

Europe's Leaders Say No To Cold War

In the last week West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and French President Giscard d'Estaing have made clear that they are not in agreement with the British-inspired policy of confrontation between the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

In recent interviews and statements Schmidt has indicated that this policy is in conflict with the national security and national interests of West Germany.

The Jan. 2 and 9 issues of the West German magazine Der Spiegel published an alleged manifesto of an "organized opposition" in the German Democratic Republic (DDR), which has been widely attacked by leading West German political figures. Although Der Spiegel claimed that the manifesto was genuine, the magazine did not reveal the authors or sources of the document. On Jan. 9, the German Democratic Republic (DDR) closed down Der Spiegel's office in East Berlin by expelling one correspondent and denying accreditation to his replacement. These excerpts are from a Jan. 16 Der Spiegel interview with West German Chancellor Schmidt.

Spiegel: If we correctly understand the DDR government's reaction to the manifesto of the League of German Communists that was published in *Der Spiegel*, then it appears to us that (DDR President) Honnecker's maneuvering room around detente has become significantly smaller.

Schmidt: I cannot draw any conclusions from this about the maneuvering room for the DDR leadership's outwardly directed policies. I must also reject having the Federal Chancellor or another member of the government participate in public speculation about the alleged sources or the alleged background of the papers that you have published in your paper. We have explained quite clearly that, whatever you may say about its source, the Federal government has nothing to do with it. It is only the political reaction of the SED (Socialist Unity Party, the ruling party in the DDR—ed.) and DDR leadership which is important for me.

Spiegel: As for the authorship, your government is not involved, in the eyes of the DDR leadership. They have named the West German Federal Intelligence Service (BND) as one of the co-authors, which is a service working under your office.

Schmidt: Not only the BND, but also other official offices, which are part of the Federal Republic, or are attributed to it. State Minister Wischniewski has rejected this with all desirable clarity. As for the rest, concerning the closing of the *Der Spiegel* office in East Berlin, we have handed over a formal protest. I have nothing further to say on this. I only want to refer to one thing quite clearly: The federal government is not thinking of

avenging like with like. We are prevented from doing this by the binding provisions of the Basic Law and of Article 5. In addition, we do not want to contribute in any way to encroaching upon the freedom of the press, including the foreign press. But foreigners are not involved in this case, only persons to whom the Basic Law applies.

Spiegel: Can you agree to our thesis, that with an increase in detente—we are speaking about more economic dependence on the West, more exchanges of information—that it will basically come to more and more instability in the DDR, and that at some point, there will have to be an objective limit to detente for the DDR if it doesn't want to endanger its own system or put it into question?

Schmidt: This is a question that is not only related to the DDR, but the People's Republic of Poland, and other states in Eastern Europe. In any case, one thing is correct in your observation, namely the fact that economically, many states in Eastern Europe are very seriously hurt by the convulsions in international economy and therefore their ability to negotiate economically is more affected than they would prefer. But they are very conscious of this now, and because of this you will not see one single East European head of government or party chief gloating over the world economic crisis, because they themselves have been hit the hardest.

Spiegel: Our question is aiming at something else. Aren't VWs and money, more information and traveling, free exchange of ideas and opinions in the long run undermining the DDR's national consciousness as it is conceived of by the SED?

Schmidt: The process of detente is accompanied by influences upon the opposite side. If you examine the Soviet Union's new Constitution, among other things you certainly do see certain reactions to Helsinki and to everything that has been set in motion by Helsinki. For this reason, I am not able to distinguish anything exceptional regarding the DDR. The fact that the DDR, being a partial German state, is loaded down with a big rucksack of problems which the People's Republic of Poland or the CSSR or the Socialist Republic of Romania do not have, this is obvious. But that is not a result of their world-economic connections.

Spiegel: Does your plan, announced by Herbert Wehner (West German Social Democratic Party Parliamentary chief—ed.), to meet Erich Honnecker during this year, still exist?

Schmidt: I am not excluding the possibility of such a meeting. On no occasion have I said anything about a time.

Spiegel: What results could come from such a talk?

Schmidt: That's the right question. It would only make sense if it yields something.

Schmidt on Europe's Security Goals

West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt is not allowing even a hint of Henry Kissinger's cold war rhetoric to creep into his dealings with West Germany's Eastern neighbors. Below is an extract from a joint press conference held Jan. 7 in Bucharest, Romania, between Schmidt and President Nicolae Ceausescu of Romania.

Question: Mr. Chancellor, my question deals with disarmament and military disengagement. The problem of disarmament and military disengagement was amply discussed at the Romanian-BRD talks, and it was agreed to make specific proposals, also designed to accelerate the pace of the Vienna conference. Through President Nicolae Ceausescu, the Romanian side has already suggested that a decision be made this year to generally reduce military budgets. What is the position of the Federal Government of Germany on this proposal, and in general on military disengagement between the two blocs, in view of the fact that the BRD is still regarded as one of the pillars of NATO?

Schmidt: Allow me first to say that I consider the last remark incorrect. The BRD does of course play an important role in NATO and makes a considerable contribution within this organization. However, the term "pillar" seems to me misleading...

Like Romania, the BRD is not among the countries with large military expenditures, I would say. On the contrary, there are states which allocate a greater part of their national income or of their gross social product to defense. The real volume of these expenditures cannot always be clearly recognized from the outside. On the other hand, one can count exactly how many soldiers, how many airplanes, tanks and ships there are. I therefore think it is unavoidable that reductions should begin with these things, which are measurable and which can be easily checked. I believe that it is undoubtedly possible to combine this method with the principle of budget reductions affirmed by President Ceausescu.

West German-Czechoslovak Talks Push Detente

The official Czech news agency CETEKA, along with many other Eastern and Western sources, reported favorably on a recent visit to Prague by a delegation of parliamentarians from the West German Social Democratic Party (SPD), led by parliamentary fraction leader Herbert Wehner. CETEKA's Jan. 14 release reads in part:

...(Wehner) said the talks enabled the SPD deputies to obtain much information for further negotiations... However, it is now decisive how this assessment of the former development of relations on the basis

of their agreement will be transferred into new impulses, and not only in bilateral contacts.... Asked about the results of the process of detente in Europe, Herbert Wehner stated that both the BRD and Czechoslovakia felt it particularly urgent, in view of their experiences and their geographic position, that the process of detente should continue and result in concrete steps towards armament and troop cuts.

France's Giscard Intervenes Into Kissinger's Africa Hot Spot

French President Giscard d'Estaing concluded a visit to the Ivory Coast Jan. 15 with a call for a solidarity pact between Europe and Africa based on the Helsinki concept. By proposing that his government mediate the ongoing border dispute between Ethiopia and Somalia, which threatens the well-being of the continent, Giscard emphasized that France is committed to "the rights of African states to security within their present, internationally recognized borders."

Ivory Coast President Houphouet-Boigny commented on the solidarity pact, saying "I am convinced that the constitution of a large African market is a necessity for the two continents if they don't want to rot little by little, (Europe) threatened with old age and lack of raw materials and (Africa) by underdevelopment." In other remarks, Giscard also termed the creation of a "special promotion fund for Africa" necessary to thwart the expansion of the already vast north African desert.

Giscard's overtures to the Ivory Coast have both gained the support of West Germany and roused the ire of London. The West German daily *Die Welt* reported Jan 18 that Giscard's plan would be on the agenda of the Paris summit meeting scheduled to begin between Schmidt and the French president Feb. 5 and the West Germans are said to be anxious to coordinate the plan. Giscard has also said he will see that the pact is on the agenda of the next summit meeting of the European Economic Community.

The *London Times* last week termed the French relationship with the Ivory Coast "neocolonialist." *Die Welt* explained this charge: the British are "envious" that the economic achievements of the Ivory Coast were accomplished through Western aid which largely excluded the British.

Trade between the two countries belies the *Times'* accusations. Last year, France concluded 2.8 billion francs in export contracts with the Ivory Coast, now another 6 billion francs is under negotiation. The pacts which touch on shipbuilding, port and refinery extension, oil prospecting, and plant construction, may be joined by a French commitment to train native technicians to man French-produced industrial sites in Africa, making the charge of neocolonialism ridiculous.