

Report from Bonn by Rainer Apel

When will the SDI agreement be signed?

The Teltschik team's report removed all obstacles to a German-American accord—except Genscher and Richard Burt.

Now that all the information needed to sign a formal agreement for German-American cooperation on the Strategic Defense Initiative is in the hands of Chancellor Kohl, why is Kohl still postponing the decision?

The problem lies not only with the anti-SDI nest in Hans-Dietrich Genscher's Bonn foreign ministry, but also with U.S. ambassador to the Federal Republic, **Richard Burt**—who, as *EIR* warned when we fought his nomination, is openly sabotaging the Reagan administration on this crucial issue.

The first reports given by the team of 30 experts who toured 22 American research institutes related to the SDI project between Sept. 4 and 13, have removed all the reservations raised in Bonn before. Members of the team of industry, military, and governmental representatives, as well as the team's head, Kohl's chief security adviser Horst Teltschik, reported that the Americans want cooperation with the Germans, favor a formal agreement between the two governments, and endorse unrestricted technology and information transfer between the United States and the Federal Republic. Teltschik reported to the Bonn cabinet that the team had "gained an insight into a fascinating new world of defense technologies," and several industry men evaluated the trip as having "yielded information which allows us to save five years of nerve-racking research."

There is no doubt that industry, and most of the military, greatly favor

a formal cooperative government-level agreement. This would also force the government to give some thought to the changes SDI will impose on strategic thinking. A German military man, discussing the implications with *EIR*, gave this striking characterization: "SDI leads us from the current NATO masochism to a doctrine of convincing defense against Soviet nuclear missiles."

But as usual, Kohl's pro-masochism minor coalition partners, the liberal Free Democrats (FDP), have lined up with the opposition Social Democrats in obstructing such an accord. Between the Free Democrats, the Social Democrats, and the Green Party, the numerical majority of the German parliament is anti-SDI, and the Free Democrats are the Trojan Horse inside the cabinet.

Before the Teltschik team's trip, the FDP and its chairman, Foreign Minister Genscher, argued that "not enough information" was available to allow a decision. With that argument blown away, Genscher and the FDP have come up with the new line that "Bonn should not make any definite decisions while the dialogue between the two superpowers leaves many things in the open."

Genscher has made it known that he welcomes the latest phony proposals by Soviet leader Gorbachov and that he considers Gorbachov's offer to reduce the number of "nuclear missiles in Europe" by 50% in exchange for curbing the SDI project a "good chance to achieve a substantial reduc-

tion of nuclear weapons." Genscher's ministry set up a task force to work out a "German view of the problem," to be presented to the two superpowers at the Geneva talks. Genscher said that his ambition was to "prevent a definite 'no' of the West" to the Soviet proposals.

The German foreign minister ignored the fact that Robert McFarlane, President Reagan's national security adviser, has characterized the Gorbachov proposals as a "foul trick." On the contrary, Genscher argues that a positive decision in Bonn on SDI could "disturb and aggravate the new momentum at the Geneva talks," could eventually "provoke the Soviets to march out of the talks," and thus even ruin the Reagan-Gorbachov summit.

The most scandalous aspect of this scarecrow policy is not even Genscher's strange views, which come so close to Moscow's, but the fact that in the first two weeks of October, the German foreign minister had at least three long private sessions with Richard Burt, who arrived in Bonn as the new U.S. ambassador Sept. 8. Burt took to the pages of several German newspapers to downplay the importance of an SDI accord. On Oct. 4, Burt used an interview with *Bildzeitung*, Germany's largest daily (circulation: 4.5 million), to air his opinion that "the SDI is no litmus test of the loyalty of the Germans to the alliance with the Americans," and to advise the U.S. administration against making a formal cooperation treaty "too much of a bilateral issue."

Almost down to the word, Genscher has parroted Burt in his public statements. In an interview to Bavarian Radio, he said, "SDI is no test of the German alliance loyalty," adding the formulation that "the issue should not become one that dominated the dialogue between Bonn and Washington."