

## Report from Bonn by Rainer Apel

### Greens end 'ceasefire' with the SPD

*The fall of Hesse's coalition kicks off the Green campaign against the bogus issue of the "West German nuclear bomb."*

**T**he gains the German Green Party made in the national elections on Jan. 25 have helped the most extreme wing of the Green movement. The anti-nuclear currents of the Social Democrats (SPD) voted for the Greens this time, and the Green ultra-radicals took this as proof that confrontation with the Social Democrats paid off, while alliance with them didn't.

For the radical anti-nukeniks among the Social Democrats, the election losses were no less welcome, since they could be blamed on the SPD party moderates. The bid for party chairmanship, which Oskar Lafontaine, spokesman of the radical anti-nuclear current of the SPD, announced the day after the elections, signaled the end of "moderatism" in the party.

While before the Jan. 25 elections, Lafontaine was considered spokesman of a strong party minority, the election defeat of SPD chancellor candidate Johannes Rau made Lafontaine the most powerful of the crown princes in the party hierarchy. With NATO adversary Lafontaine, radicalism against U.S. atomic weapons and nuclear power alike takes full control of the Social Democrats now.

This had an immediate impact on the "red-green" coalition government between SPD and Greens in the state of Hesse. The state hosts, in the city of Hanau, the nation's main producers of nuclear fuels. The Greens and the radical anti-nuclear faction of the SPD chose to undermine all of the nation's nuclear power sector, by demanding

the closing of the three nuclear companies in Hanau—RBU, Alkem, and Nukem. As Hesse Gov. Holger Börner wouldn't go for that, his coalition with the Greens was already close to collapse at the end of 1986.

The Jan. 25 election results were the coup de grace.

One week after the elections, the Green Party caucus in the Bonn parliament elected Thomas Ebermann its leader. He is a spokesman of the Green "fundamentalists" and a leading figure in the pro-terrorist party section of the city of Hamburg. Hamburg has seen Germany's bloodiest street riots between Greens and the police, the last ones leaving close to 100 policemen injured in riots before Christmas 1986. Ebermann considers such riots and sabotage a useful lever to force radical Green politics through the parliaments.

Moreover, Ebermann has made the bogus issue of the "West German nuclear bomb" an upfront topic on the Green agenda. His election to be Bonn caucus leader signaled that the riot faction would determine Green politics in the next future. The days right after Ebermann's election were characterized by Green ultimatums to the SPD coalition partners in the state government of Hesse: Either all the permits for the three Hanau companies were canceled instantly, or the coalition would break. The blackmail of the Green ultimatum was magnified by similar demands from the radical SPD anti-nuclear current in Hesse.

On Feb. 8, a special convention of

the Hesse Greens renewed the ultimatum in a resolution calling for an end to the Hanau companies, as allegedly "producing plutonium for atomic bombs." The Hesse state minister for environmental affairs, Josef "Joschka" Fischer of the Greens, advertised the end of the coalition government in case the ultimatum was not met by the SPD coalition partner. On Feb. 9, SPD Governor Börner decided to preempt Fischer's resignation and fired him. The Greens announced a vote of no-confidence against Börner, to inevitably lead to the collapse of the government and require new elections, as the two opposition parties, the Christian Democrats and the liberal Free Democrats, were certain to vote against the governor.

The next move in this cabal was mounting internal SPD party pressure on Börner himself, to let someone else take leadership of the Hesse state section of the party. On Feb. 10, Börner resigned from the SPD state section chairmanship, and from the position of slate leader in the April 5 early elections as well.

The SPD state executive immediately nominated Hans Krollmann, a Social Democrat more friendly to the Greens, to replace Börner in both functions. Krollmann's first public comment was: "I still see a basis for cooperation with the Greens."

This statement encouraged the Greens to renew their ultimatum for the shutdown of the three nuclear fuel producers in Hanau. On Feb. 11, rioters ransacked the information center of the three Hanau companies, to underline that the Green movement's "cease-fire" with the SPD is over. All of a sudden, the state of Hesse, which was the scene of bloody mass protests, anti-nuclear violence, and sabotage between 1980 and 1983, is facing new trouble.