

EIR International

EIR Exclusive

Strauss in Washington: A plot to topple Schmidt

Contributing editor Lyndon Hermyle LaRouche, Jr., March 17 denounced what he described as "an ongoing Carter administration plot to bring down the government of a Western European ally, the government of German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt."

LaRouche, a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination, explained that he had pieced together the evidence concerning the plot chiefly from placing the recent, "red carpet" treatment of visiting Bavarian Franz-Josef Strauss "under close observation." LaRouche explains his findings as follows:

It was the overwhelming opinion of Carter's advisors, during and after behind-door discussions with Strauss, that Strauss himself had no chance to challenge Schmidt's enormous popularity with West Germany's voters. Therefore, the Carter officials involved concluded that the only way in which to topple Schmidt during 1980 was to take a twofold approach. First, bring on such a deep economic downslide that this would produce instability in the West German political situation. Second, deploy the West German "environmentalists" as the flanking weapon to bring down the Schmidt government.

Many Carter officials, including Undersecretary of State David Newsome, have been identified as involved in this plot. Newsome's and other names were independently volunteered, without prompting, in the course of a survey of about a score of high-level personalities who were either directly involved in the planning meetings, or in advising those who were.

Although Chancellor Schmidt has strong personal support among about 80 percent of West Germany's voters, his party, the Social-Democratic Party of Germany, has fewer seats in parliament than the principal opposition, the coalition of Christian-Democratic and the Bavarian Christian Social Union parties. For this reason, the Schmidt government depends upon its coalition with the marginal German liberal party, the Free Democrats of Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher.

Historians would draw an analogy to the coalition between the Social-Democrats and Hjalmar Schacht's Liberal Party back during the late 1920s of the old, pre-Hitler, Weimar Republic of Germany. Schacht, acting on orders from London at that time, pulled his Liberal Party out of support for the government, and thus started the process of destabilization leading into Schacht's later placing of Nazi Adolf Hitler into power. Obviously, the plotters advising the Carter administration have that past bit of history prominently in their recollections now.

Genscher is no Schacht, of course. But pulling down the liberal party—Genscher's Free Democrats—would mean the fall of the Schmidt government's coalition. By using the West German "environmentalists," the so-called "Greenies," which the Bilderberger crowd created and controls, to bring the Free Democratic vote below 5 percent in a number of individual states of the nation, Schmidt could be brought down.

I share the estimate of those who consulted with Franz-Josef Strauss during Strauss's visits to Washington and New York City. Although Strauss has lost his acceptability as a joint chancellor-candidate of the op-

position parties, the Christian Democrats have produced no truly acceptable candidate of their own so far—and no improvement in this situation is immediately in sight. The group around Carter's advisors have come up with a flanking approach to this particular problem. The plan, according to all sources consulted, is to build a package around Leisler Kiep and Franz-Josef Strauss, in which Kiep will function like Strauss's own "Henry Kissinger." It is my information that the U.S. ambassador to West Germany is being used in the plot, and that Carter's advisors are thinking of using elements of U.S. military intelligence, rather than the Central Intelligence Agency, in support of the West German "environmentalists."

Carter's personal involvement

It ought to be well known that Jimmy Carter has a deep and growing personal hatred against Chancellor Schmidt. That is not the reason that the Trilateral Commission and Bilderbergers are being deployed against Schmidt at this moment; but, Carter's personal hatred against Schmidt does give the Trilateral boys in Wash-

ington and New York City a clearer field for the present plotting.

This requires one qualification. I would tend to place Carter in the same political camp as a former intimate crony of the Carter household, former British ambassador Peter Jay. I would suggest a glance at Jay's ten-page diatribe in the March 8 London *Economist* for hints of the policy motives behind the Carter moves against Schmidt at this time.

That isn't exactly the political camp of Franz-Josef Strauss. Strauss is part of the combination including the Order of the Golden Fleece, the Pan-European Union, the Hans Seidl Stiftung, and the Mont Pelerin Society—the side of Sir Keith Joseph, Friedrich von Hayek, Milton Friedman and General George Keegan's crowd in our own intelligence establishment. However, the crowd Jay works for hates the Mont Pelerin crowd much less than they both hate the Giscard-Schmidt alliance. The Fabians and the Mont Pelerin Society gangs are making a Hobbesian sort of alliance against a Schmidt considered a common foe.

Who's Franz-Josef Strauss?

Strauss, the joint chancellor candidate of the CDU/CSU opposition parties in the Federal Republic of Germany, is head of the Christian Social Union (CSU) and Minister-President of the state of Bavaria. A harsh critic of detente with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, he advocates an arms buildup for Europe and trade sanctions against the U.S.S.R.

Strauss is a close friend and associate of feudal-ist Otto von Hapsburg, pretender to the throne of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Hapsburg heads the Pan-European Union, a party which aspires to abolish the nation-states of Europe and replace them with a "Europe of the Regions." Strauss interceded last year to grant Hapsburg, an Austrian citizen, West German citizenship so that he could run on a CSU ticket in the June 1979 elections to the European Parliament. Chancellor Schmidt described Strauss's action on Hapsburg's behalf as "bizarre."

Strauss received a Jesuit education at a gymnasium and then university in Munich, and is associ-



ated with the "geopolitical" circles created in Europe by Albert Haushofer and Jesuit Father Edmund Walsh. Strauss held the posts of Minister for Special Tasks, Atomic Questions, and Defense during the 1950s under Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, and was Minister of Finance from 1966-69 during the "Grand Coalition" government.

During recent years, we have watched the Carter administration continue Henry Kissinger's project for overthrowing the government of Pakistan and murdering the former head of that government, Bhutto. We have watched the Carter administration, in its support for the Muslim Brotherhood of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, overthrow the governments of, first, the Shah, and then, that of Prime Minister Shahpour Bakhtiar. We have watched the Carter administration deliberately orchestrate the taking of U.S. citizens hostage by the Khomeini dictatorship. We have watched the Carter administration declaring its affection for that "Islamic fundamentalism"—the Khomeini dictatorship—which has committed and continues to commit acts of war and terrorism against the United States.

Now, we witness that same Carter administration caught red-handed in attempting to use its "environmentalist" Khomeini-like forces in West Germany in a project for overthrowing the government of Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. Anyone who continues to support Carter under these circumstances must be either blindly misinformed to the point of utter ignorance, or simply downright immoral.

'The greens can destroy Helmut Schmidt's coalition'

The following interview was made available to EIR. The speaker, not a member of the Carter administration, has access to high-level policy discussions on European matters in the administration.

Q: Franz Josef Strauss is getting a very big welcome in the United States. Does the administration plan to advance Strauss's campaign for Chancellor?

A: I was not at the meetings with Strauss...I had private discussions with David Newsome at the State Department...Strauss is a right-winger. I don't think there is much we can do. Schmidt is very strong. He has strong support. The most we can do is send Ralph Nader over there to facilitate the Greens, but we don't have the capability anymore. You would do it through techniques of clandestine placing of newspaper articles, scandalous releases, damaging reputations, releasing information on spy-linkages of important candidates, as has been done in the past.

This is CIA dirty tricks stuff...we don't have that capability anymore. It's being restored, but we don't have it right now. The Greens can destroy the SPD-FDP party coalition. They're the best route to get at the present German leadership. This is what Strauss is fighting for...

Q: Would the Green Party go for Strauss?

A: You must understand that the Green Movement is going beyond the nuclear issue. That's no longer becoming the rallying point for the movement...It represents more of an "alternative" for the German people—for the "discontented"...The German economy is undergoing strain. What is happening here as a result of Volcker's credit measures is affecting Germany more...Strauss is now beginning to address the German people on the growing inflation problem...

'The Germans, you know, are allergic to inflation'

The following interview, made available to EIR, is with a participant at the Georgetown Center for Strategic and International Studies meeting with Franz Josef Strauss.

Q: I understand that the meeting at the Georgetown Center discussed the "French problem" as well as West Germany.

A: Yes, Strauss was very hard on Giscard... He strongly criticized the Paris communiqué and especially the phrase, "detente will not survive another setback"... "Detente has not survived," he insisted instead. Strauss criticized the "independent Europe" idea of Giscard and Schmidt and stressed a different kind of independent Europe—as a "second pillar of the Atlantic"... In public, Strauss is too careful to attack Giscard, although when he went to Paris he made it very clear that American solidarity is the most important thing, despite special relationships between Schmidt and Giscard.

France has been a problem for Germany historically. It has always been conscious of its "great gloire"... "the nation"... and tried to keep its national identity in a greater Europe. What is most disturbing to us is that the French still have a close relationship to their former colonies... much closer than Britain. They act like a superpower because of this... which represents a problem for Europe.

Q: What are Strauss's chances in the October elections?

A: Between the opposition and Schmidt there is a very small but genuine chance of winning back the government for the opposition... The national situation is grave and the economic developments are getting worse. There are signs in Germany that its economy is undergoing strain... growth is reduced and inflation is gaining ground. Strauss will capitalize on this. Germans are particularly vulnerable psychologically to inflation problems, especially after the experience of the 1920s... They're allergic to it.

Where he went, whom he saw

On the day that West German opposition figure Franz Josef Strauss arrived in New York, Chancellor Helmut Schmidt left. Zbigniew Brzezinski told a press conference that the Carter-Schmidt talks had not been a great success. However, added the national security advisor, "the U.S. has a friend in the opposition party of West Germany." Strauss's treatment in the United States was "red carpet" throughout the following itinerary:

New York

March 7-9: Partially known. During his stay in the city, Strauss is known to have met with U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim and with the editorial board of *The New York Times*; he was interviewed by local television. He delivered a policy address to the New York Council on Foreign Relations, predicting that the decade of the 1980s would be "a period of tense and all-out conflict among nations for the control of energy and raw materials."

March 10: Strauss breakfasted with Dr. Henry Kissinger at his private New York residence; he lunched with David Rockefeller, held a second afternoon meeting with Kissinger, and then met with representatives of the "umbrella" Zionist organization, the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations, in the evening. Inside sources report that the "very private, completely closed" Strauss-Zionist meetings expressed unrestrained anger at the Franco-German initiatives for Mideast peace and arrived at consensus that the Schmidt government must be replaced.

"The greatest threat to the world is the possible emergence of a new European superpower," said one participant. "We must stop it. We must have Strauss as Chancellor in West Germany. We must have a massive rearmament program for the U.S. that will reunite the West and break up this 'independent Europe' idea."

Later that evening, Strauss met yet again with Henry Kissinger; in attendance were New York Senator Jacob Javits among others.

Washington

March 11-13: Strauss met with the Washington Post editorial board and publisher Katherine Meyer Graham. He also met with representatives of the Trilateral Commission in the Carter administration, including Treasury Secretary G. William Miller, Defense Secretary Harold Brown, and Secretary of State Cyrus Vance. He met with State Department undersecretary David Newsome, with National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski, Federal Reserve Board chairman Paul Volcker, AFL-CIO head Lane Kirkland, members of the House and Senate Foreign Relations Committees, the Senate Armed Services Committee, and with President Jimmy Carter.

The itinerary was highlighted by a "semi-private" meeting at Georgetown with officials of the National Security Council, the Carnegie Endowment, the Heritage Foundation, and Georgetown's Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). The participants at this high-powered meeting included:

David Aaron—National Security Council, Brzezinski aide.

Fritz Ermat—National Security Council, Mideast Desk

Brent Scowcroft—former chairman, National Security Council

Helmut Sonnenfeldt—Brookings Institution, former State Department aide to Henry Kissinger.

Robert Strausz-Hupe—Former U.S. ambassador to NATO; currently resident in Munich, West Germany.

Walter Slocomb—National Security Council

Peter Kreisberg—National Security Council

Richard Smyser—Chairman, China Affairs, Georgetown CSIS

Frank Sullivan—Senate Armed Services Committee aide.

Robert Blackwell—National Security Council, European Desk.

Accompanying Strauss on his trip and participating in this and other meetings with him were Alois Mertes, foreign policy spokesman for the Christian Democratic Party Fraction; Walter Leisler Kiep, Christian Democratic leader and Trilateral Commission member from West Germany; Manfred von Nordheim of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, a West German think-tank. Also in attendance were representatives of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, whose head, Leslie Gelb, was recently a State Department undersecretary; representatives of the International Communications Agency, formerly the U.S. Information Service; representatives of the Heritage Foundation, whose head Edward Fuelner was just named director of the U.S. branch of the Mont Pelerin Society; and representatives of the Aspen Institute, the controlling agency over environmentalist movements in both the United States and Europe.