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## Conference Report

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# Patriots for Germany launch election campaign: 'because we love Germany'

The more than 350 German patriots who on Sunday, Oct. 12, found themselves in the Mozart Room of the Festival House in Worms, West Germany, knew exactly what they wanted. They had already been part of an important chapter of German history over the previous months, and they were now setting out to bring a definitive change for the better to Germany, over the next four months.

They were still stunned by the murder of leading German diplomat Gerold von Braunmühl, who had become the latest victim of the escalating Moscow-backed terrorist warfare the day before; on this Sunday morning, they were justifiably anxious that German interests would be sold out at the "pre-summit" in Reykjavik. For these patriotic-minded men and women, the principal item on the agenda was how to make a personal contribution to defend the honor of Germany in the face of Moscow's brazen threats, engaging in discussions of how the federal elections of Jan. 25, 1987, can be won for Germany.

It all began almost exactly a year earlier, on Oct. 15, 1985, when the major West German dailies such as *Die Welt*, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, and *Bildzeitung*, ran an advertisement with the call of the citizens group "Patriots for Germany." The ad, signed by some 50 German patriots, expressed concern about cultural and political developments in Germany, and called for a true "change"—in contrast to the long-awaited but never delivered "change" promised by Chancellor Kohl's government. Above all, they stressed, a "Red-Green alliance" and "de-coupling from the West" must be prevented.

The "strengthening of the alliance with America," including "full cooperation in the Strategic Defense Initiative," a "just treaty for Germany in all its parts," a return to "the policy of economic growth," an export offensive, and a true development policy, as well as the "education of the younger generation on the foundations of German classical culture and the Humboldtian concept of education," were the central demands of the Patriots, who began their advertisement with the poetic fragment "German Greatness," by the beloved national poet, Friedrich von Schiller. As "German patriots in the tradition of the constitutional movement during the liberation wars and the Prussian reformers," they wanted to bring together all patriotic-minded fellow citizens, "in order

to stand ready in the case of foreseeable crises and to be capable of acting."

In the spirit of this classical tradition, the first federal party convention of Patriots for Germany, which has meanwhile become a party, opened with a string quartet, playing the first movement of the second of Josef Haydn's "Sun Quartets," followed by the famous second movement of the "Emperor Quartet," in which Haydn artfully set in counterpoint and masterful variations, the melody of the German folk song that later became the national anthem.

Volker Hassmann, member of the Lower Saxony party executive and press spokesman for the Patriots, opened the meeting and introduced the federal executive committee members who had been elected at the founding convention of the Patriots on Aug. 3 in Rüdeshelm: federal chairman Helga Zepp-LaRouche, and vice-chairmen Brig. Gen. (ret.) Friedrich Wilhelm Grunewald and Michael Liebig, as well as Hartmut Cramer.

### The global context

Mrs. Zepp-LaRouche, who as founder of the international Schiller Institutes has become world-famous over the last two years, and who played a leading role in launching the Patriots' movement, gave in her speech on the Patriots' Statement of Principles, a thorough briefing on the global strategic situation in which the German federal election campaign and the Patriots' participation must be seen. As an example of what West Germany and other Western allies have in store for them, if Moscow and its "Fifth Column" in the West were ultimately to succeed in dividing and conquering the world, she gave a gripping, fact-filled report on the illegal raid which corrupt American judicial authorities and high officials of the FBI had carried out on Oct. 6 at Moscow's bidding against her husband, Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche, the intellectual author of the SDI program (see page 56).

In discussing the upcoming election campaign, she named as its central theme the threatened decoupling of the Federal Republic of Germany from the U.S.A., which has already progressed very far and which must nevertheless be stopped. How important is the Patriots' role in this regard, can be easily seen from the fact that almost no one took seriously

the Patriots' warning last June of a new "Stalin Note" offering German reunification in return for giving up the Western alliance. Now Moscow has floated just such a first "trial balloon," and no one other than the Patriots has condemned this deception maneuver. As to the ruling coalition, she said, "It is high time that the Free Democratic Party be replaced, and the Christian Democrats be put in the position, through a strong coalition partner, to really represent the interests of the Federal Republic of Germany. Hence the Patriots must run in the coming federal elections."

The federal vice-chairman of the Patriots, Brig. Gen. (ret.) Grunewald, former member of the security policy department of the Christian Democratic Union at the state and federal levels, made the Germany policy part of the Statement of Principles the centerpiece of his speech. "The Constitution orders us to keep the German Question open until it is possible to achieve reunification in peace and freedom," he said, thus defining the Germany policy of the Patriots; this goal can only be reached in close partnership with the Western alliance. This constitutional mandate on Germany policy, moreover, binds the Federal Republic of Germany to *actively* commit itself for peace and hence for development in the world.

Grunewald went on to discuss the need for close cooperation with the United States in the SDI and backed President Reagan's July 25 proposal for both superpowers to "develop the SDI in parallel and deploy it together." Finally, he laid out the other central programmatic points of the Patriots: a new, just world economic order, an emergency program to combat the global AIDS epidemic, an energetic war against the illegal international drug traffic, and the revival of the classical German tradition in science, technology, and education.

## Debate on Principles

The high point of the party convention was undoubtedly the debate of the 350 participants on the Statement of Principles of the Patriots for this federal election. It was a vivid expression of the fact that the best citizens of the Federal Republic had been gathered together by the Patriots, in order to formulate the best possible policy for their nation in the best republican tradition and actively campaign for it.

One elderly Patriot from the Biblis electoral district gave a chilling report on Moscow's mechanisms of oppression, which he, as an expellee from the East, had suffered physically. He proposed, amid general approbation, that the battle against this inhuman system can only be won "if we reflect on the German classics and especially on our great Friedrich Schiller, and hand this tradition on to the next generation."

Political figures from the medium-sized business strata of Lower Saxony discussed stronger measures to protect this economic sector which has been so hard hit by the crisis; pensioners and older Patriots spoke on labor and social security questions; young, business-oriented candidates carried

out intense discussions on the need for technological progress and above all space travel.

One young candidate from Rhineland-Palatinate sparked a debate among all the participants with her straightforward question: "I believe that we don't need to talk so much about the content of our policy to win over the voters; why don't we just say that we should be elected because we love Germany?" which ended up with the adoption of the formulation: "Patriots for Germany—because we love our nation" as the concluding argument of the Statement of Principles.

## History of the Patriots

After the unanimous approval of the Statement of Principles as the platform of the Patriots for the January elections, federal executive committee member Hartmut Cramer reviewed the history and the organizational status of the Patriots. Using slides of the Patriots' advertisements with their varied, often prominent signatures, and of the electoral activities of the Patriots in Lower Saxony, he drew a vivid portrait of the already considerable history of the young party. Since the June 15 vote in Lower Saxony, the membership has climbed to about 2,000; there are now state organizations of the Patriots in all 10 German states; direct candidates are in the process of being selected.

He noted that the Patriots' warnings of a new Stalin Note, Moscow's escalation of irregular warfare, and the "deadly danger of the worldwide AIDS epidemic," were treated as wildly exaggerated; some newspapers, such as the *Neue Osnabrücker Zeitung*, went so far as to suppress the expression "Moscow's terror hordes" in a *paid* campaign advertisement. Now, the above-mentioned "exaggerated predictions" can be read nearly every day in the headlines of mass circulation German publications like *Bild*, *Die Stern*, and *Der Spiegel*, and are the subject of impassioned discussions in the broader population.

Cramer brought out the well-known fact that the general secretary of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), days after the civil war-like violence at Wackersdorf last May, had been forced to adopt the strategy of the Patriots and confront the Greens head-on, because the credibility of the Patriots had gone up by leaps in the meantime. This tendency among the ruling parties showed itself even more clearly when the CDU in late summer announced its program for the federal elections: The graphic presentation was simply "copied" from the Patriots' electoral literature.

Federal vice-chairman Michael Liebig read greetings to the convention from Vice-Adm. (ret.) Karl-Adolf Zenker, former inspector of the Navy, one of the leading initiators of the Patriots. The culmination of this historic convention came when the participants voted to send a telegram to U.S. President Reagan, urging him to intervene on behalf of Democratic Party political figure Lyndon LaRouche, an individual who has "done so much for the development of the human race."