

## W. Germany's Ruling SPD Splits Over Nuclear Energy Issue

The ruling Social Democratic Party (SPD) of West Germany is in a major faction fight over the nuclear energy expansion program of SPD Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. The party's trade union base, whose jobs depend on high technology industries such as nuclear energy, has lined up behind Schmidt's program, as have industrialists in the opposition Christian Democratic Union party. On the other hand, SPD chairman Willy Brandt, the chief ecologist and terrorist controller in West Germany, has been trying to rig the fight by arm-twisting the party executive committee into calling for "a minimal three-year moratorium on nuclear power plant construction," and by giving party backing to a document in support of zero growth.

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### WEST GERMANY

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Last week, while Schmidt was occupied with the terrorist kidnapping of industrialist Hanns-Martin Schleyer, Brandt railroaded a resolution through the SPD executive committee Sept. 20, demanding a ban on nuclear energy construction until an alleged waste problem is settled. Brandt's maneuver was immediately denounced by the authoritative West German Nuclear Technology Association in an unprecedented open letter to all SPD members. "After a moratorium has been enacted," the Association wrote, "the best scientists and engineers will certainly no longer be ready to put their professional future in such a politically insecure basket. You cannot freeze scientific and technological potential until you want it."

Federal government spokesmen responded to Brandt's move by stating that a moratorium would cost West Germany at least 25 billion deutschmarks (\$10 billion) in investments.

On Sept. 21, Brandt allowed the SPD to release a three-year zero-growth study, "Basic Values in an Endangered World," written by Brandt, Erhard Eppler, Richard Loewenthal, Peter von Oertzen, and Johanno Strasser — all of them known to be linked to terrorist activity in West Germany. Schmidt's Justice Minister, Hans-Jochen Vogel, was also duped into co-authoring the document. The document proclaims that "people's belief in progress has been shaken" and that "a one-dimensional presentation of progress reduces democracy to a formalism." Johanno Strasser, a former leader of the SPD's "new left" Young Socialist (Juso) wing, summarized the document by saying that Schmidt's energy program "is endangering the SPD's basic values."

The Chancellor gave short shrift to this attempt to substitute a tiny clique of ecologists and terrorist sup-

porters for the vast majority of the West German population who support his program. When asked about Brandt's nuclear moratorium, and the "Basic Values" document on nationwide TV on Sept. 23, Schmidt mocked Brandt: "Back in the 1960s, when Brandt was preparing to be Chancellor, he stated that the Chancellor must be above all parties, even his own. I think that was a very stimulating answer and I too think that the Chancellor has to represent the country as a whole and not just his own party."

#### *Rank and File Rejection*

Brandt's attempt to wreck the West German nuclear industry has been particularly rejected at a series of regional SPD party conventions where the party's progrowth base outweighs the zero-growth Juso wing. The regional daily *Kölnischer Stadtanzeiger*, close to SPD circles, reported Sept. 20 that proBrandt SPD executive committee member Erhard Eppler, one of the authors of "Basic Values," is having difficulty holding together an antienergy and antiSchmidt faction in the SPD.

The *Stadtanzeiger* said that a pronuclear energy platform is gaining hegemony in large SPD working-class regions like the Franconia area around Nuremberg, and in the western Ruhr industrial belt. The entire Ruhr region alone contains one-third of the West German working class, and one-third of the SPD's 700,000 members. The SPD's Lower Rhine district, adjacent to the Ruhr region, officially resolved this week: "Under Willy Brandt, the party executive committee has been schizophrenic on the energy issues, allowing the Jusos to push their ban on nuclear energy."

The ecologists replied by convincing the southern Bavarian, West Berlin, and Bremen SPD conventions, which were heavily infested with student and zero-growth participants, to call for a total nuclear power plant moratorium. The southern Bavarian resolution hysterically denounced Schmidt's energy program for creating "an atomic police state," and the Bremen resolution denounced West Germany's multibillion dollar technology transfer with Brazil. Widely recognized as the cornerstone of Schmidt's foreign policy of aiding Third World development, the Brazil pact insures the livelihood of at least 100,000 highly skilled West German workers.

West Berlin's convention demonstrated the stalemate inside the party by electing West Berlin mayor Dieter Stobbe, a staunch Schmidt supporter, as chairman of the region while, at the same time, supporting the moratorium. The Hessen SPD convention straddled the issue by calling for "as much energy as is necessary" — showing the split between local Jusos and Hessen's chemical, auto, and office workers.