

## Report from Bonn by Rainer Apel

### Old boys, new parties . . . New Yalta

*The Republikaner party's election upset in West Berlin was a joint project of the decouplers from East and West.*

**T**he biggest shock of the West Berlin municipal elections on Jan. 29 was that the national bolshevist Republikaner party (REP) scored 7.5% of the vote, qualifying it for representation in the city government. The party gained, as did the Greens and the Social Democrats, while the Christian Democratic Union lost ground.

The REP, founded in 1983 as a neutralist party with right-wing ideas by the former left-wing journalist Franz Schoenhuber, scored an initial success three years later with 3% of the vote in the Bavarian state elections, but stayed below the 1% level in all following elections. The Jan. 29 elections in Berlin suddenly put the REP in position to shake the system of established political parties.

There is little mystery behind this resurrection of the REP. It was a planned affair, proceeding under the special conditions of the city of Berlin, whose essential functions which are run by the three Western allies and the Soviets.

Given the city's Four-Power status since 1945, everything that happens in the former German capital bears an experimental character in the framework of allied policy changes for the rest of Germany.

Look at how the U.S. State Department and the Soviet Foreign Ministry reacted to the REP victory. An unnamed senior official at the State Department is quoted in the press here: "For us Americans, the development in Berlin is unsettling because the power shift it indicates for all of the Federal Republic brings an element of

uncertainty into our long-term defense planning."

The official said the election signaled a loss of power for the Christian Democrats of Chancellor Helmut Kohl, and an increased influence of the anti-defense Social Democrats. In other words, the REP votes provide a pretext for heating up the debate on U.S. troop withdrawals from Germany.

Also the response of *Izvestia*, the media mouthpiece of the Soviet government, was revealing. The Jan. 30 issue of *Izvestia* wrote that the REP had gained votes because "social problems" had "radicalized voters." And although the REP's program contains a lot of what Moscow views as the arsenal of "West German revanchists," *Izvestia* simply reported that party chairman Schoenhuber is campaigning for a "neutralized, reunified Germany with Berlin as its capital."

Is there, perhaps, some special Soviet interest in this party's rise?

The Republikaners' program is a mix of left-corporatist, ecologist, and national bolshevist ideas. Schoenhuber started out as a journalist working with a Soviet publication back in the early 1950s. In his 1982 book, *I Was There*, Schoenhuber wrote, "In 1953, I visited the World Youth Festival in Bucharest as a freelancer for the left-wing publication *Deutsche Woche*." With a certain pride, he added, "I certainly was among the first German journalists to ever visit the East bloc."

*Deutsche Woche*, established as an anti-Western propaganda weekly in 1951, was funded by the German

Communist Party with 5 million deutschemarks, according to the testimony of its editor-in-chief, Carl August Weber, who was put on trial in 1962 and sentenced for traitorous activities in June 1963.

Remarks made by Schoenhuber at a packed press conference in Munich Feb. 1 prove that he has not changed his views since the 1950s. Answering a question from *EIR*, Schoenhuber elaborated on the theme of German reunification. He said that once West Germany followed the 1966 example of France to withdraw from the military integration of NATO, the way would be free toward a "Germany having the status of armed neutrality." This implies the withdrawal of all foreign troops from the territory of the two current German states. It would be acceptable to the Soviet Union, and German politicians should bring this idea up with the leaders in Moscow on the diplomatic level, he said.

Schoenhuber hinted that he has discussed this with representatives of the United States, France, and the United Kingdom.

Indeed, Schoenhuber seems to have friends in the West. Former REP section chairman in Berlin, Klaus Weinschenk, boasted that good contacts in 1987 to U.S. Mission Chief John C. Kornblum put him on a list of select guests at the official luncheon for President Reagan, who visited the city that year.

There are also indications that Carl "Spitz" Channell, a key operative in the U.S. State Department's "Project Democracy" (a project to destabilize governments abroad), was involved in setting up the REP in Berlin. The REP, a joint intelligence service venture of East and West? The sudden rise of the party seems to fit perfectly within the strategic framework of the New Yalta policy.