

HELMUT SCHMIDT: THE MOLDING OF AN ANGLO-AMERICAN CHANCELLOR

"To Become The Chief Yourself — That's Really Something"

May 31 (IPS) — There is nothing unique in Helmut Schmidt's education for the role of Rockefeller front-man; many other Germans were similarly trained after World War II to provide maximum assurance that West Germany would remain, as former Chancellor Ludwig Erhard expressed it in 1965, a "formed society." This special report documents Schmidt's long-time links with the Rockefeller faction of the bourgeoisie and his execution of the CIA's plans to "reorganize" the West German Bundeswehr into a counterinsurgency army.

The Nazi Years

Schmidt's pre-1945 history is routine. In the 1930's he was a member of the Hitler youth, from which he was recruited in 1937 into the Nazi Labor Front. Shortly thereafter, he entered the Wehrmacht, first as an artillery-man stationed in the east then with the German Air Force Supreme Command in 1941-42. During the Battle of the Bulge, he was transferred to the Western Front and there he received an Iron Cross.

Schmidt was then captured by the British Army and sent to a detention camp in Britain. There his molding into an agent of Rockefeller's Anglo-American establishment probably began. Intensive research conducted by the IPS staff over the past months has produced strong evidence that German prisoners of war in both Britain and the United States underwent the intensive psychological-profile screening developed by the notorious Tavistock Institute in London, headed by Rockefeller associate, Dr. John Rawlings Rees. The purpose of the screening was to select and train prisoners to play key roles in controlling postwar German society for the massive postwar looting. Bright young German officers like Schmidt were invariably given extensive training. The May 11, 1974 issue of the *Manchester Guardian* confirms this, noting that "like many other German prisoners of war who were in British captivity Colonel Schmidt went home something of an Anglophile."

Further evidence of Anglo-American training is suggested by the conflicting reports on the exact date of Schmidt's entrance into the German Social Democratic Party (SPD). The official government biography of Schmidt reads: "Returning home in 1946, Mr. Schmidt joined the Social Democratic Party...." The authoritative Swiss bankers' newspaper *Neue Zuercher Zeitung*, however, contradicts this: "While still an

English prisoner of war, he became a Social Democrat without meeting with any political threats." The latter version indicates that Schmidt was *turned into* a Social Democrat by Rees et al.

Schmidt was sent back to Hamburg (British sector) in 1946. By 1947, he was Federal Chairman of the Deutsche Sozialistische Studenten Verein (German Socialist Student Association). Simultaneously, he studied economics under future Finance Minister Karl Schiller.

Educated also in transportation, Schmidt became the section chief of the Hamburg Office of Transport in 1949. Virtually destroyed during the war, the transport sector was a key control point for population relocation as well as raw materials flows; and Hamburg was an important terminal.

NATO Initiation

During the 1950-1961 period, Schmidt was initiated fully into the workings of the European NATO military apparatus. While a member of the Bundestag (German Parliament), he was the first SPDer to put on a Bundeswehr uniform in 1958. He took a refresher course at the German Armed Forces Anti-Aircraft School at Rendsburg and from there became a member of the 44th Anti-Aircraft Brigade in Hamburg. In 1959, he was promoted to captain.

During his training at the CIA front, the Institute for Strategic Studies in London, Schmidt began his close relationship with NATO ideologue Theo Sommer, currently editor of *Die Zeit*. At about this time, he met Rockefeller protege Henry Kissinger, of whom he recently remarked: "I've known Henry since he was just a professor at Harvard."

After giving up his parliamentary seat in 1961, Schmidt used his position as the Interior Minister of Hamburg to get practical experience in applying his techniques of transportation and military strategy — the Interior Minister heads up the police and all other infrastructure. He won national fame in 1962 when he directed rescue and population relocation operations for the devastating flooding of Hamburg. During the same year, he won the endearment of Rockefeller agent Rudolf Augstein, editor of *Der Spiegel* magazine, by supporting Augstein against attacks by Defense Minister Franz-Josef Strauss in the celebrated "Spiegel Affair." The Spiegel Affair resulted in the removal of reactionary Strauss and the discrediting of Chancellor Adenauer. It also cleared the way for "progressive" counterinsurgency reforms of the military which Schmidt was to later complete.

Schmidt was returned to the Bundestag in 1965 on the wave which surged into the 1968 *Grosse Koalition* (Great Coalition) — the coalition of the conservative Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and the SPD which later

passed the "Emergency Laws" for future use against the working class. He rose quickly to the position of SPD floor leader, supporting such legislation as the bill to give pension rights to former Waffen SS members. Soon Schmidt began playing the role of statesman rather than mere faction leader: during that year, he had a conference with Rockefeller agent Robert McNamara on general military matters. In August 1966, he took a four-week tour of the Eastern Bloc, and upon his return printed in the *New York Times* a plea for German recognition of Rumania and Czechoslovakia.

By 1968, Schmidt was considered ready to join the inner sanctum of the Rockefeller-CIA policy-making apparatus. In September of that year, he took a trip to the U.S. with the following self-explanatory itinerary:

- Robert Bowie, director of the Center for International Affairs of Harvard University;
- Richard V. Allen, foreign political advisor for Richard Nixon;
- John F. White, President of Ford Foundation-supported NET (Channel 13);

**EXCERPTS FROM THEO SOMMER'S
"OPEN LETTER" TO HELMUT SCHMIDT**

[*DIE ZEIT*, May 24]

"It must have been at the end of the '50's that, for the first time, we had a discussion with each other on TV concerning defense policy. I remember when, in the summer of 1961, I was returning from a conference of the Institute for Strategic Studies in Geneva, when you suddenly entered my sleeping car compartment. We then spent almost the entire night drinking Fuerstenberg-Pils and talking about nuclear strategy and foreign policy. A long series of lengthy discussions followed in the years since.

"In the fall of 1969 you finally got me into the Defense Ministry, where I built you a planning staff, was in charge of strategic stockpiles and wrote the 1970 Defense Ministry White Paper. It was a short, but exciting and fruitful time. . . .

"... And I still recall, how often in the wee hours of the morning, at 3 or 3:30 a.m., when the light in your Minister's room was still burning, I would have a whisky with you — and then we'd both retire to bed at the same time, because the next appointment was already scheduled for 8:30."

- Willard Bolck, Vice-President of CBS for international sales;
- Bernard D. Hauser, director of public affairs, IBM World Trade Corp.;
- Lunch at the Council on Foreign Relations, including an "off the record" address attended by John McCloy (former director of the SHAEF Psychological Warfare Division);
- Visit to the U.S. embassy at the UN to speak with George Ball;
- Dinner with the Deutsche Verein (of which McCloy is a member);
- Meeting in New York with Sulzberger and the editorial board of the *New York Times*;

- General Lauris Norstad of Owens Corning Fiber Glass Corp.;
- Talk with Zbigniew Brzezinski of Columbia University;
- Final stop: 1 Chase Manhattan Plaza, to speak with David Rockefeller.

Bundeswehr Prepares for Insurgents

Schmidt was named Minister of Defense in 1969 when the new SPD-Free Democratic Party coalition came into power. With him he brought his old "friend" Theo Sommer, who wrote the first White Paper and helped implement the reorganization of the military. A paragraph from an interview with Schmidt conducted by

the Springer Press daily *Die Welt* (February 16, 1970) is most explicit about exactly who the armed forces in the Federal Republic were to be used against: "Although the German forces are capable of launching tactical counter-attacks in a certain terrain, they are unable to conduct large-scale offensives. The Bundeswehr would quickly get out of breath. The logistical basis as well as the organization of the combat units themselves are designed for defensive operations. Our reserves of material, the depot and transport capacities do not allow more than this. It cannot be otherwise, it must not be otherwise for political reasons. We do not have an expeditionary force and do not need one." In other words: the new NATO "flexible response" strategy means preparation for the political destruction of the German and European working class.

Economics for Rockefeller

Schmidt took over the Economics and Finance Ministry from Karl Schiller in 1972, when the latter resigned. Since then he has played a key role in the destruction of the European Economic Community as an entity which could organize resistance against Rockefeller's policies. His most treacherous moves, which have been thoroughly documented here and in *New Solidarity* newspaper, include:

- Sabotage of the EEC regional assistance plan last year. When Britain protested that the proposal would give them a raw deal, Schmidt turned around and offered a plan which would give even less assistance to France, resulting in the postponement of any decision;

VORSTER TAKES CUE FROM SPINOLA

May 31 (IPS) — Taking his cue from the overthrow of the Caetano regime in Portugal and the subsequent "liberal" policies under Spinola, diehard racist Prime Minister Jan Vorster of South Africa is making unprecedented overtures to the Coloureds (South Africa's official term for Mulattoes). Another incentive for this apparent reform is the substantial number of votes garnered by the reform-minded Progressive and Democratic Parties in the recent election.

This superficially liberal turn is conducted through the Erica Theron Commission of Inquiry into the Coloured People. The commission is submitting a questionnaire to 4,000 Coloured individuals and an additional 2,000 Coloured "elite" to determine attitudes toward ways of politically organizing race groups. The choices on the questionnaire range from maintaining the status quo all the way to a non-racial policy.

- Full complicity in the Rockefeller Oil Hoax;

- Recent refusal to give broader support for the Italian lira, thus intensifying the economic and political collapse of Italy;

- Manipulation of the German capital markets to bankrupt the German economy and cause mass unemployment within weeks.

Like all Rockefeller men presently in power in Europe, Schmidt is merely a transitional figure towards future fascist regimes — a throwaway who will rapidly outlive his usefulness. His "friend," Theo Sommer, drove this point home in the May 24 issue of *Die Zeit*. In an open letter which starts "Dear Helmut," Sommer says: "I also certainly know that abysses are slumbering inside you. You remind me — now don't get angry at me — of no one so much as of Franz-Josef Strauss. The same sharp intellect, the same love of polemical attacks, the same artful speech. To be sure, you are more disciplined, also more consequential. And unlike Strauss you don't play so close to the edge of your own spiritual abysses. Your self-control mechanisms function much better. Your attention to the law is more strongly developed..." Recalling how Rockefeller discarded Strauss through the Spiegel Affair, the message is obvious: Schmidt is expendable, really just a cipher like all the other politicians. Sommer snidely comments: "To become the chief yourself — that's really something."

The Coloureds as a group are slightly fewer in number than the small White population and have been told all their lives that they are "almost white," so this represents a fairly cautious step on Vorster's part. Yet, since it concedes participation (in the form of answering the questionnaire), it constitutes a "revolution" in government attitudes, according to a wildly enthusiastic editorial in the *Johannesburg Star*.

Vorster's move toward broadening his political base is recognition that he can stay in power only by granting the Blacks, Indians and Coloureds some form of governmental participation. It is not clear whether Vorster understands the connection, however, between the liberal political pressure he is under and the Rockefeller plans to impose fascist labor-intensive projects worldwide — aided by his colleague, South African diamond-king, Harry Oppenheimer. Vorster seems to be hanging on to the myth that South Africa's gold production will save the nation from the depression. Meanwhile, Vorster may not move fast enough to avoid Caetano's fate.