

President Clinton forms new partnership with Germany

by Edward Spannaus

President Clinton has formed a new partnership with Germany, oriented toward eastern Europe and Russia, and broken the "special relationship" with Great Britain which has dominated U.S. policy, with disastrous effects, for almost half a century. Clinton's formal announcement of the burying of the old special relationship came during the final leg of his European trip which took him from Riga to Warsaw, then to the Group of Seven (G-7) summit of industrial nations in Naples, and then to Bonn and Berlin.

"The relationship between Germany and America in the last several decades has been truly unique in history," Clinton told a press conference following his meeting with Chancellor Helmut Kohl on June 11. "The chancellor and I both hold our offices at a moment of historic opportunity. The walls between nations are coming down, bridges between nations are coming up. The integration of Europe, strongly supported by the United States, is well under way."

Clinton stressed that the bonds between Germany and the United States will grow stronger as the two nations work together to integrate the newly independent nations of eastern Europe into Europe as a whole. To fulfill the tasks laid out at the G-7 meeting, he said in his discussions with Kohl, "the German-American partnership will have to be maintained and strengthened, and I am confident that it will be."

By allying with a reunified Germany, and his strong endorsement of the Delors Plan for infrastructure development, especially railroads reaching into central and eastern Europe (see p. 6), "Clinton is picking up the policy that *should have been* U.S. policy in 1989 [when the Berlin Wall dividing East and West fell in Germany], and he's trying to push it ahead," Lyndon LaRouche said in the radio interview "EIR Talks" on July 13. "And he pulled off, I must say, a glorious foreign policy success. *Nothing comparable to this has hap-*

pened since Reagan announced the Strategic Defense Initiative on March 23, 1983; no comparable act. The presidency has been a disaster since that time until the present; and, suddenly, Clinton has emerged, as a President, as a major policymaking figure on a global scale. It's really a great day for the United States."

Special relationship is over

A British reporter challenged Clinton as to what would happen to the "special relationship" with the United Kingdom. "Which country is going to be the most important partner for talks with you in the future?"

Clinton deftly answered that he couldn't pick between the two, because the history is different. "Even though we fought two wars" with the British, he said, that relationship is unique. As to Germany, that relationship "is rooted in the stream of immigration that goes back 200 years," the President said. "But what we have shared since World War II, I think, is astonishing." And now, he went on, our common partnership is unique, because so many of our challenges are to Germany's east. "What are we going to do in Central and eastern Europe? What will be our new relationship with Russia?"

"So," Clinton declared, "there is a way in which the United States and Germany have a more immediate and tangible concern with these issues even than our other friends in Europe. And so, history has dealt us this hand, and a very fortunate one it is, I think."

A few hours later, Clinton symbolically cemented the new alliance's independence from the old "special relationship," when he presented to Kohl an original copy of the first German-language publication of the Declaration of Independence, which was published in Pennsylvania immediately

after July 4, 1776. By this act, Clinton implicitly recalled the role of the German colonists who played such an important role in the American War of Independence against Britain.

Developing the East

The next day, July 12, before delivering his speech at the Brandenburg Gate, Clinton met with Kohl and with European Commission President Jacques Delors, in a Reichstag meeting that some considered to be more important than the Naples G-7 summit. This was also a slap in the face to the British, since Delors has been virulently attacked by the British and particularly the monetarists of the City of London financial circles for his "statist" proposals.

At a joint press conference following their meeting, Clinton congratulated Delors on his "White Paper" on jobs and growth. The White Paper, adopted by the European Union heads of state at their Corfu summit on June 25, involves 11 major European-wide infrastructure projects, including rail projects virtually identical to those proposed by LaRouche and the Schiller Institute in their "Paris-Berlin-Vienna Productive Triangle" proposal of 1989-90.

"There are a lot of people who really believe that there is simply a limit to the ability of wealthy countries to generate jobs and incomes as we move toward the 21st century and there's so much more global competition," Clinton stated. "I do not believe that." (Some interpreted this comment as referring to the idiotic theory floating around in the United States and in the Federal Reserve about the "natural level of unemployment"—the level below which unemployment cannot go—now said to be the 6% level in the United States.)

Clinton said that close cooperation between the United States and the EU is crucial for the 21st century, especially in view of the tasks of developing the economies and societies of the former East bloc. Both Delors and Clinton said that a permanent joint commission of the United States, Germany, and the EU would be established to deal with "intensifying relations with central and eastern European states." A second commission will coordinate efforts against the drug trade and organized crime.

The stage for what happened in Germany was set by the summit meetings in Naples, both the economic discussions which took place on July 9, and the expanded G-8 meetings the next day, discussions in which Russian President Boris Yeltsin participated as "a full partner" in Clinton's words. Clinton then met with Yeltsin in a bilateral discussion. After this, Clinton announced that Yeltsin will come to Washington for meetings on Sept. 27-28.

While the news media almost uniformly misrepresented the summit as a diplomatic failure for the U.S. President, Clinton's assessment gave a very different picture of the meetings. In contrast to most previous G-7 meetings, where the emphasis has been on monetary stability, budget-cutting, and austerity measures, the Naples summit stressed the need for job creation and economic growth. The final communi-

qué, presented by Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, while presenting a hodge-podge of "consensus" items, highlighted the problem of unemployment, declaring that it remains far too high, and that 24 million unemployed in the G-7 countries is "an unacceptable waste." Clinton commented that the summit had opened "in an atmosphere of much greater optimism" than previous meetings, and that earlier summits had a record "of meeting but not accomplishing very much."

"As an old world gives way to the new," Clinton continued, "it is up to the leading economic powers to renew and to revitalize our common efforts and the institutions through which we make them, including the G-7, so that world economy works for the people we represent."

Clinton said he was struck by the degree to which the vision and the goals of the United States are shared by its partners. He described to reporters what he called "an amazing conversation" of the sort he had never heard among world leaders before, where they were discussing "whether there was a traceable relationship in their unemployment rate to their investment policies and what the differences were. . . . This is unprecedented," Clinton said. "Countries are not used to doing this . . . among the nations of the world, this sort of thing had never happened before."

The President also said that it was very important that there was a commitment to discuss, at the next summit in Halifax, "what we want the world to look like 20 years from now, and what kind of institutional changes we're going to have to make to get it there. . . . I had no earthly idea that we could reach even a limited agreement among ourselves, and it turned out all of them were worried about it too."

The 'mother country' reacts

Although the U.S. news media suppressed most of these momentous events, the British press was quick to react. A British reporter at Clinton's Bonn press conference told fellow reporters that Clinton had just "killed off the special relationship." The journalist said he expected there to be panic among geopolitical strategists in London, because Clinton had clearly communicated his desire to "break the umbilical cord with the mother country."

"U.S. Cuts British 'Special Link'; Clinton Turns His Eyes to Germany," was the next day's headline in the London *Guardian*. "Links with Britain No Longer So Important," blared the *Daily Express*. "Clinton Ends the Affair with Britain," said the *Glasgow Herald*. The *Guardian* captured the event quite aptly:

"President Clinton yesterday effectively ended the United States 'special relationship' with Britain, instead offering Germany a unique partnership with the world's leading power in forging a united Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals. . . . President Clinton, on the first day of a two-day official visit to Germany, reduced the U.S.'s special relationship with Britain to a mere sentimental tie with the Mother Country."

'America is on your side now and forever'

President Clinton's news conference with Chancellor Helmut Kohl in Bonn, Germany, July 11:

I was very grateful to have the opportunity to visit here in Bonn for the first time, and to be the first American President to come here since the fall of the wall and the unification of Germany. I also want to say I appreciate very much having the opportunity to see Chancellor Kohl again and to build on the work that we have just done at the G-7 summit at Naples.

The relationship between Germany and America in the last several decades has been truly unique in history. And the chancellor and I both hold our offices at a moment of historic opportunity. The walls between nations are coming down, bridges between nations are coming up. The integration of Europe, strongly supported by the United States, is well under way.

We know from our experience, how half of Europe was integrated through NATO and other institutions that built stability after World War II. We marvel at the leadership of Chancellor Kohl and his fellow Germans who came from West and East, and who have now made their nation whole, who are working so hard to revive the economy not only of Europe, but of the entire globe.

At the heart of our discussion today was what we have to do to integrate Europe's other half, the new independent nations of Central and eastern Europe, Poland, the Baltic countries, Russia, Ukraine, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, the others. We noted how American and Russian forces will soon leave places in Germany where they have been since 1945. We discussed how important it is to expand joint military exercises with our allies, through the Partnership for Peace. But we also recognized that trade, as much as troops, will increasingly define the ties that bind nations in the 21st century.

We discussed how new institutions and relationships must build even stronger stability after the Cold War, institutions such as the European Union, whose presidency Germany has recently assumed; the World Trade Organization; and of course the Partnership for Peace.

As we build on the work we did in Naples and look to next year in Halifax, the economic, cultural, and security bonds between Germany and the United States will grow stronger. The chancellor and I will continue to do everything we can to integrate the newly independent countries of Eu-

rope into shared security with their neighbors, helping them to reform their economies, to track new investment, claim their place at the table with free and friendly nations of like mind.

Let me say again how much I personally appreciate the working relationship I have enjoyed with Chancellor Kohl, and the partnership that has existed for so long now between Germany and the United States. As we look forward to further progress in integrating Europe and dealing with the difficulties in Bosnia, and we hope that peace will be made there, I think it is clear that to imagine any of these things working out over the long run, the German-American partnership will have to be maintained and strengthened, and I am confident that it will be.

Q: Mr. President, you said that the German-American relations were a truly unique relationship. Obviously, one thinks immediately of a special relationship that played quite a significant role in the relations of your country with the U.K. Now, which country is going to be the most important partner for talks with you in the future?

President Clinton: That's like asking me to pick a team in the World Cup. Once we were eliminated, I declined to do that.

The relationship we have with the two countries is different, you know, I mean the history is different. The relationship we have with the U.K. goes back to our founding, even though we fought two wars with them early in the last century, it is unique in ways that nothing can ever replace, because we grew out of them.

The relationship we have with Germany is rooted in the stream of immigration that goes back 200 years. Indeed, as Chancellor Kohl said, most Americans would be surprised to know that German-Americans are the largest ethnic group in the United States, about 58 million of them.

But what we have shared since World War II, I think, is astonishing. And I think two, three, 400 years from now historians will look back on this period, this 50 years, and just marvel at what happened in the aftermath of that awful war. And it has given us a sense of, I think, common partnership that is unique now because so many of our challenges are just to Germany's east. What are we going to do in central and eastern Europe? What will be our new relationship with Russia? Will it continue as strongly as it now seems to be doing?

So there is a way in which the United States and Germany have a more immediate and tangible concern with these issues even than our other friends in Europe. And so, history has dealt us this hand, and a very fortunate one it is, I think.

Toast by President Clinton at a luncheon with Chancellor Kohl in Bonn, July 11:

. . . In closing, I would like to just refer to a bit of American history. What we have done together since the

end of the Second World War is familiar to all of you, but some of you may not know that my country from its very beginning has been strengthened by people from Germany, who came there first, primarily to the state of Pennsylvania, known for its tolerance and openness to people of different racial and ethnic and religious groups.

Just one week ago today, we celebrated the 218th anniversary of our Declaration of Independence. As soon as the Declaration of Independence was issued, it was immediately reprinted in German so that it could be given to the colonists in our colonies, who, at that time, still only spoke or read German. I might say today, unfortunately, more of you speak our language than we speak yours, but we're trying to do better.

At any rate, down to the present day, after 218 years, there are only two copies of the original German printing of the American Declaration of Independence in existence, and some of your freedom-loving fellow citizens have purchased one of those copies for the German historical museum. And so, Chancellor Kohl, it is here today, and I am honored to be here with it, and I hope all of you will have a chance to view it—as a symbol of our unity and our devotion to freedom.

I would like to now offer a toast: To a free democratic and unified Germany, with great thanks for our common heritage and our common future.

President Clinton's address to the people of Berlin at the Brandenburg Gate, July 12:

Citizens of Free Berlin, citizens of united Germany, Chancellor Kohl, Mayor Diepgen, Berliners the world over, thank you for this wonderful welcome to your magnificent city.

We stand together where Europe's heart was cut in half and we celebrate unity. We stand where crude walls of concrete separated mother from child, and we meet as one family. We stand where those who sought a new life instead found death. And we rejoice in renewal.

Berliners, you have won your long struggle. You have proved that no wall can forever contain the mighty power of freedom.

Within a few years, an American President will visit a Berlin that is again the seat of your government. And I pledge to you today a new American embassy will also stand in Berlin.

Half a century has passed since Berlin was first divided. Thirty-three years since the wall went up. In that time, one half of this city lived encircled and the other half enslaved. But one force endured: your courage. Your courage has taken many forms. The bold courage of June 17th, 1953, when those trapped in the East threw stones at the tanks of tyranny. The quiet courage to lift children above the wall so that their grandparents on the other side could see those they loved, but could not touch. The inner courage to reach for the ideas that make you free, and the civil courage of

five years ago, when, starting in the strong hearts and candlelit streets of Leipzig, you turned your dreams of a better life into the chisels of liberty.

Now, you who found the courage to endure, to resist, to tear down the wall, must find a new civil courage, the courage to build. The Berlin Wall is gone. Now, our generation must decide: What will we build in its place?

Standing here today, we can see the answer: a Europe where all nations are independent and democratic, where free markets and prosperity know no borders, where our security is based on building bridges, not walls, where all our citizens can go as far as their God-given abilities can take them and raise their children in peace and hope.

The work of freedom is not easy. It requires discipline, responsibility, and a faith strong enough to endure failure and criticism. And it requires vigilance. Here in Germany, in the United States, and throughout the entire world, we must reject those who would divide us with scalding words about race, ethnicity, or religion.

I appeal especially to the young people of this nation: Believe you can live in peace with those who are different than you. Believe in your own future. Believe you can make a difference and summon your own courage to build and you will.

There is reason for you to believe. Already the new future is taking shape in the growing chorus of voices that speak the common language of democracy, in the growing economies of western Europe, the United States and our partners, in the progress of economic reform, democracy, and freedom in lands that were not free, in NATO's Partnership for Peace, where 21 nations have joined in military cooperation and pledged to respect each others' borders.

It is to all of you in pursuit of that new future that I say, in the name of the pilots whose airlift kept Berlin alive, in the name of the sentries at Checkpoint Charlie who stood face to face with enemy tanks, in the name of every American President who has come to Berlin, in the name of the American forces who will stay in Europe to guard freedom's future, in all of their names I say, *Amerika steht auf Ihrer Seite jetzt und für immer*. America is on your side now and forever.

Moments ago, with my friend Chancellor Kohl, I walked where my predecessors could not, through the Brandenburg Gate. For over two centuries, in every age, that gate has been a symbol of the time. Sometimes it has been a monument to conquest and a tower of tyranny. But in our own time, you, courageous Berliners, have, again, made the Brandenburg what its builders meant it to be, a gateway.

Now, together, we can walk through that gateway to our destiny, to a Europe united, united in peace, united in freedom, united in progress. For the first time in history, nothing will stop us. All things are possible. *Nichts wird uns aufhalten—alles ist möglich. Berlin ist frei*. Berlin is free.