

# Patriots' emergence shocks German elite

by Susan Welsh

The Patriots for Germany, the new political party in the Federal Republic headed by Helga Zepp-LaRouche, has jolted the established political parties out of their silent agreement to avoid the issues of the economic and political crisis. In the current campaign, which ends in federal parliamentary elections on Jan. 25, the Patriots have intervened with national-circulation programmatic posters and advertisements, four different million-run leaflets, as well as television and radio spots which have upset the liberals, oligarchs, and Greenies alike.

In a mass leaflet distributed during the last week of the campaign, Zepp-LaRouche urges the voters not to fall for the common argument of the "lesser evil," that is, not to vote for the government parties (Christian Democratic Union, Christian Social Union, and Free Democratic Party) on the grounds that a coalition of the opposition Social Democrats and the Greens would be worse.

It is no "lesser evil," she charges, "than that for cost reasons, the fight against AIDS has not been picked up; that the government is not informing the population about the world economic crisis, which is threatening farmers and small entrepreneurs, and driving unemployment up. It is also no lesser evil, if the government does not fight against terrorism, and does not dare to tell the truth that this is low-intensity warfare, unleashed against the government by the Soviets." In education policy, "there can be no lesser evil; there must be a return to the ideal image of man conceived by Schiller or von Humboldt, joy and enthusiasm about scientific and technological progress must be revived."

The leaflet calls on voters "to have the courage to be wise and to vote for the Patriots for Germany."

## Popular 'change in mood'

At the highest levels of the oligarchy that has kept a stranglehold on West Germany since John J. McCloy's post-war Occupation regime, there is panic that voters will do exactly as the leaflet demands. In just six months since its first electoral bid in the June 1986 state elections in Lower Saxony, the Patriots for Germany has grown rapidly. Through its high-profile advertising campaign on AIDS, the economic crisis, terrorism, and the danger of "decoupling" from the Western alliance, its ideas have achieved an even greater influence.

Under West Germany's political system, a party must have 5% of the vote to qualify it for representation in Parliament. Whereas a 5% vote in the United States is not considered large, in Germany it means a party can participate in a governing coalition and hold cabinet positions. A 5% vote for the Patriots could make Helga Zepp-LaRouche the foreign minister of Germany.

One of the deans of the Anglo-German oligarchy, Ralf Dahrendorf, warned an elite gathering in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 15, "The Patriots for Germany are the most important splinter party in the upcoming West German elections, and could capture 1% to 1.5% of the vote." Dahrendorf, a Knight of the British Empire, is a leading think-tank analyst for the liberal Free Democratic Party, and was formerly head of the London School of Economics. He was speaking at a forum of the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies, to an audience that included former U.S. Ambassador to Germany Arthur Burns.

Dahrendorf noted that the party is led by Helga Zepp-LaRouche, wife of Lyndon LaRouche, and that it includes "many retired military leaders." He expected the current ruling coalition to win in a "boring" election, he said, but it will rule "as a government without a program and be composed of ministers without a mission." This will fuel a "serious underlying change in mood" in the population, which, he said, "is brewing, and everyone is aware of it, but no one is discussing it."

The possibility of a shift by the electorate was also warned of by the influential liberal news magazine *Der Spiegel*. In its Jan. 5 cover story, it reported the "growing danger of a new right-wing party," in view of the government's inaction on issues of concern to the electorate. The following week, in its Jan. 12 issue, the magazine made the attack more precise, in a page-and-a-half article on the Patriots, with the deliberately misleading title, "Right-Wing Extremists." The article displayed a photo of the Patriots' poster depicting Mikhail Gorbachov and Josef Stalin, with the slogan, "No to the empire of evil!" *Der Spiegel* complains that since their "first election success" in Lower Saxony last year, "even though they got only 0.3%, the Patriots grew at once to become the strongest among the small parties." The article concludes with a quote from the Patriots' famous slogan: "Better both feet in NATO than a cold ass in Siberia," stating correctly that the Patriots will continue to campaign after the elections.

Then on Jan. 15, the *Times* of London ran an article on the German elections, focusing on the Patriots' campaign for emergency public-health measures to prevent the spread of AIDS. "There are few arresting election issues, except perhaps for AIDS," the *Times* writes. "'Stoppt AIDS' scream the billboards on Adenauer Allee, Bonn's main thoroughfare and the site of the Chancellor's office. Every lamppost is festooned with anti-AIDS messages and the accompanying slogan, 'Patrioten sur [sic] Deutschland.'"