

Synarchist Destabilization Of Germany Meets Resistance

by Rainer Apel

The incoming Grand Coalition government of the two biggest German political parties, the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and the Social Democratic Party (SPD), is not what the hard-core synarchist interests among international bankers and speculative *fondi* like. Their own preferred option of a “black-yellow” coalition of radical budget-cutters, composed of Christian Democrats and Free Democrats, failed to get a majority in the Sept. 18 parliamentary elections. There are also strong budget-cutting trends in the Grand Coalition, but another factor threatens to assert itself, which is profoundly disliked by the synarchists: the potential of a shift toward a national mobilization of industry and labor, resembling what Germany’s first such Grand Coalition did, several weeks after it took power in December 1966.

The potential for such a program is there, because of the influence which the LaRouche movement has had on both sides of the Atlantic, with its campaigns for a New Deal policy in the tradition of Franklin D. Roosevelt. The campaigning of the LaRouche movement’s party in Germany, the Civil Rights Movement Solidarity (BüSo), has remoralized and mobilized the latent pro-industrial impulse among the Social Democrats, which for years was buried under ecologist agendas, upon which the Social Democrats and their government coalition partner for the past seven years, the Greens, had agreed. Now, with the Greens no longer in the government, options exist for a revival of industrial production, of infrastructure projects, of scientific-technological progress. And, with Vice Chancellor and Labor Minister Franz Müntefering (SPD), a man would be the number two in the Grand Coalition who in mid-April attacked the “financial market locusts,” and with that gave the SPD an effective enemy image to mobilize against. Müntefering’s attack on the “locusts” had been sparked by the

LaRouche movement’s political intervention with the battle slogan “Production, Instead of Speculation!” which had quite an impact on many SPD members.

From the start of the coalition talks between the CDU/CSU and SPD, the Grand Coalition has been fought bitterly by Germany’s neo-cons, who charge that the incoming Chancellor, CDU chairwoman Angela Merkel, would run an SPD government, with too many concessions on social security. Otto Count Lambsdorff, a senior member of the Trilateral Commission and its chief spokesman in Europe, repeatedly attacked Merkel for not being a real, committed neo-con, but rather a “cozy capitalism proponent.” And Friedrich Merz, an adversary of Merkel within the CDU, now Germany operations director of the British hedge fund TCI, said in early October that if the Grand Coalition really were a compromise between the CDU and SPD, at the expense of radical austerity policies, “one might rather wish this new government to collapse, as soon as possible.”

Synarchists Make Their Move

It was clear from the start that the hard-core neo-cons would not stop looking for ways to sabotage this Grand Coalition. But, what short-term options did they have for doing so (and short-term sabotage it would have to be, because of the pressure on them from the speculative interests of the synarchist banks)? One of the options was to kick out Vice Chancellor Müntefering. The need to elect a new general manager of the SPD, at the mid-November national party convention, provided a welcome opportunity to move against Müntefering. Andrea Nahles, a younger SPD party member with a strong ecologist background, was put up as counter-candidate for the post of party manager, against Kajo Wasserhoevel, a



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Franz Müntefering, the incoming Vice Chancellor, dared to blast the speculators who are destroying Germany as “financial locusts.” He was subjected to a coup within the Social Democratic Party, which led to his resignation as party chairman.

pragmatist traditionalist who had been Müntefering’s personal chief aide for ten years. Backed by the ecologist wing of the party, additional support for Nahles was drummed up in the media, because of her allegedly being a “model case of rejuvenating the party organization.”

Smelling that something nasty was under way against him, Müntefering tried to call the bluff, arranging a special session of the SPD executive to decide on who should be candidate. But that session on Oct. 31 went against him, when 23 members of the executive voted for Nahles, against only 14 for Wasserhoevel. Drawing personal consequences from this humiliation, Müntefering announced on the spot that he would not run for re-election at the party convention in mid-November, and likely would also quit the designated post of Vice Chancellor in the Grand Coalition. Shortly after, Edmund Stoiber, chairman of the Christian Social Union (CSU), the smaller of the two Christian Democratic parties, and designated minister of economics and technology in the Grand Coalition, declared he would quit, as well. A “Hallowe’en Massacre” was taking place in Germany, with the two main proponents of a potentially, pro-industrial policy in the Grand Coalition, stepping from the scene. And worse: With Nahles taking the post of general party manager, the SPD would be driven toward an alliance with the former coalition partner, the Greens, and a new partner, the Left Party (Linkspartei), a “left”-synarchist SPD split-off under former SPD Chairman Oskar Lafontaine. With an enormous propagandistic backing by the neo-con media, the Left Party made it into the parliament on Sept. 18, with 54 seats.

Nahles, herself a product of the “greening” of the SPD program, which had been pushed through by Lafontaine during the 1980s and 1990s, already in 2002 had campaigned for

an “Ecological New Deal,” a distortion of the Rooseveltian concept by a completely opposite orientation, namely that ecology projects should create jobs, not industrial and infrastructural projects. This phony “New Deal” was brought into place against the potential of the SPD linking up with the LaRouche-inspired revival of Roosevelt’s ideas in the Democratic Party of the USA. It played to the interests of those circles that dislike FDR, and dislike Lyndon and Helga LaRouche, in particular.

This surprise move by the synarchist camp succeeded, but the battle over Germany is continues. On Nov. 1, Müntefering announced that he would stay as Vice Chancellor in the Grand Coalition; there were numerous leaks that in spite of having the majority support of the SPD executive, Nahles would find it very difficult to be elected at the party convention, because many in the party were appalled at what she did against Müntefering. Also on Nov. 1, it was announced that Matthias Platzeck, a pragmatic Social Democrat, who also has experience with Grand Coalitions, from his own SPD-CDU coalition, which he leads as Governor of Brandenburg, would run for the post of party chairman. Platzeck did a tremendous job, as minister of environmental affairs in Brandenburg, in coordinating relief operations after the huge July 1997 flood of the Oder River. (That success stands in sharp contrast to the dismal performance of the Bush Administration during and following Hurricane Katrina.) For an SPD party chairman, this is not a bad qualification.

New Deal Faction in Motion

The battle for a national investment and job-creating program is also still being fought by the labor unions. On Oct. 26, the two labor unions Ver.di (services) and IGBCE (mining, energy), and the four leading power-producing firms E.ON, EnBW, RWE, and Vattenfall, took to the media with a call for resumption of nuclear technology, the exit from which the SPD-Green government had decreed three years ago. The statement said that nuclear power plants should continue to be licensed, as long as safety standards are met, which implies (although not stated explicitly) that power plants be operated as long as it is technically possible. Not maximally 30 years, or until the end of 2020, as the red-green government’s nuclear exit decision says, but they could and should run for 40, 50, even 60 years.

The labor-industry statement also calls for increased research into nuclear-safety technologies, including for export. The statement does not call for any new nuclear power plants yet, but it takes a first step in that direction—remarkable, since this is the first time since early 1999, that the labor unions have had anything positive to say about nuclear power. The statement is indicative of what positive changes are possible in Germany, now that the Greens are no longer in the government.

Another positive initiative from labor is the appeal, issued repeatedly over the past three weeks by Jürgen Peters, the

national chairman of the Metal Workers Union, that the Grand Coalition launch an infrastructure recovery and investment program, starting with 20 billion euros by the end of 2005, and being increased to 40 billion euros by 2006 or 2007, annually. Peters said that 800,000 new jobs could be created with that. Among other such proposals, the one of the metal workers comes closest to the LaRouche movement's own proposal for an annual investment program in the range of 200 billion euros.

Lastly, an ad placed in several leading news dailies by the two labor unions Ver.di and NGG (food industry), during the second half of October, chose the issue of the ongoing discussion about a state-guaranteed minimum wage, to quote from a 1938 speech by Franklin Roosevelt, in which he an-

nounced legislation on a minimum wage for the United States: "Enterprises, the existence of which, exclusively depends on paying their workers less than a life-sustaining wage, should have no right in this country to continue doing business. A wage that suffices to make a living, is more than a mere existential minimum—what I mean are wages that make a decent life possible."

These promising developments show that there is a sound pro-New Deal sentiment building in Germany, and that scenarios for full synarchist control of German affairs are meeting strong resistance. Being at the center of this resistance, the LaRouche movement is mobilized to strengthen it and to undo the anti-Müntefering coup, with increased programmatic interventions into the SPD and the labor movement.
