jochen Meissner, published the sermon he will give in East Berlin's St. Hedwig's Cathedral on the 40th anniversary. His statement attacks the worldwide arms race and the destruction of the natural environment by man, and charges that arms buildup means stealing because it takes the bread away from the poor of this earth. This shows high-level Catholic circles in Germany moving against Kohl's Christian Democrats, and in bed with the opposition West German Social Democrats (SPD), whose party chief Hans-Jochen Vogel lauded the anti-SDI initiative of the U.S. Catholic Bishops in the pages of the SPD party organ *Vorwärts*.

Last December, Pax Christi, the Catholic "peace" organization, started a big campaign to turn the Catholic Church against those bishops in the United States, France, Germany, and Italy who would not fight the Reagan administration's Defense Initiative.

But Catholic networks are into even dirtier operations. When over the March 2-3 weekend 120 people of the pro-terrorist Berlin squatters scene, militant anti-nuclear groups, the "revolutionary voice of American soldiers in Europe," the communist Turkish Youth, and members of radical autonomist groups met in Muenster to map out violent protest actions against President Reagan's May visit to Bonn, the meeting took place at the house of the *Catholic University Community*.