

Report from Bonn by Rainer Apel

Genscher in Teheran

The West German foreign minister takes a big sip from the Khomeini regime's "fountain of blood."

On July 20, the West German foreign minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, left Bonn for Teheran to be the first ranking Western governmental politician in office to visit the bloodthirsty Khomeini regime.

This is already a scandal in itself. But the timing of the visit underlined the Kissingerian cynicism which has been the very basis of Genscher's foreign policy over the past 10 years, during which time he served as foreign minister first in the coalition government with the Social Democrats, and more recently in the coalition of his Free Democratic Party with the Christian Democrats.

While Genscher was boarding the plane to Teheran, West Germany's official institutions were commemorating the 40th anniversary of the July 20, 1944 coup attempt of the German military resistance against the genocidalist Hitler regime! And this was the very day the country's foreign minister decided to visit a regime which is quite obviously making the greatest efforts to equal the Nazi monster—a regime which has hanged and shot at least 12,000 members of the political opposition, which continues to torture countless thousands of political prisoners, and which has spilled the blood of tens of thousands of Iranian children by sending them into battle against Iraq untrained, unarmed, and unprotected.

The regime in Teheran has also made an immense income through sales of illegal drugs into the West, which keep Khomeini's genocide machine going, and it is training "Islam-

ic" terrorists and deploying them internationally against Iranian exiles and Western intelligence and diplomatic figures.

Iranian exiles in West Germany protested against the trip and presented a dossier on the regime's cruelties to the press. The former Iranian premier, Shahpur Bakhtiar, who lives in exile now, issued a harsh denunciation of Genscher's visit from his Paris refuge. But Genscher had no scruples about shaking the bloody hands of the criminal clique in Teheran: As he put it, this was a "turning point in our mutual relations with Iran."

A turning point—for what?

Genscher and his spokesmen told the press that their visit had been guided by the "recognition of the fact that the Islamic revolution in Iran is an internal affair." They said that what is considered human rights in the West is not identical with the basic values in Islam. One of the German foreign policy spokesmen, Mr. Gottwald, even went so far as to say in an interview with the pro-terrorist German left-wing rag, *Tageszeitung*, that "one can feel a certain understanding if people who are in the opposition against the Iranian government and fight it with assassination attempts are being considered terrorists."

Mr. Genscher already showed how broad-minded he could be in 1983, when he intervened to get Khomeini's relative Sadegh Tabatabai out of jail by giving him retroactive diplomatic immunity, after West German police had arrested Tabatabai for large-scale heroin smuggling.

Minister Genscher put his views into practice when he visited the grave of the blood-thirsty Ayatollah Beheshti, whom opposition Iranians had killed with a bomb, and placed a wreath on the grave. Then, Genscher and his entourage visited the infamous Fountain of Blood, which spurts red-dyed water all day in homage to mass martyrdom in Khomeini's genocidal Holy War against Iraq and the "infidels."

The current Iranian foreign minister, Ali Akbar Velayati, urged his German colleague to "transmit Iran's warnings to those governments in Western Europe which support exiles in carrying out terrorist attacks against us." Furthermore, at the concluding press conference in Teheran, Velayati emphasized that he welcomed the fact that "Mr. Genscher has so far been the only Western politician to recognize Iraq's main responsibility for the war on the Persian Gulf." Genscher said: "Our government has never had any doubt as to who started this war."

This was a turning-point for German foreign policy indeed: It put the foreign ministry right back into the tradition of Foreign Minister Ribbentrop who signed Hitler's pact with dictator Joseph Stalin in 1939! No other historic precedent would fit the comparison with what went on in Teheran between July 20 and 23.

To top it all off, Genscher proposed to the Khomeinians that a common German-Iranian symposium on "the differing views of human rights and the death penalty" be held in Bonn later this year.

If West Germany's Chancellor Helmut Kohl feels any respect for human rights, he will stop this criminal nonsense and expel Genscher from his government at once. Kohl must be reminded: Some people got hanged in Nuremberg in 1947 for the policies Genscher is promoting.