

## Report from Bonn by Rainer Apel

### Politician gives Moscow a hard time

*Why is Soviet propaganda heaping such venom on parliamentarian Jürgen Todenhöfer?*

Immediately after the Geneva superpower summit, General Secretary Gorbachov's propaganda coordinators relaunched a campaign against alleged "West German revanchism," on a scale not seen since 1984 and early 1985. This time, the press attacks are not against generalized "revanchist tendencies," but are targeted against specific politicians, notably Christian Democratic parliamentarian Jürgen Todenhöfer.

In one recent example, *Krasnaya Zvezda*, the newspaper of the Soviet Armed Forces, denounced Todenhöfer as the spiritual heir of Hitler, Goebbels, and John Foster Dulles!

What has Todenhöfer done to merit such an extraordinary outpouring of rhetoric? Quite a bit: He is one of the key obstacles in the Federal Republic to Soviet plans to "decouple" Western Europe from the United States and to install a government of the Social Democrats and the Greens that would "demilitarize" the country. A vigorous supporter of the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), Todenhöfer is also an outspoken opponent of the Green Party and a critic of the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan.

Todenhöfer, who is chairman of the Disarmament Committee of the Bundestag (parliament), is a staunch advocate of the idea that Bonn should sign a government agreement on SDI cooperation with Washington—an agreement which has so far been successfully opposed by the Bonn foreign ministry. Todenhöfer contributed a policy paper to this effect to the June

15-16, 1985 Krafft A. Ehrlicke Memorial Conference of the Schiller Institute in Reston, Virginia, titled "SDI—With the Europeans."

In a recent interview with *Die Welt* newspaper, published on Jan. 9, Todenhöfer warned, "If the primary issue of the negotiations is economic questions, and the security interests of the Federal Republic are not taken up, then that turns the priorities of German interests on their head, and I do not think that is acceptable."

The second reason for the Russians' wrath is that Todenhöfer has insistently pointed the finger at the Red Army's cruelties against the population of Afghanistan. In a statement on Dec. 27, 1985, for example, he called the Soviet conduct "cynical and merciless," saying that the world must no longer tolerate such "genocide." But "the sad truth," he added, is that "many Western political figures have responded mildly to the Afghan tragedy, only so as not to endanger their good contacts to the Soviet Union."

Todenhöfer has visited Afghanistan several times, and stayed with the resistance fighters to get a first-hand impression of the genocidal policies of the Soviets in that country. About one year ago, the Kremlin's official spokesman Leonid Zamyatin threatened, "We'll kill that guy Todenhoefer the next time he shows up again in Afghanistan." Zamyatin's threat coincided with news that, when Todenhöfer stayed in Afghanistan over the Christmas 1984 period, he barely escaped a Soviet ambush.

The Afghanistan issue drew the particular fire of *Krasnaya Zvezda* (Red Star) in several recent issues dedicated to attacks against Todenhöfer. Major-General Korsun charged, in an article dated Jan. 10, "Some evil-minded anti-Soviets close to the Bundestag deputy Todenhöfer, Bundeswehr Major Kotny, and some others, as well as West German journalists, repeatedly and illegally penetrated Afghanistan" to gather intelligence on the "brutality" of the Soviet forces against the Afghan population. "The jesuitical calculation here is that somebody might believe such a colossal lie. . . .

"Not only Hitler and Goebbels are their spiritual forerunners. . . But also the former Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, one of the organizers and backers of the Cold War."

Radio Moscow had previously charged Todenhöfer with the backing of "broader reactionary circles in Bonn," conspiring with "armed bandits" (meaning the Afghan resistance fighters) for the "overthrow of the legal government of Afghanistan" (meaning Moscow's puppet Babrak Karmal).

It was Todenhöfer's opposition to the Soviet-backed Greens which drew the particular fire of *Pravda*, the Soviet Communist Party newspaper. In a Jan. 7 commentary, it called him "one of the extremists of the CDU/CSU right-wing bloc." What incensed *Pravda* was that Todenhöfer had requested dossiers from the Bonn interior ministry on the links of the Greens to terrorism.

Evidently it was not in the Kremlin's interest to have a debate on the Greens surface in Germany, just days after the terrorist attacks on the airports of Vienna and Rome—perpetrated by terrorists backed by Qaddafi, who also boasts of financing the Green Party.