

German Social Democrats merge with the Greens

by Rainer Apel in Wiesbaden

Those British oligarchs, to whom the revival of German industry after 1945 was a huge thorn in the side, may now feel in a better mood: there is now a good chance that with the majority of German voters being led around by the nose, they may be able to put back on the top of the agenda the Morgenthau Plan for the full de-industrialization of Germany which they had been forced to give up earlier, and to carry out this plan, so to speak, legally.

The chances are good that the "green" Social Democrat Hans-Jochen Vogel, a recipient of the order of "Commander of the British Empire," could be named Federal Chancellor, with the help of the Green Party—because everything, which today under the themes of "peace, environment, and dialogue" is being spread by the West German media, helps Vogel and hurts the incumbent, transitional Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

But the wind propelling the Social Democratic Party and Vogel is also giving a lift to the sails of power centers which have gained the dominant influence over the politics and program of the Green Party recently. The shift in the composition of the federal executive committee of the Greens, replacing Petra Kelly with the "fundamentalist" Rudolf Bahro as the new main spokesman of the Greens, was more than a routine changing of chairs. With Bahro the actual Malthusian kernel of the ecology movement moves into the foreground, the group of industry-hating Jacobins, whose principal tendency in Bahro's own words is "more anarchistic, more small community-minded, directed against industry, and against the state."

In his recent statements Bahro unveiled the real concepts

of the ecology movement, which usually is identical with the "peace movement": "Either the industrial system—or the German forest!" Yes—were Henry Morgenthau, the father of the plan of the same name from the postwar years, still living—he would in all certainty be a member of the present-day federal executive committee of the Green Party!

As Bahro himself exposed, the struggle against the stationing of the Euromissiles is merely a tactic in a more fundamental mobilization, since "the military problem, the atom bomb, is merely the tip of the iceberg." Then what are these more fundamental things?

Bahro: "I formulated it to myself in the meantime in this way, that . . . at the latest with this human industrial system, human evolution went awry, that we possibly must go back further than to the Renaissance, in order to correct this state of affairs. . . ."

"In Hamburg, the accusation 'With Bahro back to the Dark Age'—was raised in an Old Left article against the economic concepts which I was advocating. But that is wrong per se—that is, I would like to say, it is too short-sighted. I would like to pull here the Tsai-Tsing out of my pocket, this old Chinese book, and I would say, then, I don't want to go back just 500 years, or 800 years, but maybe 2,500 years. . . ."

"In my opinion the question is: through the technological sphere, which we have created for ourselves here, and which actually goes back 10,000 years, the biosphere is smothered, if we don't take the technosphere away again. And one asks therefore whether the human race is assigned to this technosphere in the same sense that the tortoise-shell is assigned its armor. . . ."

Bahro adds that many an individual within the ecology movement has been downright frightened in the face of such cultish notions, but at least in the Church a broader discussion has gotten under way, not only among the Evangelicals (Lutherans) but also now in the Catholic Church. Vienna's Cardinal Koenig, according to Bahro, would be "very open toward ecological questions. . . ."

The meaning of Bahro's declarations lies in the fact that they make visible who the "German Khomeinis" are, and what they have up their sleeves. If they ever were to get into a position of power and influence, they would destroy the German industrial republic, just as Khomeini destroyed Iran or Pol Pot destroyed Cambodia. In fact the connections between the leading greenies and Qaddafi of Libya and the Islamic fundamentalists of Khomeini are very close.

Additionally the fact that Rudolf Bahro, who had exiled himself from East Germany only a few years ago, was immediately promoted to be the chief thinker of the ecology movement, with international coordination duties, is more than peculiar. Still less can one believe in a mere coincidence when Andropov, Egon Bahr, Vogel, and Rudolf Bahro all at the same time throw out the same "peace proposal." Something else is behind it.

What the Eastern aspect of this affair means is relatively simple: the KGB wants to see the Western capitalist system overthrown, and the Federal Republic of Germany is an important outpost which must be eliminated on the way. The Western aspects of this affair are that the British oligarchy has never given up its old plan, to wipe the "continental industrial states" from the European map. The very fact that

Chamberlain, Churchill and other British top aristocrats of the "Cliveden Set" fell flat on their faces with their Hitler Project, only discouraged that British circle temporarily. While the World Wildlife Fund under the regime of the Duke of Edinburgh himself, Prince Philip, is, with the help of Freemasons always loyal to the "Great Mother Lodge of London," carrying out the subversion of the "continental industrial states" primarily from the top down, the Cambridge Group around Lord Nicholas Kaldor with its "European Nuclear Disarmament" (END) set up the cutting edge against the foundation of the "continental industrial states" from the ground up. Here, in the latter operation, Rudolf Bahro's role can also be located. Here also lies the assignment of the Green mass movement, the new ecological Jacobins.

While the Federal Republic of Germany seems already to be deeply destabilized, and while all the West German institutions, whether parties, trade unions, or churches, have capitulated before the ecological propaganda wave, the other great continental "industrial republic," France, has proven relatively stable. Not only did the Jan. 20 speech of French President François Mitterrand before the German Parliament (see below) once again make clear that the majority of Frenchmen, that the institutions of the French republic are still for economic and industrial progress, but also that France maintains that the development of atomic power is as important as the construction of a sovereign, French atomic military force, the *force de frappe*.

Here, in the institutional stability of France, also lies then the main ground for increasingly redirecting the interest of

The SPD program: worship trees, tax new machines

The electoral platform passed by the Dortmund congress of West Germany's Social Democratic Party on Jan. 21 illustrates the transformation of the SPD into a radical ecology/peace party. Points of the platform:

- A special "machine tax" on all new machinery installed in factories which might "take away workers' jobs."
- Special public-sector work programs for the "conservation of nature" in order to "create new jobs."
- An emergency program for the "German forests," which are said to be threatened by industry.
- Reducing weekly working-hours; lowering the pension age; extending retraining programs for youth who were trained in an industrial occupation such as steel production; and establishing a special environmental ministry.

All these demands are also the demands of the Green

Party, with the difference that the Greens are more outspoken on the fact that the whole idea is "to bring industrialism down," and that the SPD's "labor experts" are more sophisticated than the ecologists. The special tax on machinery is a demand which the Green Party has been incapable of formulating yet.

Candidate Hans-Jochen Vogel leaked what else he would do if elected chancellor after March 6:

He would launch an "international initiative on control of medium-range and short-range missiles"; he would establish the German complement to the U.S. administration's ADCA, a German "Disarmament Board," which would likely be headed by Egon Bahr; he would launch an "international employment pact initiative" to curb implementation of new technologies which allegedly kill jobs. This plan is coordinated with George Shultz, the Brandt Commission, the IMF and World Bank, and the U.S. East Coast Establishment, as well as Lord Carrington's think tank, IRIS. The policy almost embodies the demand by the German ecologists of the Green Party for "a law forbidding any increase in workers' productivity."

the West German "peace movement" away from the American Euromissiles and toward the "French missiles." The question of the *force de frappe* was hardly raised within the international missiles debate, when the first outburst of rage was mobilized by the Greens against France. Rudolf Bahro designated the Mitterrand government as the "worst government in France since 1945" and declared that the question of the *force de frappe* would be a new major target of the peace movement. If Mitterrand and the French, Bahro said, do not backtrack on the missiles questions, then the West German peace movement "will be forced to become nationalistic . . . so that the work of reconciliation between Germans and Frenchmen during the postwar period can be seriously called into question. . . ."

In practice that will mean that the mobilization of the West German movement will also be directed against French missiles and French military bases. In fact the main spokesman of the West German ecology movement, Joe Leinen (who is still a member of the SPD), is even pushing a "March on Paris," but he was hooted down by the other greenies, in order not to endanger their political plans prematurely. What are these plans?

Here it is not just the Greens who come into play, but the German Social Democrats also play an important role—the latter are supposed to undermine Mitterrand, nominally out of "Socialist party solidarity" between the SPD and the French Socialist Party (PSF). A whole series of statements by prominent Social Democrats like Willy Brandt, Bahr, Karsten Voigt, or Hermann Scheer on the "French problem" are furnishing the atmosphere for the outbursts and operations of the ecological fundamentalists around Bahro and Leinen. Rudolf Bahro sees Mitterrand as a politician who is "even more pro-American, even worse than Schmidt was," and against whose "downright criminal armaments policy" one should move with full strength. If one is to believe the leading Greens and Social Democrats, then Mitterrand is flooding the whole world with French arms exports; if one notes the British string pullers behind the Greenies, one sees the real reason for this attack. It was with French missiles that the Argentines were able to sink some of the most modern British war vessels during the Malvinas War, but during the Malvinas War the West German Greens did not once raise their voices against the neo-colonialist adventures of London.

While the West Germany Republic vacillates dangerously and stands in danger of being ruled by an arrangement between Greens and Social Democrats after the March 6 elections, the Greens are preparing to storm the French "Bastille." Erhard Eppler the SPD's leading ecologist, is currently in Paris, sewing up contacts with the French ecologists. The old French ecologist Claude Bourdet, once a close friend and collaborator of European Nuclear Disarmament founder Lord Bertrand Russell, came to Bonn Jan. 17, to discuss the question of the *force de frappe* with the German Greens. Rudolf Bahro himself was in Paris in mid-January for similar talks, in order to meet with French ecologists and political oppo-

nents of Mitterrand. Relations between the French and German Greens closely intersect the relations of the German SPD with the opposition Socialists in Paris: with Pierre Joxe, a very influential left-Socialist in the PSF, and with his brother Alain Joxe, who in turn has connections into the PSU (Parti Socialiste Unifié, a small left-wing party), which is the favorite party of the Greens in France.

A Vogel government in West Germany, working closely with the Greens on questions of ecology, the missiles "debate," and against Mitterrand, would mean an acute threat to the French republic, and one can only hope that the organs of French security which have hitherto been so tough and energetic continue to hold their ground, and keep the subversion of French institutions to a minimum. Certainly this complex of topics should be a preeminent agenda item for the ongoing Franco-German consultations on security questions, mentioned at length by Mitterrand in his Jan. 20 Bundestag speech.

Mitterrand in Bonn

Excerpts follow from French President François Mitterrand's Jan. 20 address to the West German parliament, the first speech ever made to the Bundestag by a French head of government.

Ladies and gentlemen, our peoples despise war, they have suffered too much, along with the other peoples of Europe. A simple idea governs the thought of France: war must remain impossible and those who would think of it must be deterred.

Our analysis and our conviction, of France, is that nuclear arms, the instrument of this deterrence, whether one likes it or deplors it, remain the guarantee of peace as long as there is a balance of forces. Only this balance can lead to good relations with the countries of the East, our neighbors and historic partners. It was the sane basis of what has been called *détente*. . . .

Whoever would bet on the "decoupling" between the European continent and the American continent would undermine the balance of forces and therefore the maintenance of peace. I think, and I will say so, that "decoupling" is in itself dangerous, and I ardently hope that the Geneva negotiations will enable us to eliminate a danger which especially weighs on the European partners that are deprived of nuclear weapons. . . .

[And] the French nuclear force is and will remain independent.

This independence . . . makes deterrence more effective. . . .

It is for these precise and serious reasons that I affirm that the French forces cannot be taken into account in the Geneva negotiations between the two over-armed superpowers. . . .