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## Interview: Dr. Alois Mock

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# 'We don't need any strange bedfellows'

*Dr. Mock, Austrian Member of Parliament, former minister, leader of the Austrian Peoples Party, and chairman of the International Democratic Union, spoke with EIR correspondents Ronald Kokinda and Webster Tarpley at the conclusion of the IDU conference in Washington. Here are excerpts of the interview, which was conducted in English:*

**EIR:** First, in your role as chairman of the IDU: Did people come away from this conference with a better understanding of the importance of the Strategic Defense Initiative?

**Mock:** There was agreement to take a positive attitude toward this research project. And there was another understanding, that when the research has been done, it is up for decision on how to use it.

Of course, within the framework of this common understanding, there is a slightly different accent, whether the parties came from countries of the NATO alliance, ANZUS, or other military alliance countries, or from permanent neutral countries. I personally would say that to the extent that the Strategic Defense Initiative, as a non-nuclear strategic defense initiative, removes the danger of nuclear warfare, you can take only a positive attitude toward this research project. . . .

**EIR:** Officially, the U.S. has welcomed neutral countries to be under the umbrella of protection.

**Mock:** I would say that permanent neutral countries certainly could not participate. For reasons of international law, but also for political reasons, they could not participate in such a military project. But it is up to single enterprises from neutral countries—Sweden, Austria, Switzerland—to decide whether to participate in the non-military components of the project. . . .

**EIR:** We have this new leadership in the Soviet Union around Mr. Gorbachov. Marshal Ogarkov is undeniably now the head of the Warsaw Pact. There was discussion of this at the IDU meeting. What were the conclusions?

**Mock:** There is, to my mind, too much speculation on this issue. You can read that Mr. Gorbachov is a Westernized person, and so on and so forth, because he has another way of dealing with mass media, or wears, in a different way, Western suits. It is all a bit ridiculous. He is a true, top,

Communist personality, otherwise he would not have become the first personality of the Soviet Union. And he will take care of the interests of the Soviet Union, and then take care of the interests of World Communism. . . .

**EIR:** Concerning the IDU itself: Here you have a group of parties, center, moderate, conservative in coloration. At the same time, we look at the other international party organizations, for example, the Communist Parties in Western Europe, which have a "Cominform" tendency that was visible at their meeting in Paris a number of weeks ago. And then in the Socialist International, we find the tendency of the SPD [West German Social Democratic Party] to enter into a kind of united front with the SED [East German Socialist Unity Party] and the Italian Communist Party. Can the IDU expand its activities to meet this challenge?

**Mock:** The IDU is already the biggest International, representing 150 million voters, and is expanding. The only real difficulty we are facing, is that we are growing too quickly. We face a lot of problems with the workload of a world-wide organization. So we are slowing down the acceptance of the applications of new members. . . .

You raised another important point which I regret very much, which is that the leadership of the Socialist International deals with non-democratic parties. . . . It is absolutely against any credibility if [SPD chairman Willy] Brandt deals with the Communist Parties, or kisses Fidel Castro, and then wants to be praised as the man representative of the democratic sort. That's why I not only criticize this tendency in the Socialist International, but am taking every measure to deny membership or status to any party which does not come from a fully functioning democratic system. We are too strict, according to the opinion of some members. But we don't need any strange bedfellows. We accept only truly democratic parties of a non-collectivist character.

**EIR:** You said before that the optimum situation is to have a balance between the superpowers. Do you have a feeling that the balance is being shifted in the direction of the Soviet Union?

**Mock:** In the 1970s, there was a shift in the favor of the Soviet Union. We said this also to the Soviets. A lot of them are quite realistic and accept this.

My advice to my friends in the West is: Take a firm position. Some of them [the Soviets] are very realistic and they respect firm positions, even if they are not always pleased. You can come to an agreement with them, but only if they are convincing and persuasive positions, not from an opportunistic position of giving in, showing weakness.

I want to come back to what the IDU really stands for, which is to take an offensive attitude in expanding democratic values. And not defensive attitudes. Western democracies normally only take defensive attitudes against authoritarian regimes and dictatorships. And one should remember what the consequences were. . . .