

## Report from Bonn by Hartmut Cramer

### Patriots move into political vacuum

*The new citizens' group that went public on Oct. 15 is polarizing both the Christian Democrats and Social Democrats.*

One of the hottest issues in Bonn these days is the initiative of "Patriots for Germany," announced on Oct. 15 when advertisements appeared in four top West German dailies, signed by 60 prominent Germans from all walks of life. The ads stressed the deadly danger posed by the obvious war preparations of the Warsaw Pact, and called on German citizens to "assemble in this time of survival crisis" in order to be "ready and act in the tradition which was shown during the liberation wars" more than 150 years ago.

The initiative is intersecting the debate inside both major parties, the opposition Social Democratic Party (SPD), and the ruling Christian Democratic Union-Christian Social Union.

It is no accident, that just now a new public fight in the Social Democratic Party (SPD) has erupted between the followers and the left-wing foes of Kurt Schumacher, the legendary Social Democratic leader of the 1950s, who energetically had fought against both fascists: the Nazis, who tortured him in a concentration camp, and the "red-colored Nazis," (as he used to call the Soviets), who murdered many of his friends in East Germany after the war.

Leading circles of the Social Democrats, who are busily promoting the decoupling of West-Germany from the United States, keep a "low profile" on Patriots for Germany, though watching it "very closely," since it may attract traditional Social Democrats who

are more than fed up with the control of Willy Brandt's left-wing over the party.

Patriots for Germany includes military leaders, entrepreneurs, trade unionists, former resistance fighters, factory councilmen, teachers, doctors, and members of the influential expellee organizations (persons driven out of the countries in the East bloc). Among the most prominent were ex-Chief of the West German Navy, Vice Admiral Karl-Adolf Zenker, Prof. Emil Schlee, a prominent leader of the expellee organizations, and Helga Zepp-LaRouche, founder of the pro-American Schiller Institute.

Five programmatic points underlined the German patriots' political thrust: a clear *no* to a "red-green" government in Bonn which would decouple Western Europe from the U.S., thereby destroying NATO; a clear *yes* to the alliance with the United States including full cooperation with its SDI; support of a "just peace treaty for Germany in all its parts," giving Germany full sovereignty; a policy of economic growth and expanding exports to the developing sector which guarantees full employment, and, lastly, the reinroduction of the cultural and educational system of the German classical philosophers and artists like Schiller, Humboldt, Beethoven, and the "Prussian reformers," as well as the scientific tradition of Leibniz and the Göttingen school, which produced the pioneers of space.

If the contents are a healthy shock to the pathetically low political thinking in Bonn, it is the combination of political forces who signed this public call which upsets the traditional wheelers and dealers in the parties, who thought they had their deals with the "New Yalta crowd" in East and West sewn up. That leaders of the influential expellee groups would link up with republican patriots from all political camps was deemed impossible in the German political scene. Especially the leaders of the CDU, under heavy pressure to make a deal with Moscow, are upset; they know that up to 10% of their electorate comes from these expellee organizations.

Christian Democratic intellectuals, like Professor Rohrmoser, linked to the still-powerful conservative CDU politician Filbinger, the former prime minister of Baden-Württemberg, publicly speak of more than 20% of the vote which the CDU would lose to a new political formation defending the interests of a sovereign Germany, if the CDU continued on its present course. Observers noted with surprise the harsh words used by Rohrmoser—who until now had fully supported the government—to criticize the liberal policies of President Richard von Weizsäcker and Chancellor Helmut Kohl, both Christian Democrats.

Franz-Josef Strauss, the powerful prime minister of Bavaria, who always is the first to sense a shift of the wind, led a blistering attack against a "joint resolution" which liberals from the ruling parties had drafted together with the Social Democrats and which (implicitly) called for the acceptance of the division of Europe and Germany. As Strauss himself admitted, it was the pressure of the expellee groups which caused him to act, forcing the Kohl government to drop the issue—fast.