

Report from Bonn by George Gregory and Rainer Apel

The Anglo-German approach

Further revelations on the "technology freeze" proposed by the DGB—at the behest of Prince Philip and Siemens.

The demand of former West German trade-union federation (DGB) head Heinz-Oskar Vetter for a slow-down of the introduction of new technologies "in order to save jobs" reported in this space last week, originated with Prince Philip of Great Britain and his advisers, *EIR* has learned. Also complicit in the "Vetter Plan" is U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

Vetter's call was made in an interview with the mass circulation daily *Bildzeitung* at the end of December. He threatened that labor would turn to the streets, with the unemployed and the peace movement, if such "job-saving" measures were not adopted.

Vetter's proposal was shaped, according to *EIR*'s sources, by the London-based "Anglo-German Foundation for Studies of Industrial Society," headed by Britain's Prince Philip. Vetter is a member of the board of trustees of the foundation, together with Lord Croham of the Bank of England, Sigismund von Braun (of the Inter-Alpha Banking Group, linked to Italy's Propaganda-2 Freemasonic lodge); Joachim von Oertzen of Siemens, A.G.; and C. C. von Weizsäcker from the Hamburg Anglo-German weekly *Die Zeit*.

The foundation is preparing a project, jointly with the German Marshall fund, on "shortening work time," public works projects for the unemployed, and "getting control over the pace of implementation of modern technologies."

Said a source at the Anglo-German foundation: "Unemployment fig-

ures should not be taken as reflecting something completely negative. There is, after all, something like the black economy, which means that more and more people drop out of normal work because they want to work but not pay taxes."

Vetter, in an interview made available to *EIR* by reliable sources, elaborated on his call for an international agreement to limit technology growth. "Huge industrial complexes" should be dismantled in favor of small and medium-sized enterprises, and "old industries" (like steel) should be relocated to the Third World, leaving Germany to concentrate on what are known in the U.S. as "sunrise industries" (electronics, communications, cable television). Working hours should be shortened in order to share the fixed number of available jobs.

Real wages would be reduced under Vetter's plan. "We in Germany made an offer to industry one year ago, namely, that the trade unions would not insist on wage increases for some time in exchange for steps toward shortening working time. Labor was willing to make that sacrifice, but industry refused to seal the pact."

Vetter explained that his plan is identical to the proposal of Social Democratic chancellor candidate Hans-Jochen Vogel for an "international solidarity pact." Vogel spent two days in Washington Jan. 5-7 discussing this and the disarmament issue.

Vogel "was treated like a real head of state, and not just like the head of the German parliamentary opposi-

tion," according to one German newspaper. He was received by President Ronald Reagan, Secretary of State George Shultz, Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, arms negotiator Paul Nitze, Federal Reserve chairman Paul Volcker, and several Senators and Congressmen, as well as AFL-CIO chief Lane Kirkland, Henry Kissinger, and the Washington, D.C. Council on Foreign Relations.

Vogel's "solidarity pact" was discussed in Bonn recently between himself, Shultz, Helmut Schmidt, and Willy Brandt.

The plan was developed in consultation with the Washington, D.C. Institute of International Economics, (IIE) headed by C. Fred Bergsten. The IIE was created last year by the German Marshall Fund, with George Shultz as one of its founding members. The Institute is working in coordination with the North-South Commission of former German chancellor Willy Brandt to convince President Reagan to launch a "Keynesian" bailout of the banks while submitting the debtor countries in the developing sector to the International Monetary Fund's austerity "conditionalities."

Bergsten reportedly contacted Karl Schiller, a campaign advisor to Social Democrat Hans-Jochen Vogel, and convinced him to go with the "international solidarity pact" idea.

The Brandt Commission is scheduled to release a report early in February, timed to intersect preparations for the summit meeting of the Non-Aligned nations in March. The Brandt report, called *Common Crisis*, was summarized at a press conference given by the Commission after a Dec. 12-14 meeting in Ottawa, Canada. It calls for urgent International Monetary Fund action to ease the credit crunch to the Third World while maintaining austerity conditionalities.