

Report from Bonn by Rainer Apel

Kvitsinsky speaks German

Richard Burt was no match for the Soviet ambassador's peculiar address to the Christian Democrats.

Events in Bonn in mid-April revealed a lot about the changing political climate in the Christian Democratic party of Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

CDU politician Willy Wimmer, a member of the parliamentary defense commission in Bonn, returned April 14 from two weeks of meetings in the United States, reporting that the Iklé-Wohlstetter Commission's proposal for *Discriminate Deterrence* is about to become official U.S. policy, either under this President, or the new one who will take office in 1989. Wimmer warned of the role of Paul Nitze, as a key producer of "new ideas" for the next round of U.S. summitry.

Nitze's latest proposal to debate sea-based and airborne cruise missiles at the START panel, was described by Wimmer with the words: "This means the strategic decoupling of Europe from the United States."

Wimmer's revelations sent a shock through all CDU conservatives who had still believed in President Reagan's seemingly "good intentions." This firsthand report from the States proved to all those who had never wanted to believe Lyndon LaRouche's warnings to that effect, that the strategic sellout of Europe is now, indeed, U.S. policy.

Shouldn't the CDU, nominally a conservative, defense-oriented party, fight this trend now, by intensifying its political links with the defense lobby in the United States?

Well, the CDU has, since the signing of the INF treaty, come under the control of the "Moscow Faction," which welcomes the transatlantic di-

sarray because it helps its own propaganda for intensified ties to the Soviets. Now that the United States is growing strange, the "Moscow Faction" says, "We'll have to come to good terms with Moscow, to get through the INF era."

The way the "Moscow Faction" is operating became most visible at the foreign policy congress the CDU held in Bonn April 13-14. The ambassadors of the two superpowers, Richard Burt of the United States, and Yuli Kvitsinsky of the Soviet Union, were invited to give keynote addresses to the CDU congress. It was the first time ever that a senior Soviet official was permitted to address a CDU congress.

Officially presented as a "debate between the two on equal terms," the affair took quite a different shape. Richard Burt, himself one of the original authors of the INF diplomacy, was no real match for the Soviet diplomat.

For example, the emotional level: Informing the audience that the CDU had advised him to address them in English, Burt delivered his speech in his native language. It was one of these standard, academic speeches that pay lip service to German-American friendship and the Western alliance, but are totally inappropriate in a situation dominated by massive, skillful Soviet propaganda into Germany.

Yuli Kvitsinsky addressed the CDU congress in German, opening his speech with the delusive formulation, "We Europeans in the East and the West." He presented the tempting offer that "all military bases be removed and foreign troops be withdrawn from other territories." The same had been

stated the day before by Soviet government spokesman Gennadi Gerasimov in Atlanta: "If the American boys go home, our Soviet boys will also go home. There are American boys in Germany now, and that is why we have Soviet boys in Germany as well, that is to say, the other part of Germany."

Having said that and meeting no protest from Richard Burt, Kvitsinsky demonstrated to the CDU that the U.S. (represented by Burt) apparently did not oppose this agenda for troop withdrawal from Germany. For the skeptics, Kvitsinsky gave assurances that Moscow actually wanted West Germany to stay in NATO, for the sake of "stability in Europe."

The Soviet diplomat also took a seemingly "European view," when he mocked the state of the U.S. economy and called Reagan's economic policy advisers "charlatans," who are about to destroy the economic foundations of Western defense altogether.

Kvitsinsky's appearance had been skillfully arranged by the Soviets and the "Moscow Faction" of the CDU, to make the most positive impression on the congress attendees.

In a most peculiar way, Burt seems to intentionally fuel his bad image among German conservatives. Only a few days after this CDU congress, he confessed in an April 20 interview with *Bildzeitung*, Germany's leading mass illustrated newspaper, that he likes to visit a "small discothèque in East Berlin," to listen to rock music songs, dance and talk with the "young people there."

Yuli Kvitsinsky, however, does not waste his time with dancing, but prefers reading books about German history and the arts. Unless the U.S. appoints an "educated" diplomat as its next ambassador to Bonn, Moscow will continue to score points on the cultural psywar front in Germany.