

Murder, disinformation, and black propaganda

by the Staff of Neue Solidarität

Das RAF-Phantom—Wozu Politik und Wirtschaft Terroristen brauchen (The RAF Phantom—Why Politics and Economics Need Terrorists)

by Gerhard Wisniewski, Wolfgang Landgräber, and
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Drömersche Verlagsanstalt, Munich, Germany,
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Just before this book's publication, the authors produced a television documentary, broadcast on July 1, 1992 on the German ARD station, on the causes and background of terrorism in Germany. They presented a thesis which at first glance seemed far-fetched: The so-called third generation of the Red Army Fraction, which has become infamous for its brutal assassinations, has never in fact existed; it was a pure fabrication, invented in order to steer public attention away from the intelligence services which were the true perpetrators of the atrocities being ascribed to this grouping.

Their book presents even more evidence to substantiate this hypothesis. It sheds light on the entire palette of the so-called RAF's assassination operations, beginning with the arrest of the "second generation" (Christian Klar et al.) and the disappearance, following the fall of the Berlin Wall, of almost all members of the gang who had not yet been arrested. The authors show that it is impossible to reconcile the more recent terrorist acts with the "leftist" line of argumentation contained in the notes claiming responsibility for them. Indeed, each one of the actions of the RAF in support of

above-ground protest groups, was the "kiss of death" for everything those groups said they were committed to.

The RAF damaged the opposition to the Persian Gulf war, since after the shooting assault on the U.S. embassy in Bonn by commandos claiming to be RAF, the opponents of the war were made to look like they were in agreement with a pack of murderers. The terrorists hurt the Monday demonstrations against the policies of the German Treuhand (the holding company for all the former assets of the East German communist regime). The demonstrations were halted abruptly when Treuhand chief Detlev Karsten Rohwedder was brutally murdered—although admittedly, it was only after Rohwedder's assassination that the opposition against his policies of industrializing Germany's new states took over the helm.

The same is true of the late 1989 assassination of Deutsche Bank chairman Alfred Herrhausen, whose savvy in the politics of power and business was a thorn in the eye of his opponents in the international financial world (he had scarcely a friend left, after he demanded a partial debt moratorium for the developing countries), as was the influence he exerted over German Chancellor Helmut Kohl. Herrhausen had had the best chance since the outbreak of World War I, to establish the Deutsche Bank as a power to be reckoned with in the global financial policy game.

The authors review all the other murder cases ascribed to the "RAF third generation"—the murders of Edward Pimenthal, Gerold von Braunmühl (see below), Karl-Heinz Beckurts—and analyze them from the standpoint of both the motive and the forensically analyzable evidence of alleged proof, showing that there is *no* proof that the perpetrators

were an ideologically disoriented group of RAF terrorists who for 10 years had survived underground as a tiny group of desperadoes. Nor can it be proven that the alleged members of the RAF's "commando" level who were arrested after 1982—such as Eva Haule-Frimpong and the six RAF members around Helmut Pohl, who was arrested on Bergerstrasse in Frankfurt in 1984—were in any way involved in the assassinations, even though some of them were convicted of this on the basis of flimsy evidence.

But even setting all this aside, one must still conclude that these arrests were in no way made on the basis of the (systematically misdirected) dragnet activities of the security agencies, but that they must instead be classified as blunders, which, it is rather certain, would not have occurred if high-ranking security officials had been clued in. In both cases, the arrests were made by "local cops" who had no idea whom they were really dealing with. It would probably have been easier to keep the RAF legend alive, had these arrests not occurred.

After the entire German republic was turned topsy-turvy in the early 1980s in order to catch a few terrorists, now we find out after the fact, that the individuals being sought had actually been under observation for weeks—for example, by the Hamburg office of the Verfassungsschutz (the German domestic security police) or that Mecca of forensics, the Federal Criminal Office in Wiesbaden. The astounded layman is now shown pictures made at close range of terrorists in full regalia, and wonders why they weren't arrested at that time.

What do you call it, when one of the highest prosecutorial authorities does not lift a finger to evaluate the evidence available to them, but—as in the case of Siegfried Nonne (see *EIR*, July 17, 1992, pp. 36-38, "Was Herrhausen Killed by Western Intelligence?")—to all appearances seems to be collaborating in concocting a phony "star witness," presenting him to the public, and then issues and executes a patently unjustified warrant for his arrest, even though the whole fairy tale had already been thoroughly discredited before the public? Obstruction of justice? At any rate, it is doubtful that it will come to a trial against the witnesses and the accused, since embarrassing details would have to be revealed.

Low-intensity warfare: who against whom?

The classification of terrorism as a "sociological phenomenon"—a theory to which German officialdom had stubbornly clung—has now been put to rest, simply because it is no longer of any use in analyzing any of the perpetrators. So instead of a phenomenon, all that remains is a phantom. But the book under review also analyzes the terrorism theory held by conservatively inclined layers, according to whom the attacks ascribed to the RAF were part of a secret low-intensity war being conducted against the West by the Soviets and their communist vassals. In the authors' view, a low-

intensity war is indeed going on; but it is being waged not by the Soviets, but by Germany's own security agencies, and those of other "friendly" countries. The authors express doubt, on the other hand, that there was any operative support for the RAF's *second* generation; and in fact no evidence of any such support has been presented so far from any quarter.

Various lines of thought in this direction ought to be sparked by the authors' suspicion that already back in 1978 the German government had negotiated an armistice with the second generation, and that the RAF's disappearance from the scene until their sudden alleged re-emergence in 1982, was definitely known to the authorities. The "opposite side," as presented in the official version, apparently cooperated magnificently, presumably made a pretty penny for keeping their mouths shut, and saw no reason to slaughter the cow which was so willing to be milked. But we ought to be greatly concerned not only at the means, but also to a much greater extent at the aims of the government and the apparatus under it.

In their book, the authors report that already well before the ARD broadcast, Klaus Kinkel, formerly head of the German foreign intelligence service Bundesnachrichtendienst, then justice minister, and now foreign minister, had attempted to talk a "Stern TV" team out of reporting on the matter. "His argument," according to the authors, "that we should watch passively as the 'RAF' terrorists escape into East Germany, would have been the *de jure* equivalent of the crime of supporting a terrorist association."

One of the many questions which this brings up, is whether the quite remarkable blunders in the search for the second RAF generation, were not blunders at all, but were in fact following a pre-arranged script.

At the same time, it must be asked of former Interior Minister Gerhard Baum, what his real aim was in pushing for drastic cutbacks in his investigatory apparatus, which according to "security experts" was the reason why, following the arrest of Christian Klar, it was impossible to prove any participation of specific persons in the "RAF" assassinations? The suspicion is aroused here, that Baum's campaign, under the banner of "liberalization"—holding talks with terrorists, etc.—was a propaganda charade in order to enable somebody to utilize the RAF "trademark." It is also remarkable, that under Baum's successor, the "sharpie" Friedrich Zimmermann from the Christian Social Union party, the memory gaps which afflicted investigatory agencies under Baum's administration, have never been filled in.

And if one adds to this the 15-year-long investigation of the suspicion that Monika Haas, first generally described in the book *RAF-Stasi Connection* and then later explicitly named, who had smuggled in the weapons to be used by a Palestinian terrorist commando to hijack the "Landshut" Lufthansa aircraft, was at the time also in the employ of German intelligence services—then it's quite likely that

quite a few people have heaps of corpses in their cellars.

In sum, if we look at the history of terrorism in Germany, so many provocative questions come up, that all of the official interpretations presented so far are just about as credible as the claim that Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone assassin of President John F. Kennedy. And since it is highly unlikely that there is anywhere in Germany an attorney with the courage of a Jim Garrison, other concerned citizens are just going to have to handle the job. Starting with the massacre at the 1972 Munich Olympics, whose catastrophic outcome has never been explained, all the way to the RAF's appearance on the scene, terrorism has always served to destabilize Germany—apparently with considerable toleration and participation from within the country.

The RAF, in the meantime, has registered as a normal, official organization. (After all, we do have a law here in Germany requiring everyone to register.) As the authors rightly suspect, the new targets of Germany's "security policy" are now the sudden flare-up of right-wing extremism and of organized crime. Let us hope that they have more success in this, than they have had in fighting terrorism, and that they don't lead the German public around by the nose with inflated "exposés" about the allegedly great influence of the Italian Mafia and other such familiar organizations, as they have done with the legend of the "RAF."

Warmed-over communist lies

Unfortunately, after the authors have published probably the most interesting work to have appeared on the subject of the RAF, one of the authors, Gerhard Wisnewski, immediately turned around to practice the same "black propaganda" which the book describes so well in theory.

In the book, Lyndon LaRouche and various organizations inspired by him are cited in almost benevolent tones as suppliers of "highly interesting information." But in a review of the book, apparently authored by Wisnewski himself and appearing in the supplement of the Nov. 27, 1992 *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, the author goes far beyond even what the East German communist secret police, the Stasi, had ever dared to put into circulation by way of disinformation on LaRouche. He warms up the old communist lies—known to him as such—that LaRouche was behind the 1986 assassination of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme. Moreover, with explicitly slanderous intent, he connects LaRouche up with the October 1986 assassination of German Foreign Ministry official Gerold von Braunmühl.

The fact that such lies are spewed out in the pages of the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*—one of Germany's leading dailies—leads one to conclude that close ties exist between this paper and certain circles in the United States, such as the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), who for years have worked to assassinate LaRouche's character. Even more remarkable is the fact that Wisnewski has been caught weaving a web of slander which shortly after von Braunmühl's assassination—

and apparently at the behest of circles in Washington—was circulated with the complicity of the national security division of the national Criminal Police in Wiesbaden.

Briefly, here are the facts:

Part 1: On Oct. 6, 1986, the residence of LaRouche and offices of companies associated with him in Leesburg, Virginia were stormed by 400 police in the biggest "civilian" police action ever staged in the United States. The aim was to provoke a violent confrontation with LaRouche's security personnel, and in that way to liquidate LaRouche and his wife. As it was revealed much later, in 1992, it was in part thanks to a squabble among the organizers of the raid over which unit was to lead the invasion, that LaRouche's residence was not stormed and LaRouche assassinated.

The groundwork for the attack had been laid by systematic "black propaganda" in the U.S. press claiming that LaRouche had been involved in the assassination of Olof Palme earlier that year.

Part 2: The same kind of campaign, after it had been started up by circles in the U.S., was to be spread into Germany. On Oct. 10, 1986, an associate of EIR Nachrichtenagentur had set up five appointments with officials in Bonn; the final one of these was to last until about 10:00 p.m.

At about 10:30 p.m. on that day, Gerold von Braunmühl, an official in the German Foreign Ministry and a confidant of Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, was shot in front of his house in Bonn at point-blank range by someone who clearly knew, as Palme's assassin did also (the book reports on this), precisely where a gunshot would be guaranteed to kill the victim. Braunmühl's second attaché case, which apparently contained documents about the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative and the upcoming U.S.-Soviet agreement in Reykjavik, is said to have been stolen.

Some months after the assassination, the same LaRouche associate received a telephone call from a member of the national security department at the Wiesbaden Criminal Police. The "Kripo" had received information that the LaRouche associate had often traveled to Bonn in a red Opel Kadett, similar to the getaway vehicle used by the assassins of von Braunmühl. The LaRouche associate was able to prove that on the day of the murder, he had cancelled his appointments in Bonn and had spent the entire day at a consulate in Frankfurt arranging a trip abroad. That quickly put an end to this insolent attempt by the Wiesbaden authorities to do a "favor" for their American friends.

It was during that same month that two other authors, von Lorscheid and Müller, with strong support from the Hesse state office of the Verfassungsschutz (as was later confirmed by the "star witness" Nonne), published a book-length slander piece on LaRouche, titled *Deckname Schiller; die deutschen Patrioten des Lyndon LaRouche (Cover Name Schiller: Lyndon LaRouche's German Patriots)*.