

Report from Bonn by Rainer Apel

The Greens are a security risk

A decision by West Germany's supreme court opens the way to the constitutional outlawing of the neo-Nazi Green party.

West Germany's Federal Court ruled on Jan. 14 against a formal protest from the neo-Nazi Green party, which complained that the national parliament had not granted them a seat on the parliamentary control commission for the secret services.

The commission, consisting of five parliamentarians, is responsible for oversight of funding and other details of the secret services, and has access to secret service files. The Greens, who announced shortly after their entering the parliament in March 1983 that they would not respect state secrets, but preferred "full transparency," demanded a seat on the commission, with the obvious intention of using that seat as a platform for spying on agencies whose main task is to fight East bloc espionage and subversion.

The majority of the parliament voted against the seating of a Green deputy on the commission. But the Greens, undeterred, in the summer of 1985 marched to the Federal Court, claiming a "constitutional right" to the seat. The Federal Court has now officially denied this self-proclaimed "right."

The implications of the court's decision go far beyond the mere protection of the services from Green indiscretions. By not allowing the Greens a seat in this most secretive commission of the parliament, the Court has judged that the Green Party is not loyal to the state; in other words, the Greens do not adhere to the federal Constitution. This is what many in the country

have said all along, ever since the Greens ran for seats in the parliament. Political opposition against the Greens and their violence-prone movement has remained a majority sentiment, even after the Greens made it into the parliament in March 1983.

The Greens themselves never concealed their cynical disrespect for the state and the juridical order. Convicted terrorists and criminals were put on Green Party slates for elections, giving them political immunity against police investigations. An official report of the West German government stated in late 1985, that 10% of all Green deputies in the German parliaments (national, state, and local) had a left-wing-extremist background. Of 27 Green deputies in the national parliament, 9 had such a background, and of the 7 deputies in the European Parliament, 3 had been on trial for terrorist activities. The facts speak for themselves.

There was, and is, reason enough not only to deny the Greens access to state secrets, but to bar them entirely from the parliament. Conservative deputies, mainly from the Christian Democratic Union, complain that Green obstructionism has paralyzed up to 90% of all legislative work in the most important parliamentary commissions. The leaders of the Christian Democratic group have taken note of these complaints, but have never acted to protect the institution of the parliament against the Green subversion. "One should not provoke the Greens,"

they impotently argue. The Greens have "honored" this soft treatment by escalating their own provocations against the institutions and the other parties.

But now, the federal court's decision has called this pragmatism into question, and has set the stage for declaring the Greens unconstitutional. It is also partial vindication of the nationwide campaign of the Schiller Institute, which ran newspaper ads in late 1984 calling for constitutional action against the Green movement. At the time, the Schiller Institute received no political support from the cowardly political parties in Bonn. Now chances are better that at least some politicians may have a change in heart.

One of the most prestigious conservatives in the national parliament, Christian Democrat Jürgen Todenhöfer, already brought up the theme of the constitutionality of the Greens immediately after the terrorist attacks on the airports of Vienna and Rome. He pointed to the well-known fact that the Greens host terrorists among their ranks, and said that sadly, the German parliament stands out as the only one in the West which houses such extremists.

The party manager of the Christian Democrats, Heiner Geissler, also took off the pragmatist gloves, when rioters incited by Green Party leaflets tried to disrupt his address at Göttingen University on Jan. 15. The riots were also meant as a protest against the Federal Court's decision of the day before. Geissler denounced the rioters as "akin to the fascists and communists of the Weimar period"—as being in the tradition of those who destroyed the first German republic. With the political controversy thus far advanced, the next logical step is a constitutional ban of the Green party and its Jacobin movement.