

## Burt, Biedenkopf lead new decoupling drive

During the period of March 24-26, Washington, D.C. was the scene of a dense array of private, off-the-record briefings given by two individuals most active in trying to bring about a withdrawal of U.S. forces from Europe.

*EIR* has learned that Kurt Biedenkopf, former general-secretary of West Germany's Christian Democratic Union and newly elected head of the North Rhine-Westphalia branch of the CDU, and Richard Burt, U.S. ambassador in Bonn, made the rounds of the D.C. institutions most favorable to "decoupling": The U.S. State Department, Georgetown University's Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), the Aspen Institute Contemporary German Studies Group, and the D.C. branch of the Bonn-based Konrad Adenauer Stiftung.

Not a syllable of the content of their presentations has been published in the American or West German press, but confidential or not, the density of discussions on U.S.-German relations by this duo, does not bode well for the Atlantic Alliance.

On March 24, Biedenkopf and Burt, more or less simultaneously, gave strategic briefings, each before audiences of 30-35 individuals—Biedenkopf before the Adenauer Stiftung and Burt before Georgetown CSIS.

Although the latter's comments, coming from a government official, are being kept top-secret, the organizer of that event, CSIS's Robert Hunter, is telling inquiring journalists that it would be a "fair analysis" to say that this year will see the withdrawal of American forces from Europe. This will occur, Hunter claims, in significant part for "budgetary" reasons, due to the increasing pressures against defense spending from the Gramm-Rudman legislation in the United States.

Although not present at Georgetown, Biedenkopf, in a private discussion, described Gramm-Rudman as "very impressive and laudable," because it "may give us a new initiative" toward phasing out U.S. military involvement in NATO and toward a "relative lessening of the importance of the defense function" of NATO.

### Sabotage of the SDI

At the Adenauer Stiftung, Biedenkopf pontificated against the American Strategic Defense Initiative. According to information provided by one member of the audience, Trilateral Commission member Biedenkopf made three essential points:

- The technical feasibility of the SDI has not been proven.
- The U.S. would not use SDI capabilities for the defense of Europe, in a real crisis.
- The U.S. would revive the "peace," or "Green" movement, now relatively dormant, if it persisted in developing the SDI.

In other comments, made privately in discussion with an interlocutor in Washington, Biedenkopf attacked, more than anything else, one feature of the U.S. SDI program: that it could become a new American "crash program." That, he said, would be the worst possible case, as it would "divert" technological resources from elsewhere.

His anti-SDI campaign occurred at the same time as a series of delicate discussions in Washington between a West German delegation and U.S. government officials, on West German participation in the SDI. Biedenkopf's co-thinker, West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, is determined to do everything in his power to stop such U.S.-German collaboration, and it would not be far from the point, to regard Biedenkopf's activities as in part a "spying mission" on behalf of Genscher, and against those in the government of Chancellor Helmut Kohl who want closer U.S.-German SDI collaboration.

Biedenkopf also gave two briefings to U.S. State Department officials. The first, on March 25, was given to a group of officials, together with the Mayor of Bremen, Henning Scheer, a Social Democratic Party left-winger. The second, on the morning of March 26, was given before the "Central European Roundtable," which comprises officials from the State Department's European Department, and German-desk officials from the Department of Defense and the National Security Council. The European desk at State, formerly headed by Burt, is rife with subordinates of former Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger.

Then, he gave a closed-session briefing before the Aspen German Contemporary Studies Group the evening of March 25. Details on this meeting are expected to soon be available. Biedenkopf has a longstanding relationship to the Aspen Institute, and is heading a confidential project on "The Future of Europe" for the Aspen affiliate in West Berlin.

Biedenkopf also had dinner with Georgetown's Dean Krogh. Biedenkopf is a graduate of Georgetown, and is on close personal terms with some of Georgetown CSIS's most avid decoupling advocates, including Jimmy Carter's National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski ("Zbig is a close friend," Biedenkopf confided), former U.S. Defense Secretary James Schlesinger, and others.

Ongoing *EIR* investigations also indicate that Biedenkopf was party to discussions on the "post-Kohl era" in Germany. In a private discussion, he confessed that Kohl's finance minister, Gerhard Stoltenberg (also a member of the Trilateral Commission), is prepared to assume the reins of power, should the current spate of scandals in Bonn lead to Kohl's demise.