

German Greens drop parliamentary mask, shift to stormtrooper tactics

by Joerg Cremer

Riots staged by West Germany's Green Party delegation in the West German parliament back on Oct. 18 and 19, and similar riots staged by Green deputies in the European Parliament in Strasbourg during the same period, turn out to have been only the first step in a radical shift in the Greens' mode of political operations. Their posture has been obstructionist inside both parliamentary bodies, but it was at least restrained relative to the behavior of Nazi stormtroopers, for example. No longer. The Green Party is now adopting the full array of SA stormtrooper tactics of violence which their masters in the Nazi International had always intended for them.

The way the Greens have handled the scandal-mongering around the "Flick Affair" in the six weeks between Oct. 15 and Dec. 1 exemplifies the overall Green strategy: The ongoing investigations into certain party-funding practices of the Flick Company, raising suspicion of high-level political bribery in Bonn, are to be used Watergate-style to discredit the party system as a whole. The parliament and the leading institutions of the postwar democratic system are to be portrayed as corrupt "proxies of powerful industrial interests."

Germany has seen this kind of politics before—at the end of the Weimar Republic. Communists and Nazis alike exploited or created scandals which discredited the parliamentary system as a mere "talk-shop," and helped the brownshirts storm republican institutions in January 1933.

The timing of the Green shift was evidently determined in the Kremlin. With the Flick Affair dragging down Chancellor Kohl's Christian Democrats, some observers anticipate that Willy Brandt's Social Democratic Party (SPD), which had previously been driving toward a parliamentary coalition with the Greens, may now instead seek a "grand coalition" with the humbled Christian Democrats as the best option for leading West Germany into the Soviet sphere of influence. The Greens, in that event, would logically receive a directive from Moscow to assume the roll of anti-U.S. mobs in the streets, providing the pressure needed to maximize the strength of the pro-Soviet SPD within a grand coalition.

And, in fact, after meetings with Soviet visitors, the Greens are now reviving the "protest" mob throughout the country, mobilizing the "ecologist" mass movement against parliament and state. This has also been seen in Germany

before—the Nazis had their stormtrooper mobs, the SA (*Sturmabteilung*), who beat or murdered any political opposition representing resistance to Hitler's march to power.

Like the Nazis before 1933, the new movement has the support of the Communists in its fight against the state. The German Communist Party (DKP) is the organizational and financial backbone of the Green movement, serving Moscow in this respect. German intelligence agencies estimate that the DKP has been channeling about 50 million deutsche-marks (\$16.5 million) into the Green Party movement from East Germany. It is also said that the Soviet KGB and its secret-service dependencies in the East bloc provide the Greens with intelligence and dossiers for purposes of politically destabilizing scandals and the like.

One also observes that whatever the Greens say or do finds broad and positive coverage on the pages of *Izvestia*, *Literaturnaya Gazeta*, *Neues Deutschland*, and other East bloc press.

The Greens are doing useful work for the Soviets: They campaign against the West, especially against Western values such as industrial progress. They call for the dissolution of the Western alliance and for the withdrawal of West Germany from NATO. They attack the U.S. administration's posture on Central America. The Green campaign for the defense of Nicaragua against alleged American invasion plans is employing a language which reminds one of Radio Moscow's commentaries on the situation. And as for the military threat posed by the Russians? The Green Party platform reads: "One has to respond to Soviet military might by posing the greatest political challenge to them which can be imagined—full withdrawal of all U.S. troops stationed in West Germany."

On Friday, Nov. 16, a delegation of Green leaders met with high-ranking officials of the East German Socialist Unity Party, including the party's expert on West German affairs, Herbert Haebler. Then, on Tuesday, Nov. 20, a delegation of ranking members of the Supreme Soviet and advisors to the Soviet Central Committee arrived in Bonn to meet with the Green leadership for three days. The Soviet delegation was led by the president of the Supreme Soviet himself, Lev Tolkunov, a prominent figure in the KGB apparatus around the late Yuri Andropov. Tolkunov was chief editor of

Izvestia until February 1984.

On Nov. 20, a delegation of leading Greens left for a visit to Bulgaria, to meet ranking officials there.

Also on Nov. 20, the Greens in the German state of Hesse pulled out of their legislative coalition with the Social Democratic minority government of Holger Börner, whom they attacked as a “traitor” and “figure of the traditional party system.” The Green move was followed by an order from the national Green leadership to all party sections to abstain for the time being from any political collaboration with the Social Democrats.

At an earlier time, such a move would have been seen as risky. A setback to Willy Brandt’s effort to build a political alliance between Social Democrats and Greens must tend to revive the latent protest potential of the SPD’s labor wing, which hates the Greens.

Indeed, the Green action in Hesse has tended to reawaken the labor base of the party. The national chairman of the Construction Workers Union, Konrad Carl, took to the pages of the country’s largest daily, *Bildzeitung* (4.5 million circulation), on Nov. 27 to blast the new brownshirts called Greens: “The Greens are an incalculable movement, unable to make compromises and practical politics. That is why any collaboration with the Greens must turn into an incalculable risk—and the Greens will exert additional pressure by permanent blackmail and threat of withdrawal at any time convenient for them. Such a policy can neither be tolerated by our country, nor by the workers most of all.”

Political power in Green hands, he added, “would put additional hundreds of thousands of jobs in danger. The Greens want to end all economic growth because of its alleged damage to nature. By ending growth, however, they reject one of the most essential means to fight unemployment. In addition to that: Reduced economic growth means income losses and painful cuts in social welfare payments to workers. Such a policy cannot be supported by the labor unions.”

With Carl’s hard-hitting statements, something had happened which Willy Brandt’s “ecologists” inside the SPD and the Greens had worked very hard to prevent from happening over the past few years.

Did not the Greens anticipate this result of their decision to quit the alliance in Hesse, which was the laboratory in which a Red-Green coalition was to be nurtured, then marketed in the industrial Ruhr region, and then, on to national power?

‘The question of armed struggle’

Clearly, the Greens, under the close advise of visiting Soviet delegates, had prediscouted the consequences of their action. The Greens have shifted overall political strategy, a decision marked by their high-level meetings with the Soviets and other East bloc officials.

Only four days after the Soviet delegation left Bonn, the Green leadership convened (Nov. 26) to discuss “international

solidarity,” “revival of extra-parliamentary activities,” and “the question of armed struggle.”

The Greens decided to give sizeable sums of money to the Nicaraguans “to support their struggle against the United States,” and, although their spokesmen emphasized at a Bonn press conference that the money would “not be used to buy weapons, but medical and other humanitarian aid only,” they also emphasized that they “would not interfere in any decision to be taken by liberation movements on whether they resort to armed struggle. . . .”

Only a few days earlier, one of the Green deputies in the West German parliament, Joschka Fischer, had risen during debate to announce that if he should find himself “in a situation like in Nicaragua,” he “would take weapons no matter from whom they came.”

At their Bonn press conference, too, Green spokesmen admitted that they had discussed “cases where the differentiation between armed and non-armed struggle is not that easy to make,” using as convenient examples the Warsaw Ghetto uprising of 1944, or the situation of military dictatorship Poland’s Solidarnosc found itself in during 1981, or the Irish Republican Army insurrection against the British, or “the struggle of the Nicaraguans against the threat of U.S. military invasion.”

Not only in Bonn, but across the country, Green Party sections discussed the question of “political violence,” or more humbly, “new forms of protest.” Police reported a revival of violent actions at nuclear-construction sites, and around military and other defense-related facilities. The “scene,” as it is called, was becoming active again, so much so that church-related peacenik groups left the national coordinating committee for anti-defense actions in protest over “increasing radicalization of the movement.” This, too, is reminiscent of Lutheran circles, who had absolutely supported the growth of the Nazi movement, suddenly distancing themselves from Hitler—too late, of course.

The movement will go into a new terrorist and stormtrooper phase. West Germany will see street battles with police, blockades of nuclear and military sites, and terrorist tactics, scheduled to begin around Dec. 6—the fifth anniversary of the famous NATO “double-track” decision to station U.S. nuclear missiles in Europe as a counterweight to the proliferation of Soviet SS-20s.

The Green Party itself will hold its national convention in Hamburg on Dec. 7-9, which can be expected to codify the new “confrontation strategy” in a radical new policy platform, in whose principles they have undoubtedly already been instructed by the recently visiting Soviet delegations. Indeed, as one Green commented on the talks with the Soviets in Bonn on Nov. 20-22: “It was remarkable to see that the Soviets have an immense interest in seeing the protest against the American missiles being revived. We think they give more weight to the protest movement here now than ever before.”