

Report from Bonn by Rainer Apel

German-bashing alliance in action

The Anglophiles are waging black propaganda about the alleged rise of a "Fourth Reich."

The Germans have turned a bit too independence-minded and selfish; they tend to forget old friends lately." This is what a close adviser to President George Bush told a German reporter a few days before the Group of Seven economic summit in London began. He said that Bush thinks he has been tricked by the Germans into accepting Mikhail Gorbachov's arrival to meet the G-7 leaders in the British capital on July 17.

Originally, Bush didn't want to meet with the leader of the "superpower that was" on economic issues, because he wanted to avoid any commitment of U.S. financial support to the Soviet Union. Bush and Secretary of State James Baker wanted to handle the Soviet reforms through the "service entrance," through the Harvard-Soviet team of Jeffrey Sachs and Grigori Yavlinsky.

But intense German diplomacy with Moscow and repeated appeals to the West to support the Soviet reforms actively, have created a situation that posed the following unpleasant alternative to Bush, his adviser said: "Maybe Gorbachov, prompted by Kohl, is going to present us a costly deal of reforms against cash in London. The generous Germans then will appear as the great supporters of peace—and we niggardly Americans as cold warriors that have only partially changed views."

The U.S. administration is very angry at the German government, as evidenced by numerous recent statements from senior U.S. spokesmen.

For example, Vernon Walters, the outgoing U.S. ambassador to Bonn, said to the *International Herald Tribune* July 8 that given their industrial

power and skilled labor, the Germans couldn't be "abandoned to themselves," and so the United States would keep a watch on them.

Henry Kissinger declared in the *Berliner Morgenpost* on July 7 that "united Germany should not adopt an independent role, nor try anything on its own initiative, under any circumstances."

As for the British, former prime minister Margaret Thatcher had vehemently opposed German unification, saying it would "not come in 10 years or even more"—or so she hoped.

Her foreign secretary, Douglas Hurd (who is now serving under Prime Minister John Major), even threatened to withhold the British signature on the German Unity Treaty in Moscow in September 1990, and would not change his mind until the German foreign minister threatened him with a fierce anti-British campaign in Germany.

The French government, too, has turned more and more hostile to Germany, ever since the Gulf crisis moved into its decisive phase.

Prompted by London in the first place, immense paranoia over the political stature of the united Germany has been building in the minds of the Paris elites. The paranoia rose to the surface in a vicious outburst, when the Germans forced West European issues off the agenda of the Luxembourg June 28 European summit, placing the Yugoslav crisis up front instead. The German motion, launched by Chancellor Helmut Kohl with the remark that "we Europeans cannot leave that crisis to the hands of the United States," was approved with

lip-service, but no real support.

The other Europeans wanted to hold on to the Belgrade regime, while the Germans wanted an upgraded status of Slovenia and Croatia close to full diplomatic recognition.

Discontent with the European summit's half-hearted resolution for "crisis dialogue" on the Yugoslav situation, Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher decided to visit Belgrade on July 3 in his capacity as presiding chairman of the foreign ministers council of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). This independent initiative was read as a provocation by the French, whose foreign minister, Roland Dumas, summoned an emergency session of the 12 European Community foreign ministers after Genscher's return, succeeding in voting down the Germans, who were only supported by the Danes.

There was more to come: The French media began attacking the Germans for alleged ambitions to build a zone of influence in Eastern Europe, a "Fourth Reich" or a remake of the Hapsburg Empire in the Balkans. This was taken up forthwith by the Serbian media, with the newspaper *Politika Ekspres* stating July 5 that "the French must be praised for the committed fight they're waging against the wild-running ambitions of a Greater Germany and a new Fourth Reich."

There are other, even more ominous signs. The first civilian target the Yugoslav Air Force shot down in Ljubljana was the German Airbus-320 of Slovenia's Adriatic Airways, and Serbian officers threatened to bomb the German-made shield around the Slovenian nuclear power reactor at Krsko. The German nuclear industry and the Airbus have been prime targets of Anglo-American political attacks over the years. Is this perhaps surrogate warfare against Germany?