

Report From Germany by Rainer Apel

Synarchists Regorganize Ground Troops

The merger of two biggest radical right-wing parties in Germany could lead to German-Turkish clashes and other violence.

On Oct. 31, the convention of the National Democrats (NPD) in the Thuringian city of Leinefelde made the party's planned merger with the German People's Union (DVU) official, so that for the coming elections, both parties will work as one, to get the maximum vote results. This model was practiced in the two Sept. 19 elections for state parliament in Brandenburg and in Saxony, where the DVU reached 6.1% of the vote in the former, and the NPD 9.2% in the latter state, with either party's candidates getting votes from members of the other party. For the next national elections in 2006, the NPD will run candidates and have the support of the DVU, whereas in the next elections for European Parliament in 2009, it will work the other way around.

DVU Chairman Gerhard Frey, who commands a considerable war chest of millions of euros (unlike the NPD, which is always short of money), earned through publishing activities at his *Nationalzeitung* weekly, addressed the NPD delegates personally in Leinefelde on the perspectives of the DVU-NPD alliance, which expects to gain up to 15% in the next national elections.

Running separately in past elections, the DVU and NPD gained seats in municipal and state parliaments, by far the most spectacular gain being that of the DVU (founded in January 1971) in the state elections in Saxony-Anhalt in 1998, where it received 12.9% of the vote, getting 16 seats in the parliament. The NPD, founded in 1964, had its peak in the late 1960s, when it had 28,000 party members and got elected into seven state parliaments. But in the

Autumn of 1969, it failed to cross the mandatory 5% threshold for national parliament seats, and from then on, was in a constant decline. In 2002, the NPD still had 8,000 members, and before the Saxony state elections a few weeks ago, it was down to 6,000 members, but since the election success on Sept. 19, membership has been increasing. According to NPD Chairman Udo Voigt, donations have increased five-fold, since the Saxony elections.

In an attempt to keep their public political record clean, the DVU and the NPD have (unlike synarchist-backed right-wingers in Italy and Spain) distanced themselves from Adolf Hitler and the worst crimes of the Nazi period, and try to give the impression that they want to achieve their proclaimed "national revolution" by peaceful means only. But in an interview with the *Berliner Zeitung* daily on Oct. 29, the NPD's Voigt, reiterating that what he wanted was a "revolution not with weapons or barricades," also said that the "national upheaval" might be accompanied by "violence emerging from this movement that we cannot control."

This remark leaves a gray zone for extraparliamentary hell-raising by predominantly young NPD activists and supporters, which may soon merge with the vast right-wing-extremist underground of skinhead and Hell's Angels gangs, or of the "comradeship" and "autonomous nationalists" groups, of whom many are already on the police blotters. Also of concern is that the NPD and DVU have tried—so far, not with much success—to penetrate the anti-austerity

movement behind Germany's Monday rallies, which began in July in opposition to the government's Hartz IV austerity program. The parties were able to get more than 9% of the vote in Saxony, with nationalistic slogans distorting the anti-austerity issue, such as "German jobs for Germans." Since leftist groups in the Monday rally movement have begun to discuss acts of "civil disobedience" and "violence against select targets," the right-wing radicals can also be expected to contribute their variant of that, under the cover of "popular protests."

Yet another, far more immediate threat is the signature-gathering campaign which the DVU and NPD have announced against the Turkish application for membership in the European Union. This may soon provoke clashes between Germans and the 4 million Turks living in Germany: a phony Christian-Muslim "clash of civilizations" which so far has been prevented, fortunately. It is interesting to note that the original proposal for such a signature-gathering campaign came from the notorious Bush-Cheney supporter and neo-con party leader of the German Christian Democrats, Angela Merkel, who seems to be under the influence of Harvard professor Samuel Huntington's deranged views. She was forced to withdraw her project, however, at the end of September, when the majority of CDU party sections voted against it, because they feared it would lead to German-Turkish clashes.

Announcing their own signature-gathering campaign on Oct. 31, the DVU and NPD even acknowledged that Merkel had been the author of the idea. If it goes ahead, Germany is heading for destabilization, and that obviously is the design of the international synarchist bankers who can be suspected to have given the go-ahead for the DVU-NPD merger.