

Is Lane Kirkland an East German agent?

by Don Baier

A whole carload of Soviet moles has just been exposed in Washington, D.C. AFL-CIO president Lane Kirkland, former United Nations ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick, Carl Gershman of the National Endowment for Democracy ("Project Democracy"), Assistant Secretary of State Elliott Abrams, Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Midge Decter of the Committee for the Free World, Leo Cherne of the Research Institute of America, and assorted others gathering under the banner of "staunch anti-communist, right-wing social democrats," had better look to their security clearances. Their fellow travelers in the West German branch of the Socialist International, the leadership of the Social Democratic Party (SPD), have, in broad daylight without a stitch of cover, just crawled into bed with the communist party of East Germany, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Soviet regime.

Not in some sneaky, backroom affair, either; this is an official marriage. The SPD, West Germany's second largest party after the Christian Democrats, has just agreed on "ideological principles" with the East German regime's Socialist Unity Party (SED), in a new paper titled "Pan-German Socialism." The SPD's Erhard Eppler and the SED's Otto Reinhold proclaimed this, at simultaneous press conferences in Bonn and East Berlin Aug. 27, as the "first document since 1919 which has been jointly signed by Communists and Social Democrats," and an "historic document in the history of German parties."

It is no longer a question of "one system destroying the other," according to this new vision. "Cold war images of the enemy on both sides" must be eliminated.

Quite a bit of history had to be rewritten to permit this marriage to take place. The post-World War II purge of Social Democrats carried out in the Russian-occupied zone of Germany had to be forgotten; the torture and jailing of Social Democratic opponents in East German prisons ignored. The Communists' attacks on "SPD Social Fascism" in the 1920s and 1930s, when Moscow was happy to feed the Social Democrats to Hitler's Nazis, and anticipated a communist takeover from both "after Hitler has discredited himself"; later, Stalin's partnership with Hitler, and the Hitler-Stalin pact of 1939—all this, the SPD now describes as "tragic aberrations in the changeable history of German Socialism."

How was it possible that the major party of working people in the country which is the most important single military ally of the United States in Europe, should discover

it possessed "common principles" with Moscow's puppets? This is where our American friends of the Socialist International come in.

In August 1983, the late Soviet President Yuri Andropov proposed, in the pages of the West German newsmagazine *Der Spiegel*, a deal whereby the United States would be permitted what the "Project Democracy" crowd calls a "victory over communism" in Central America, in exchange for acknowledging greatly broadened Soviet spheres of influence in Western Europe and the Middle East. Ever since, "right-wing social democrats" such as Jeane Kirkpatrick and Lane Kirkland, have been energetically arguing that, since "there is a reduced threat to Europe" and "Europe should do more to defend itself," a "decoupling" of the U.S. military and political alliance with Europe, West Germany in particular, is in order.

This suggests why Kirkpatrick's ally Carl Gershman, the former executive director of Social Democrats USA, has become the executive director for the National Endowment for Democracy, the above-ground arm of the "Project Democracy" named by Lt. Col. Oliver North as his operating base for the Iran-Contra arms deals. It indicates what the AFL-CIO's Lane Kirkland has been up to, through supporting such agencies as the Friedrich Ebert Foundation "think tank" for the West German SPD. And the position of "right-wing social democrats" in the Reagan administration, explains, in part, how a supposedly "conservative" government could appoint an advocate of the decoupling strategy, Richard Burt, as its ambassador to Bonn.

The SPD-SED pact of Aug. 27, 1987, was three years in the making. In January 1984, the Social Democrat Horst Ehmke wrote a manifesto on the "decoupling" of the Federal Republic of Germany from the United States, with the title, "Germany's Self-Assertion." In February, Ehmke visited East Germany and brought up the idea of official contacts between the People's Assembly there and the German Parliament in Bonn. From then on, the SPD's Commission on Basic Values, and the Academy of Social Sciences of the Central Committee of the SED, met at regular intervals. This arrangement was blessed by the U.S. State Department.

During this same year, 1984, Helga Zepp-LaRouche and her collaborators created the Schiller Institute, because they recognized that there no longer existed an institution ready to fight at all costs to maintain the Western alliance, and that without such an institution, a Soviet takeover in Western Europe would become inevitable. The Project Democracy crowd vociferously condemned Zepp-LaRouche and her husband, Lyndon LaRouche. The top-secret National Security Agency, it has now been learned, opened an investigation of the Schiller Institute under Executive Order 12333. Among other nasty names, the Project Democracy gang called the LaRouches "East German agents." Since Project Democracy's political collaborators in West Germany have just proclaimed their "common principles" with East German party boss Erich Honecker, they have some explaining to do.