

A Trial in Germany Sheds Light on LaRouche's Role vs. London's Terror

by Roger Moore

WIESBADEN, Germany, Dec. 27—Unbeknownst to most Germans and others, since September of 2010, a trial has been underway against terrorist Red Army Faction (RAF), veteran Verena Becker, for her complicity in an assassination most would say is past history: the April 7, 1977 assassination in Karlsruhe of German Federal Prosecutor Siegfried Buback. Soon thereafter, on July 30, Dresdner Bank head Jürgen Ponto was assassinated in his home, north of Frankfurt.

Within 24 hours, Lyndon LaRouche, who was then in Germany, was notified by intelligence sources in the U.S. that he was on the same list of assassination targets that began with Buback's murder. On Sept. 7, the head of the German Employers Association, Hans Martin Schleyer, was kidnapped in broad daylight after his entire security convoy was murdered. He was soon to be murdered in captivity.

On that Nov. 22, near Johannesburg, South Africa, economist and upcoming politician Robert Smit and his wife were assassinated in their home. Smit had been in discussions with LaRouche associates in Washington in 1975, during his tenure at the IMF, and, like Ponto, he was working on alternatives to the London-run takeover of the U.S. dollar—the highly speculative Euro-dollar market.

Ponto, just days before his assassination, had spoken in an interview about how to overcome Apartheid with financing of a cooperative development program in southern Africa, but first, he said, the monetary chaos hitting Europe must be brought under control.

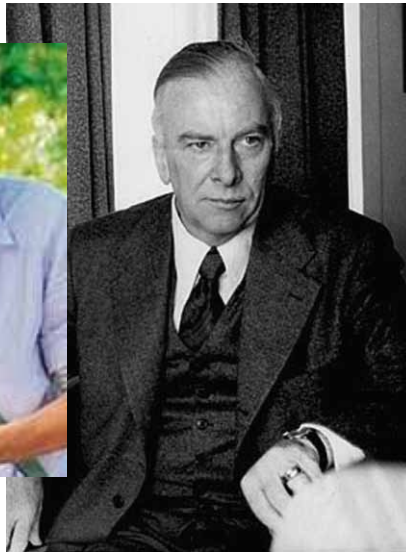
And then, in Rome on March 16, 1978, the chairman of the Christian Democratic Party, Aldo Moro, architect of the “Historic Compromise” between Italy's Communist and Christian Democratic parties, designed to stabilize Italy, was kidnapped in a highly skilled hit-man team replay of the Schleyer kidnap-

ping. Moro too, was soon to be murdered.

Within a mere 11 months, a wave of assassinations had plunged Europe into what security experts call the “Strategy of Tension,” well understood in Italy as a gambit of orchestrated political chaos using assassinations and synthetic and controlled terrorist gangs, steered by professional intelligence operatives. The purpose was to prevent alternatives to the new City of London-controlled, deregulated financial order then overwhelming nations' economies and their governments.

The immediate and open issue looming in the ongoing Verena Becker trial is, that she was intentionally never prosecuted before on the Buback murder, despite her allegedly close involvement in the crime, because she was a protected asset of secret services. In the ongoing prosecution, every effort is being made to erase that allegation of her involvement. But in fact, Buback's assassination was but part of the strategic package chronicled above, and which has much to do with the lack of political leadership against London's successful 1970s' radical transformation of the trans-Atlantic banking system, the very system that went bankrupt in 2007-08, and has only been kept around by massive bailouts and austerity.

The Buback assassination was the beginning of an escalation of the Strategy of Tension, and, were it to be shown that a strategic “protecting hand” was behind Becker's own role in that first assassination, then the following kidnappings and murders too would be seen as part of a strategic goal. And that goal is best seen in the issues LaRouche and his associates, in parallel to sane industry and finance leaders like Dresdner Bank's Ponto, were working on. In the weeks before Ponto's assassination, LaRouche associates in Wiesbaden were in discussions with Ponto's top aide, in preparation for discussions with Ponto himself.



Jürgen Ponto Stiftung

On April 7, 1977, German Federal Prosecutor Siegfried Buback (above) was assassinated by RAF terrorists; RAF veteran Verena Becker (center), is now on trial, more than 30 years later, for her role in the crime. A few months after the Buback hit, on July 30, 1977, Dresdner Bank head Jürgen Ponto (right) was murdered by the RAF, thus beginning the wave of terror that struck Europe in those years.

A Protected Asset

The Stuttgart trial of Becker came about through the efforts of one man: Göttingen University chemistry Prof. Michael Buback, the son of Federal Prosecutor Buback; he had been tipped off in 2007, thirty years later (!), that none of the three RAF, aka Baader-Meinhoff, terrorists convicted in the early 1980s for the murder was the shooter on the back of the motorcycle from which Buback and two others in his car were killed. Professor Buback began his own investigation, and soon had myriad sources, often people formerly within the German security services, providing him with leads and insights contradicting the original convictions.

Former RAF terrorists were also among his sources. Buback logically came to the conclusion that the actual triggerman who killed his father was a protected intelligence asset. His main focus soon turned to Verena Becker, who, according to numerous sources, was the shooter on the motorcycle. Becker had been arrested in possession of the weapon used in the murder, with an RAF accomplice, just weeks later, after a shootout with the police.

Although witnesses placed Becker in Stuttgart the day before the assassination, strangely, unlike the three RAF men eventually indicted and convicted for the murder, she was never held accountable. As Buback also discovered, several eyewitnesses to his father's assassination thought it was a small woman

on the back of the motorcycle who was the shooter. This report hit the media the day of the assassination, but was denied the next day by the head of the BKA (German equivalent of the U.S. FBI) investigation unit. These eyewitness reports were buried and disappeared from consideration.

It is in the public record, and acknowledged by authorities, that Becker cooperated with the German constitutional police, the Verfassungsschutz, in 1981.

But there is much to suggest she was already under their control in the early 1970s in Berlin.

According to documents made available after German unification, an East German Stasi (secret police) major, in a 1978 report on Verena Becker, wrote that, since 1972, Becker "was held under the control" of West German counterintelligence agencies. Becker had been involved and arrested in the Baader-Meinhof gang Berlin scene for a 1972 bombing in that city.

Federal Prosecutor Buback had been heavily involved, beginning with his appointment in 1974, until his 1977 assassination, in prosecuting East German spy cases, the most prominent being the 1974 affair of Günter Guillaume—the spy in the office of Chancellor Willy Brandt—which led to Brandt's downfall. Berlin lawyer Horst Mahler, once right-wing, then left-wing urban guerrilla in the late 1960s in Berlin, and 1970 co-founder of the Baader-Meinhof gang, was recently accused of being an informant for the Stasi during those years.

After arrest and release from a jail term, Mahler became an extremist with the far right National Democratic Party (NPD) for a while. He now sits in jail for denying the Holocaust, which is a crime in Germany. His partner in the Berlin law firm of his early days was current Green Party Bundestag member, and longtime LaRouche enemy, Hans Christian Ströbele.

Becker was one of those freed and flown to Yemen in 1975 after a RAF subgroup kidnapped the Berlin CDU mayoral candidate Peter Lorenz. Horst Mahler was on the list to be freed in a hostage deal, but decided to stay in prison instead. Stasi and Verfassungsschutz

agents/informants, all in one terrorist soup!?! But as current German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble said last month in a speech in Frankfurt, prior to unification in 1990, West Germany was not sovereign (nor were its security services; and the same for East Germany), and this continued after unification. It was his excuse for going along with the euro bank bailout dictatorship erected by London and Obama's Wall Street, the European Commission, and the European Central Bank.

The Strategic Factor

So, what was the strategic factor in shaping these assassinations and those in 1989 (Alfred Herrhausen, chairman of Deutsche Bank) and 1991 (German industrialist Detlev Rohwedder), the latter two attributed to the "Third Generation" of the RAF (see below)?

Professor Buback makes clear enough, that his own research on his father's murder bring him to the edge of this strategic involvement of the secret services. In his 2009 book, *The Second Death of My Father*, Buback states, "When one reads that there is secret service information about the culprits in the Karlsruhe murders,

and this was not made public, then the question arises, whether there is not also such information about the so-called Third Generation of the RAF. These crimes are largely unsolved."

In a June 2011 3Sat-TV interview, along with former terrorist Bommi Baumann, Buback also cited the mysterious Third Generation of the RAF, and whether the 1980s RAF was acting alone, or, were secret services providing support and direction? These were the 1980s assassinations in Germany, but also other parts of Europe, known to *EIR* readers as the SDI (Strategic Defense Initiative) murders, a reference to President Reagan's 1983 offer to the Soviet Union for joint elimination of the threat of nuclear weapons and the insane policy of Mutual Assured Destruction Doctrine (MAD), on the basis of mutual development of missile defense systems.

This effort of President Reagan, architected by Lyndon LaRouche, was rejected by Soviet leader Yuri Andropov, and then again by Mikhail Gorbachov, at the October 1986 Reykjavik U.S.-U.S.S.R. Summit, but also by the civilian neo-cons then in the Pentagon around Richard Perle. Was there an overlapping tasking

Ponto's Last Words

*Here is the report of an interview given by West German banker Jürgen Ponto to **To The Point International**, on July 29, 1977, the day before he was murdered by the Baader-Meinhof gang. **To The Point International** was a weekly news magazine published in Belgium, and linked to South African business and political circles. This report first appeared in the Aug. 23, 1977 **EIR**.*

Only days before his death, Jürgen Ponto was interviewed by *To The Point International*. He spoke about the role of Europe in the Third World, as a balance to the machinations of the Soviet Union and the United States.

"Some African leaders readily admit they are more inclined to cooperation with European organisations like the EEC, than to be dependent on Washington or Moscow." Ponto said. "Europe is their nearest neighbour, with the longest experience of Africa."

Ponto said that in order to help the Third World,

the rich nations had to climb out of the economic crisis of the 1970s. "If the stronger are to help the weaker, as they must, then they must first get their own economic house in order. Priority must be given to creating a more stable currency system. If one small yet economically powerful part of the world like the EEC could start the ball rolling by ending its own currency chaos, we should be well on the way to achieving something."

He said that Europe should encourage closer economic ties between the richer African countries, such as South Africa, Ivory Coast, and Algeria, so they could assist the poorer countries. "They could generate enough food, employment and education for the whole continent, provided certain obstacles can be removed.

"Racial discrimination in South Africa should be dismantled, while on the other hand, the militant pan-African agitators should stop calling us Europeans capitalist exploiters and slave-drivers. That is a back-to-front approach. We must not preoccupy ourselves with past wrongs, but with the enormous possibilities of the future."

IHR APPELL AN DIE KANZLERIN

*Sehr verehrte
Frau Bundeskanzlerin,*

warum zögert die Bundesregierung immer noch, die Aufklärung der politischen Morde an unseren Vätern selbst tatkräftig voranzutreiben? Es ist im Sinne aller Bürger, wenn nach so langer Zeit endlich aufgeklärt wird, was damals wirklich geschah.

Daher bitten wir Sie:

▶▶▶ Setzen Sie, völlig unabhängig vom Prozess gegen Verena Becker, ein **internationales Forscherteam nicht weisungsgebundener Kriminologen, Juristen und Historiker** ein, das die Morde an unseren Vätern und den anderen RAF-Opfern vorbehaltlos untersuchen darf und die Ergebnisse in einem Bericht veröffentlicht.

▶▶▶ Sorgen Sie dafür, dass diesem Forscherteam vollständigen Akten, **einschließlich aller geheim gehaltenen Dokumente**, zur Verfügung gestellt werden.

▶▶▶ Erteilen Sie allen Beamten, die Wissen über die 77er-Morde haben, im Prozess gegen Verena Becker **uneingeschränkte Aussagegenehmigung** und lassen Sie, mehr als 30 Jahre nach den Morden, dem Geheimnis der Morde ein Ende setzen, indem Sie auch alle bisher geheim gehaltenen Akten vorlegen.

▶▶▶ Nennen Sie uns kompetente **Vertrauenspersonen**, die uns Angehörige und die anderen Hinterbliebenen über die Terror-Morde informieren und unsere Fragen beantworten.

Michael Buback Corinna Ponto Jörg Schleyer



RAF trial, and Wolfgang Knapp had been investigated in 1977-78 for possible support work for the RAF. His apartment in Karlsruhe was directly opposite the office of the Federal Prosecutor. Not coincidentally, the LaRouches' security team noticed that its auto convoy was surveilled by other cars upon approach to and departure from the conference.

These license plate numbers were given to appropriate police officials who later confirmed that several of them were associated with people considered to be part of the above-ground, RAF support apparatus. Had this RAF milieu deployment been part of a RAF commando deployment, and been successful, one could imagine the RAF taking credit: "Rich American imperialist pig LaRouche and his wife were eliminated today. . . ."

Ursula Knapp continues her dubious work to this day, never missing an opportunity to ridicule Michael Buback in the press.

With the 1989 peaceful revolution in East Germany, the breakup of the Warsaw Pact entered a decisive phase. To prevent a new economic geometry in Europe after the fall of the Berlin Wall, the Maastricht Treaty to form the European Union was imposed on a to-be-unified Germany. But first, a message had to be delivered. On Nov. 30, 1989, Alfred Herrhausen, the head of the Deutsche Bank, was assassinated in a professional bombing of his car attributed to the Third Generation of the RAF. Herrhausen had been scheduled to make a speech in New York outlining how Germany could contribute to the real economic development of Poland, using the model of the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW), the post-war German bank modeled on President Franklin Delanon Roosevelt's "New Deal" Reconstruction Finance Company.

LaRouche himself had proposed, in an Oct. 12, 1988 speech at the Kempinski Bristol Hotel in Berlin—the year before the Leipzig Monday demonstrations, and the fall of the Wall—a program for how the coming unification of Germany, with Berlin as its capital, could provide the economic assistance to show how the modernization of the Polish economy could become a model for the East and the Soviet Union.

Herrhausen was assassinated; Maastricht was imposed on Western Europe; and a disastrous shock-therapy financial globalization was imposed on Eastern Europe and Russia. LaRouche was thrown in prison in

Michael Buback (above right), Corinna Ponto (inset), and Jörg Schleyer, children of the slain German leaders, issued this Appeal to Chancellor Angela Merkel, published in the *Bild Zeitung*, the week before the Becker trial began. They demand an independent international research team, criminologists, lawyers, and historians, with complete access to all documents, and that any government officials who worked on the RAF case have the right to give full and open testimony.

of operations against the SDI, by parallel networks within the NATO and Warsaw pacts?

This was certainly the case against LaRouche, where orchestrated press campaigns in the U.S. and Europe against him, including the opening of corrupt legal measures in the U.S., were combined simultaneously with leading Soviet publications attacking him. President Reagan made the SDI offer in a dramatic March 23, 1983 speech. Shortly thereafter, in May 1983, LaRouche's wife Helga Zepp-LaRouche organized in Karlsruhe a conference of the Club of Life. Two days before the conference, the *Karlsruhe Rundschau* slandered the conference, contending that LaRouche was connected to the KKK and American Nazi Party.

The front-page article was the work of Wolfgang Knapp and his wife Ursula, and Felix Kurz. Kurz had once been arrested in 1982 at a Stuttgart Stammheim

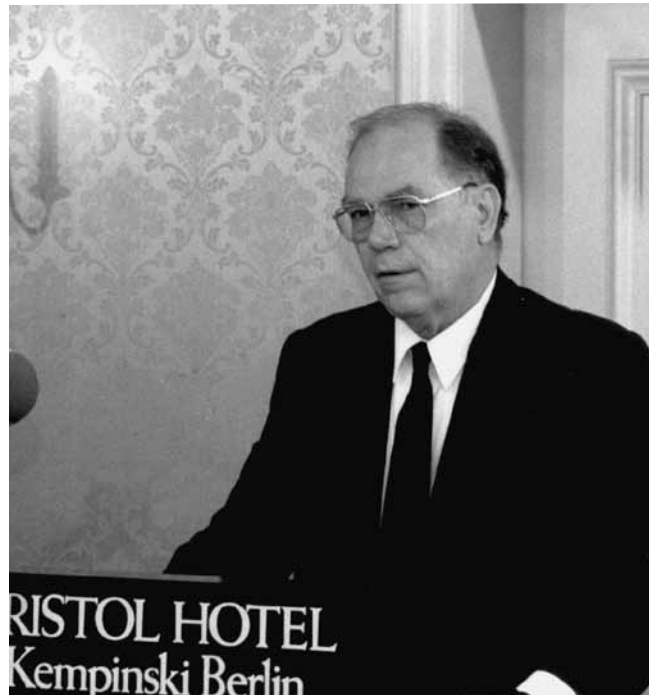
LaRouche's Response to the Assassination of Jürgen Ponto

The following is excerpted from a statement titled, "Jürgen Ponto, Victim of Carter Administration Assassination," issued by Lyndon LaRouche on Aug. 1, 1977, and published in the Aug. 9, 1977 EIR, under the subhead, "The Killers."

These terrorist operations are deployed through two principal networks. The one side is made up of professional covert operations technicians, with military, intelligence, and security backgrounds. The other side is the assorted rag-tag of extreme-right or leftist Maoist and other zombies. Using the cover of the environmentalist-Maoist-anarchist "movement" as a whole, through use of controllers, computer psychological profiles and psychological conditioning, a certain "hard core" of these groups is selected as the actual terrorists. These terrorists, aided by certain complicit attorneys and religious figures, as well as intelligence and security networks involved, use the mass of environmentalist, Maoist and anarchist lunatics as a cover.

These terrorist operations are controlled in two immediate ways. First, within the hard-core networks, there are controllers who supervise the groups, usually unknown by more than one or more in each group itself. The operation is also controlled by keeping the technical operations capabilities in a separate line of command, so that the guns and plans of operations, including prepared escape-routes, are made available to the terrorist zombies only for directed operations.

In this way, "need to know" is maintained. The "anarchist" doctrine functions in the manner of a "synthetic religion," or what linguists term a "belief structure." This "belief structure" provides the dupes with a kind of brainwashed "political" motivation for conducting the operations for which they are directed.



EIRNS/Dean Andromidas

In his famous Oct. 12, 1988, speech at the Kempinski Bristol Hotel in Berlin, LaRouche proposed a program for the unification of Germany, with Berlin as its capital. The Berlin Wall came down one year later.

January 1989 after a show trial conviction in the Federal District Court in Alexandria, Virginia. We live to this day with the consequences of what Helga Zepp-LaRouche has called "The Lost Chance of 1989."

It is a tribute to Prof. Michael Buback, and Jürgen Ponto's daughter Corinna Ponto,¹ who supports Buback's work, that there is an ongoing RAF trial, and that such questions can be raised. It is a black mark on others in Germany, including the prosecution in the trial, that Buback has been subjected in the last months to either deafening silence, or psywar attacks on his character and motivations. Buback has often repeated that his goal is not the reimprisonment of Verena Becker, but the truth.

We add, this truth is of major importance to understand why the world is in the ruinous condition it is now in, and what to do about it.

1. Corinna Ponto was quoted in an article in the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, May 29, 2010: "This isn't a matter of a German Baader-Meinhof Complex. It is a matter of a system, an international, networked East-West complex, with professionally schooled, and skillfully deployed duplicitous agents."