

Report from Bonn by Rainer Apel

A case of deep moral degeneracy

The election of the new German speaker of parliament Süßmuth helps Moscow and its protégés, the Greens.

The German minister of public health, Frau Rita Süßmuth, left the ministry on Nov. 24 to become the new speaker of the parliament. A liberal member of the Christian Democratic party (CDU), she replaced CDU conservative Philipp Jenninger, whom an internationally concocted phony scandal over his parliamentary speech on Kristallnacht Remembrance chased out of office Nov. 11.

Leading the campaign against Jenninger, with support from the Bronfmanites in the German Jewish community, were the opposition Green and Social Democratic parties, and influential factions in the governing bloc of CDU and liberal FDP party.

Rita Süßmuth was elected to her new post with two-thirds of the votes in the parliament. Ironically, quite a number of CDU deputies voted her in to get her out of the health ministry. Her record as health minister is scandalous, indeed. On the AIDS issue, she defended a letting-things-go approach, spending budgets primarily for marginal interest groups like the "drug-scene" street workers and various prostitute (both sexes) initiatives, rather than for in-depth research into medical counter-measures.

The LaRouche-inspired campaign for an effective war on AIDS, for regular screening of the population, massive funding of research and medical treatment, and isolation measures to protect the uninfected, was vigorously opposed by Rita Süßmuth. Copying the slang of the Green party and related rock-drug counterculture groups, she slandered all efforts leading toward an effective combat of AIDS as

"policies leading to a loss of civil rights."

Frau Süßmuth also made herself an advocate of drug legalization. After a recent U.S. tour, she announced an official inquiry into whether consumption of "soft drugs" like hashish should be legalized. "In practice," there was "already something like tolerance of hashish smoking in society," she said; the government should not prosecute what society had accepted long ago.

Reporting on her findings in the United States, she also argued for making the heroin substitute methadone more easily available. She suggested that laws be changed to permit doctors to give out methadone if "no other life-support" was possible, and called for an end to police prosecution of drug addicts for possessing needles. Distribution of disposable needles in the drug scene was termed by Rita Süßmuth a way to "contain the risk of infection with AIDS." For ministry programs supporting the drug addicts through their own initiative groups, Süßmuth allocated an average of 10 million deutschmarks over the 1988-90 three-year period.

Officials of her ministry called the "drug street worker scene," a "most useful ally in the fight against AIDS." This fantasy-ridden policy shocked many, especially among the conservative Christian Democrats, but earned Süßmuth applause from the Green party, which has its main voter base in the counterculture. The Greens also voted for her as new parliament speaker, and she returned the favor by stating, in her first parliamentary speech

in her new office, that she very much favored the idea of seating a Green party member on the parliamentary presidium board. She expressed deep regret that a parliamentary motion to have the Greens seated was defeated this time, but after the next national elections (in late 1990), she thought the seat should be given to the Greens.

What gives this endorsement of the Greens, the first-ever in public by the formal head of the German parliament, a special political weight, is the fact that it was given at a point that the Soviets are reactivating their contacts to the Green movement for the purpose of upgraded subversion and irregular warfare operations in the radical environmentalist cause.

This new activity on the part of Moscow, which maintains, through a newly created Soviet "council on environmental affairs," very close relations with the German Greens, is proceeding under the command of the new head of the KGB, Vladimir Kryuchkov. In a speech before a select audience of senior Soviet intelligence and government officials in July, Kryuchkov mentioned the German Greens as an "efficient way to influence the minds of the governing politicians."

Endorsing the Greens in this context, as Rita Süßmuth did, is the same as encouraging Moscow to "go ahead" with its subversion. Is she, who always kept a low profile on foreign affairs, a secret member of the "CDU Moscow Faction," which wants Germany to opt for deals with the Soviets, rather than the Americans, in the 1990s?

Recently, at a German-Soviet seminar on youth problems, she called on German youth to spend their summer holidays doing farm labor in the Soviet Union. This would help to build confidence between Germans and Russians, and help Gorbachov's reforms, too, she said.