

Report from Bonn by Rainer Apel

'Greens are unconstitutional'

Mass opposition to the environmentalist-peace movement is emerging as the "hot autumn" approaches.

The first salvos of West Germany's long-expected explosion of "peace movement" violence have begun, and analysts on both sides of the Atlantic agree that further escalation is "a foregone conclusion." From the parliamentary Green Party (which is wine and dined by U.S. Ambassador Arthur Burns) to the "extraparliamentary left" and the admittedly terrorist Revolutionary Cells, a "hot autumn" of protests and sabotage actions against the deployment of U.S. missiles in Germany is being planned. The survival of the government of Chancellor Helmut Kohl under such conditions is very much in question. But the Greens are not moving unchallenged.

The Greens in the state parliament of Hesse officially launched the mobilization on Aug. 3 at a reception for U.S. Army units stationed near Frankfurt, when Green deputy Frank Schwalba-Hoth poured a bottle of his own blood over the commander general of the U.S. Fifth Army Corps, shouting "Here is blood for the bloody army!" The German Communist Party sent a telegram of congratulations to their Green comrades.

On Aug. 7, two bombs exploded at the U.S. Air Force officers' club near the Hahn air base. An offshoot of the Revolutionary Cells known as "Autumn Begins" claimed responsibility. There were no casualties—this time.

All this has triggered an anti-Green, pro-American reaction of a sort hitherto not seen. Ordinary Germans have generally opposed the fascist, anti-progress Greens, but since every major political party and the trade

unions have bent over backwards to accommodate to their demands, the electorate has found no institution strong enough to change the situation. Of the political parties, only the small European Labor Party has demanded that the Greens be banned as fascists and therefore as unconstitutional under the Federal Republic's *Grundgesetz* (Basic Law).

Notwithstanding the gutlessness of the party leaders—and the anti-American hype of much of the left-liberal news media—a curious mass outpouring of pro-Americanism occurred Aug. 7, at an air show at the U.S. Air Force European Headquarters at Ramstein. Over 500,000 people came from all over West Germany, an attendance that surpassed any "peace movement" demonstration and also surpassed the crowds gathered for the Pope's visit. Police reported huge traffic jams on the roadways leading to Ramstein.

What was intended to have been the first major demonstration of the peace movement against U.S. military facilities fizzled when only 200 showed up to protest. The illegal demonstrators were arrested, to the cheers of the angry citizens, some of whom spat upon and even attacked the Greens before American military police could separate the groups.

This expression of the German "silent majority's" views was amplified in a centerfold spread of articles Aug. 7 in the largest-circulation German Sunday newspaper, *Bild am Sonntag*. Under the headline "Is This Party Still Constitutional?" the paper quoted U.S. military personnel: "These people are totally crazy. Why

does the German population tolerate them?"

The accompanying editorial was titled "The Greens—Just Like the Nazis." Many hoped that the new party would change German politics for the better, it said, but now people are beginning to realize that the Greens are nothing but an anti-American agitational squad. The article quoted Christian Social Union parliamentary leader Theo Waigel stating that the Greens are not fit to work in a parliament or a democracy, and that the other three parliamentary parties should find a common basis to work against them. While it might not be easy to obtain a prohibition against the Greens on constitutional grounds, he said, the outrageous behavior of the Greens in the Hesse parliament could only be compared to that of the uniformed Nazis in the old Reichstag.

The Greens' anti-American policy, *Bild* continued, is conspicuously in line with Soviet interests. And their economic de-industrialization program is not in the interests of the West German population, therefore it violates the oath every parliamentarian takes. "How long will we look on passively while *Die Grünen* destroy our state?" the editorial concluded.

Bild's editorial shift is welcome, but it comes late in the day. Around what positive policy will the popular backlash be shaped? A right-left polarization around the issue of the U.S. missile deployment would further the destabilization of Germany. The Ramstein events show that the scenarios of those orchestrators of the green-peace movement who want to split the NATO alliance and establish an independent *Mitteleuropa* with Germany at its center cannot be consummated at the snap of the finger, but destabilization will merely fuel the *Mitteleuropa* plan.