

nounced plans to meet with Northern Ireland Loyalists and Sinn Fein leaders—something he has refused to do until now.

Conor Cruise O'Brien, a mouthpiece for former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's line that independent Germany would become a "Fourth Reich," cheered on the potential fall of the Reynolds government in his Nov. 13 London *Sunday Independent* column. Calling the peace process just a bunch of "hype," he declared the "quest for reconciliation" between Catholics and Protestants of Northern Ireland to be "revolting."

O'Brien hailed the results of the Cork elections, saying that it was the "best news of the week" because they "strengthen[ed] the opposition," especially the Fine Gael. Fine Gael President John Bruton, who has echoed Major's doubts that the IRA cease-fire is "permanent" and accused Reynolds and Spring of ignoring "domestic problems" as they "jet-set" around the world pursuing peace, is O'Brien's favored replacement for Prime Minister Reynolds. It is an open secret that opposition parties, particularly Fine Gael, have long been looking to exploit the differences between the Fianna Fail and Labour parties over the Whelehan appointment.

Economic aid must be forthcoming

The positive side of this otherwise bleak picture is the effort by both U.S. President Bill Clinton and the European Commission to support the drive for peace with offers of economic aid. Along with announcing a major conference on trade between the United States and Northern Ireland for April, President Clinton's Nov. 1 trade package announcement said one of the U.S. objectives is to "enhance our cooperation with Northern Ireland in science and technology, especially strengthened collaboration with our Manufacturing Extension Partnerships and other programs to encourage technological innovation."

In addition, the U.S. Trade and Development Agency will "lead a delegation to Northern Ireland to identify infrastructure and industrial projects that represent mutually beneficial trade and investment opportunities," according to the President's statement. Simultaneously, the European Commission announced on Nov. 15 that it has granted \$1.27 billion in aid to Ireland to promote industrial development.

Just a week before the beginning of the fall of the government, the Irish prime minister told American businessmen at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York that economically uniting the North and South "can be achieved, without prejudice to constitutional differences" between Ireland and Britain. But not naive to the tensions the 25 years of the "Troubles" have brought, the prime minister cautioned, "sensitive issues lie ahead in the whole area of total demilitarization." And, presaging the ominous events which followed, Reynolds concluded, "The Troubles in Northern Ireland were in large part the product of the old divide-and-rule policy pursued by successive past British governments over the centuries."

Schiller Institute celebrates poet's 235th birthday

by Susan Welsh

In this age of multiculturalism, when what is *particular* is considered to be politically correct, nearly 2,000 people met in cities around the world, under the banner of the Schiller Institute, to celebrate the 235th birthday of the most *universal* poet and playwright of the last three centuries: Friedrich Schiller.

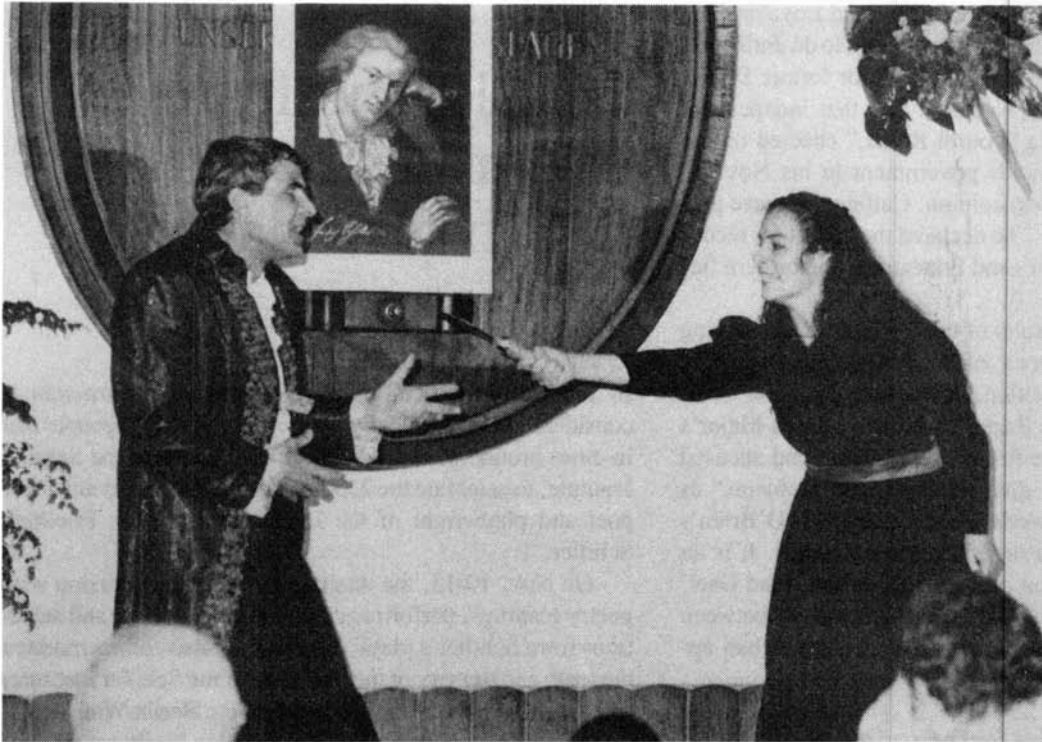
On Nov. 10-13, the institute honored the occasion with poetry readings, performance of Classical music, and selections from Schiller's plays. Participants also commemorated the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Schiller Institute, and the fifth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Schiller was born on Nov. 10, 1759 in Marburg, Germany. Although he never traveled outside his native land, he became the beloved "national poet" of many nations, first and foremost for his poem "An die Freude" (the "Ode to Joy"), which Ludwig van Beethoven used for the choral finale to his Ninth Symphony. The poem's theme, "All men shall become brothers," has inspired countless republicans ever since, including the heroes of China's Tiananmen Square freedom movement in 1989. Each of Schiller's plays portrays the struggle for freedom and universal truth, in a different national context: *Joan of Arc* (France), *Cabals and Love* (America), *Don Carlos* (Spain), the *Wallenstein* trilogy (Germany), *Mary Stuart* (England), *William Tell* (Switzerland), and the unfinished play *Demetrius* (Russia).

Relevance for today

Helga Zepp-LaRouche, the founder of the Schiller Institute, sent a message of greeting to the celebrations, underlining the importance of Schiller's ideas for solving the crisis facing mankind today.

She quoted from Schiller's "Second Letter on the Aesthetic Education of Man," that art must elevate itself above people's felt needs, and draw its prescriptions from the necessity of the mind and not from other pressing needs. "Now, however, need dominates, and presses mankind under its tyrannical yoke," Schiller wrote. "Utility is the great idol of the time, an idol to which all forces should dedicate themselves and which all talents should worship. Upon this crude scale, the intellectual merit of art has no weight, and deprived of all encouragement, it disappears from the screeching mouths of the century."



Members of the Schiller Institute in Wiesbaden, Germany perform a scene from Schiller's *Die Räuber* (The Robbers), at a celebration of the poet's birthday.

Zepp-LaRouche continued: "Is Schiller only talking about his own time, or is he talking about the materialism and the cost-benefit thinking of our time?"

"As a consequence of the tyranny of these ideologies, Schiller writes in the Fifth Letter, 'in the lower and most numerous classes,' the most crude and lawless drives proliferate, 'which unleash themselves once the bonds of civil society have been loosened, and with unbridled rage hurry toward their bestial satisfaction.' Is he talking about the *sans culottes* of his time, or the uninhibited addicts of pleasure of our own time?"

"On the other hand, the civilized classes give us a most disgusting sight of torpidity and a depravity of character, which is all the more outrageous, because culture itself is its source. I no longer recall which of the ancient or modern philosophers made the remark that the more noble, is the more horrible in its degeneration, but one will find it confirmed in the area of morals as well.' Is Schiller talking about the degenerate Voltaire, or is he talking about the jet-set lifestyle of the money-elite of today?"

'All men shall be brothers'

The Schiller Institute celebrations brought together people from diverse countries and walks of life, in a manifestation of brotherhood which certainly would have made the poet happy. Here are just a few highlights:

In **Wiesbaden, Germany**, scenes from Schiller's early play *The Robbers* were performed, along with a full musical program.

In **Los Angeles**, more than 100 people attended the celebration, organized around the theme that Schiller is an "American poet," and must be claimed by America. A Ukrainian artist who has done illustrations for a book on Schiller displayed some of his work, and Chinese supporters of the institute presented poems and music.

In **Baltimore**, a musician from Poland, formerly active with the Solidarnosc movement, performed Bach's fifth 'cello suite. Her husband introduced her with the words, "Artists can and must lead the way."

In **Boston**, the party was held in the ghetto area of Roxbury, and was attended by about 100 people, mostly from the neighborhood. Among them were several music teachers and a former Classical music singer, who used to perform in recitals organized by Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan's mother.

In **Chicago**, many in the audience of 60 were African-American youth, joining supporters from Colombia, Peru, eastern Europe, and the Middle East. All joined in singing Beethoven's "Der freie Mann" ("The Free Man"), which was the theme of the keynote speech by Schiller Institute board member Sheila Jones. Scenes from *William Tell* were performed.

In **New York**, two African-American members of the Schiller Institute laid a wreath at the statue of Schiller in Central Park, and sang the "Ode to Joy." A number of Germans who happened to be passing by joined in, and some reported that they came from Jena, where Schiller taught the subject of universal history at the university.