

Report from Bonn by Rainer Apel

The odd decouplers

West German left and right wings form a tactical alliance against President Reagan.

Two of the rivals to Helmut Kohl met in Munich on Feb. 13—the deputy fraction leader of the Social Democratic opposition in the national parliament, Horst Ehmke, and the chairman of Bavaria's Christian Social Union, Franz-Josef Strauss. The event, according to official statements, was a "routine meeting between parties."

"All questions relevant at this moment" were discussed, including, as Herr Strauss told the press later, the recent scandals and crises in Bonn. He and Ehmke agreed that the current Chancellor was to "face a hard time" during the weeks and months ahead—an obvious reference to a coming government crisis in Federal Republic.

One week before this encounter in Munich, the official head of the Social Democratic opposition in the Bonn parliament, Hans-Jochen Vogel, surprised his discussion partners in Canada, including Premier Pierre Trudeau, with public praise of the same Herr Strauss as "having prominently joined the *Ostpolitik*." *Ostpolitik*—that was the policy of appeasement toward Moscow and step-by-step decoupling of Europe from the United States launched by Henry Kissinger, the U.S. East Coast Establishment, and the Socialist International at the end of the 1960s. Could it be true that Strauss, who maintained an image of being "Mr. Pro-America" in West Germany during that period of *Ostpolitik*, has changed his principles, as Herr Vogel has claimed?

At the same time Vogel made that statement, Gerold Tandler, the general manager of Strauss's party, the CSU, launched an appeal to the Socialist International "to use its influence in all Western countries, be they in power or not, to establish the duty to protect nature as a constitutional right everywhere." Such an alliance with the ecologists and post-industrial Socialists, has been a policy of cooperation outside West Germany for some time. The CSU-linked think tank, the Hanns-Seidel Foundation, opened a branch in Barcelona about a year ago which cooperates closely with the Social Democratic think tank, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation.

Charges from among Italian Socialists around the European parliament deputy Ripa de Meana against the pro-KGB policy of the Socialist International under its West German president, Willy Brandt, were not taken up by the CSU at home: In addition to a Strauss-linked working group on a "non-American solution to the Middle East conflict," headed by an official of the Bavarian State Government, Dr. Rudolf Hilf, there was the seminar held by the Hanns Seidel Foundation in late January featuring an official of the U.S. Embassy in Bonn, James Bindenagel. Bindenagel parroted Ambassador Arthur Burns's scandalous pro-decoupling line as "a normal discussion ongoing in the States" which would "pose no threat to American-German relations."

Two days later, the same seminar

featured a real anti-American terrorist as a speaker, namely the same protest movement activist Wolfgang Sternstein who had broken into the U.S. Camp at Mutlangen with his "Ploughshare" group and destroyed a U.S. Army truck used for transporting Pershing II missiles.

This spectacular action, inspired by similar operations launched by the well-known Berrigan Brothers' "U.S. Ploughshare" against army and navy installations in the United States, took place at the end of November 1983, at the time the West German parliament debated the stationing of Pershing IIs in the country.

A discussion initiated by an *EIR* representative at this seminar about U.S. President Reagan's pro-beam-weapons policy was halted by an official of the Bavarian State Chancellery, Dr. Rudolf Sussmann, who said that "one only discusses bad policies in public, the good policies are discussed behind closed doors."

The debate among the attendees to the seminar was then handed over to numerous anti-American peaceniks, who spread KGB-inspired slogans about "the threat posed to the population by U.S. nuclear missiles."

All this occurs against West German media background full of propaganda that "Reagan will not act on Lebanon because this is an election year"—in other words, as long as Henry Kissinger succeeds in keeping Reagan contained back home, the Europeans and Soviets can go full speed in their decoupling drive.

President Reagan should do what American presidential contender Lyndon LaRouche has already done twice: go on national television and expose the decoupling plot by naming names. Strauss's new flirtation with the Socialist International in Munich adds some names to the list.