

Report from Bonn by Rainer Apel

A contribution to China's future

Replacing the China card policy with a long-term strategy for a free China is on West Germany's agenda.

The Bonn government, reluctant to show the flag on human rights and impose economic-political sanctions on Beijing, has come under heavy attack. Highly indicative is the resolution passed June 23 by all parties in the parliament in favor of political and economic sanctions. The resolution was passed despite much off-stage manipulation from the foreign ministry. In the debates on June 15 and 22-23, "Dengist" Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher was scored for "interfering with the parliamentarians' genuine privilege to act upon the imperatives of their conscience."

The momentum against the Red China card policy was accelerated by the impact of the June 15 European election TV spot of the Patriots for Germany party leader Helga Zepp-LaRouche. Many who saw the spot said that "it touched on the right issue." A key phrase used by Zepp-LaRouche was that a "river of blood is dividing the world now, between the fascist-Bolshevik regimes and all those who love and fight for freedom."

The message was apparently reflected in the speech that Green Party member Petra Kelly gave in parliament June 22. Going beyond the other speeches given that day, she used the phrases "ocean of blood" and "cynically brutal regime of assassins in Beijing." She charged her own Green movement with having morally failed to rally tens of thousands in protest before the gates of the Red Chinese embassy in Bonn. She called for an international human rights tribunal against the Beijing regime and urged a moment of silence in the parliament,

which was held after her speech.

That otherwise diametrically opposed politicians, like Helga Zepp-LaRouche and Petra Kelly, find a similar language on the developments in Red China indicates that a paradigm shift, crossing party confines, is under way, which can help redraw foreign policy on the China question.

What is to be done now, after Red China has been denounced and threatened with sanctions, is to wipe out the big blind spot most people have about "China"—the existence of Taiwan. Many are not aware that what they would like mainland China to be—a Westernized industrial society—is already practiced in the Republic of China with its 20 million people on the island of Taiwan. A West German policy of sanctions against Red China can build on the role the 20 million Taiwanese, with relatives all over the Chinese mainland, can play in making all of China a free nation.

A statement June 23 by Ortwin Lowack, the chairman of the foreign relations subcommittee of the Christian Democrats' parliamentary group, addressed this particular point. Lowack, who also chairs the German-Chinese (Taiwan) Society, called for establishing full diplomatic relations with Taiwan.

He said that after the massacre in Tiananmen Square, there can't be any "business as usual" between West Germany and Red China. The China policy of the government and German industry, he declared, should reorient toward improved and intensified relations with Taiwan. A direct Frankfurt-Taipei air link and a more liberal pol-

icy of granting visas to Taiwanese visitors, could be steps preparing a general shift in Bonn's China policy.

Official relations between Bonn and Taipei were sacrificed when the German government opted for the Red China card of the Nixon-Kissinger administration in the U.S., and opened diplomatic relations with Beijing in December 1972. Since then, contact between West Germany and Taiwan exists outside official acknowledgment. West German machines (for example textile machines, machine tools) are sold to Taiwan, which sells fruit, fish products, and textiles to the Germans. But this kind of trade has the opprobrium of "being tolerated but not liked," because of Bonn's recognition of Red China as the "only China there is."

The West may be able to accelerate the process of the Beijing regime's collapse by sanctions and actions on the diplomatic level. The main job, to build a new, a free China, must be left to the Chinese. It is not clear what a future China will look like, but to make a population of 1.2 billion on the mainland, most of whom are still living under a backward peasant conditions, a modern industrial nation, will require work only the Chinese themselves can do.

The Taiwanese role in that will be key, as well as the role the other 50 million Chinese living abroad can play. The German Federal Republic, currently Red China's number-three foreign trading partner, can, under changed premises, give vital economic and financial assistance in the process of liberating mainland China, one-fifth of the world's people, from Communism. Shifting from the ephemeral Red China card of the 1970s and 1980s toward a Taiwan policy now, will hit the regime in Beijing more than sanctions alone.