

Germans Are Speaking Out Against Ukraine Nazis

March 17—Although German Chancellor Angela Merkel endorsed “massively damaging” sanctions against Russia, in a speech to the Bundestag on March 13, and said that her government supports the regime in Kiev, more and more German politicians and publications, in addition to the LaRouche movement there, are opposing Merkel’s policy. Many are pointing to the neo-Nazi presence in the government of Prime Minister “Yats” (Arseniy Yatsenyuk). As Germans who know their history recall, the predecessor of Ukraine’s Svoboda party, Stepan Bandera’s OUN-B, collaborated with the Nazi takeover of Ukraine in 1941, fought with the Wehrmacht against the Soviet Union, and participated in the extermination of Jews and Poles in Ukraine. Here are excerpts from some recent statements.

Gregor Gysi, the head of the Left Party (die Linke) in parliament, replied to Chancellor Merkel’s speech in the Bundestag on March 13:

“We are doing nothing about the fascists in Ukraine! The Svoboda party has close ties with the NPD [neo-Nazi party in Germany] and other Nazi parties in Europe. The leader of this party, Oleh Tyahnybok, stated explicitly: ‘Grab your guns, fight the Russian pigs, the Germans, the Jewish swine, and others’¹. . . .

“And you [addressing Merkel] are talking to these Svoboda people? I find it scandalous!”

Gysi also commented on NATO’s expansion to the east since the breakup of the Soviet Union, saying, “When we restored Germany’s unity, the U.S., German and other foreign ministers proclaimed there would be no NATO expansion to the east. But this promise has



Gregor Gysi, caucus chair of the Left Party (die Linke), demanded that Chancellor Merkel account for her government’s support for a Kiev government that includes neo-Nazis.

been broken. There was an expansion of NATO in Russia’s direction.”

The Green party, which is supporting the Yats government, reacted in fury. Caucus chair **Katrin Göring-Eckardt** screamed repeatedly, “Don’t dare do that again, defaming the Maidan!” She, and fellow Green **Marieluise Beck**, admitted that there are “right-wing nationalists” in Ukraine, but blamed Russian President Vladimir Putin for their rise.

Sahra Wagenknecht, the vice-chair of the Left Party Bundestag group, gave a press conference on March 13 attacking the German government for its unholy alliance with a Kiev government that is illegal and includes Nazis and anti-Semites. The Svoboda people have been cultivated by the German government, although they are the sister party of the neo-Nazi NPD, Wagenknecht said. She charged the West and NATO with having a confrontationist approach, warning that any military intervention would escalate into a “Third World War.”

Willy Wimmer, a Christian Democrat and former parliamentarian, former vice-president of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), denounced the putsch in Ukraine and the neo-Nazis in the government, in an interview with the Russian TV network RT on March 11. Asked why this is not being denounced in the West, Wimmer replied: “Because these new Nazis are our ‘good Nazis’ now, and this is disastrous for all of Europe.”

“I think it was a putsch, a coup d’état, what hap-

1. This abbreviated quote is as cited by Gysi. The [original](#), which dates from July 17, 2004, is as follows, referring to the forerunners of Svoboda: “They slung their automatic guns around their necks and went into the woods, and fought against the moskali [derogatory slang for Russians], the Germans, the kikes, and other scum who wanted to take away our Ukrainian state. . . . We’ve got to give Ukraine, finally, to the Ukrainians. It is these young people and you old gray-beards, put together, that the moskali-kike mafia ruling Ukraine today is most afraid of.”



Willy Wimmer, a longtime leader of the Christian Democratic Union: “I think it was a putsch, a coup d’état.”

pened in Kiev,” he said. . . . “The problem with this government is that they are not only *not* legal, they are working together with people who will be banned, sooner or later by the Constitutional Court here in Germany: right-wingers, Nazis, fascists. It is interesting and outstanding that no western government is talking about these people who already created—once last century—disaster, terror, and wars in Europe, and now these people have come back. . . .”

In an interview with the Serbian website beoforum.rs on March 8, Wimmer said he shares China’s concerns about Ukraine, because the Chinese know, including because of the terrorist massacre in Kunming the previous week, that once Russia is attacked, China will be next. Wimmer also mentioned that today’s U.S./NATO strategy can be traced back to Britain’s sabotage of continental European cooperation after the Napoleonic Wars.

Germany’s two state-run TV channels, **ARD** and **ZDF**, have exposed the neo-Nazis in Kiev in prime-time broadcasts watched by millions of Germans, including “Panorama” TV magazine, “Auslandsjournal,” “Aus der Anstalt,” and the “Anne Will Show.”

On the “Anne Will Show” on March 12, **Philipp Missfelder**, foreign policy spokesman of the Christian Democratic Union, demanded that Yatsenyuk instantly purge his interim cabinet of these neo-Nazis. The “Aus der Anstalt” program, a political comedy show, on March 11, satirized former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko as an oligarch; the State Department’s Victoria Nuland, and Sen. John McCain. It dubbed German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Stein-

meier “Aussenmeier Frankenstein,” adding that the “first big foreign policy success of the new German government, five weeks after its starting work, is that neo-Nazis are in power in Kiev.”

Germany’s leading business daily, *Handelsblatt*, on March 13 attacked the West’s “pitbull politics” against Putin. The Russian President is not the one who has to practice restraint, the paper said; “it is the pitbull inside us that has to be put back on the leash.”

The **Petersburg Dialogue**, the **Ostausschuss** (East Commission), the **German-Russian Forum**, and the **German-Ukrainian Society** issued a joint appeal on March 14, urging politicians to avoid any steps that would further escalate the crisis over Ukraine militarily or economically, and instead seek dialogue. Based on their longtime experience with Russian politicians and institutions on all levels, the four associations offer assistance to a future Contact Group, whose establishment should have priority now. Decades of confidence-building through dialogue with Russia should not be abandoned, they urge.

Presenting the joint appeal to the press, spokesmen warned against shutting down remaining channels of dialogue with Russia in the context of sanctions, which might also lead to calling off the next session of the Petersburg Dialogue in Leipzig in mid-April, which envisaged the attendance of the Russian President. Not having that meeting take place, would be a “catastrophe” and “destroy any chance of diplomacy,” said **Alexander Rahr** of the German-Russian Chamber of Commerce. Rahr is a historian and biographer of Putin.

Peter Ramsauer (Christian Social Union), chairman of the Bundestag Economic Policy Committee and Minister of Transport in the previous government, opposed sanctions, saying in Berlin on March 14 that since China, for example, would not join sanctions, Russia would always have a venue to the world market, and in the end, crucial market shares would be lost for Germany and Europe. **Carsten Linnemann**, chairman of the Christian Democrats’ organization for small and medium-sized businesses, said sanctions would be damaging for Germany’s industry, affecting more than 200,000 jobs there which depend on trade with Russia.

An opinion poll published by the FORSA institute on March 13, showed that sanctions are opposed by 69% of Germans.