



# NEW SOLIDARITY International Press Service

P O. Box 1972, G.P.O.  
New York, New York 10001  
Editorial (212)279-5950  
Customer Service (212)564-8529

NEWS BULLETIN NO. 50

## EUROPEAN LABOR PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DENOUNCES LEBER WUNDERWAFFEN STATEMENT

WIESBADEN, W. Germany, April 12 (IPS)--European Labor Party President Helga Ljustina, speaking for the European Labor Party's Executive Committee, today denounced the proposed "miracle weapon" policy of Federal Republic Defense Minister Georg Leber as madness. "In this matter," she stated, "I echo the denunciations which U.S. President Ford made yesterday against Presidential candidates Ronald Reagan and Henry Jackson."

"If Minister Leber shares the kind of thinking expressed by Adelbert Weinstein on the first page of today's Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung," she said, "then we are in danger of the total destruction of our nation, should such policies be followed through to their logical conclusion." Weinstein, long-time military writer for the Allgemeine, today called upon the West German government to drastically increase production of "high-technology" military hardware.

"As President Ford challenged Reagan and Jackson," Ljustina continued, "I must ask Leber whether he has any conception of what thermonuclear war involves, or how dangerously near to such war we are at this time. If he has been competently advised by qualified professional soldiers -- and not some RAND Corporation computerized fantasy or something of that sort -- then those sources would instruct him as they have made clear to us, that the kind of military toys Leber has discussed would have very little significance for the overall strategic situation."

"There are two sets of facts every citizen should know about thermonuclear war," she stressed. "The first set of facts, which every available published U.S. and Warsaw Pact forces statement supports is that the Warsaw Pact forces have only one basic strategy for general war, which has nothing to do with the nonsense recently published by former Starfighter Commander General Steinhoff or Weinstein. The second set of facts also stated in authoritative available U.S. and Warsaw Pact sources, involves the conditions under which war would break out."

She stated that the Warsaw Pact forces have only one known capability for fighting a general thermonuclear war. German Democratic Republic General Hoffmann's statements to his troops coincide exactly with Warsaw Pact policy as analyzed by the most authoritative U.S. sources. The next war is intended to be a preemptive "justifiable war" which the Warsaw Pact forces would intend to win. It would begin with a combined first and second

(more)

thermonuclear strike against the U.S. and thermonuclear and nuclear preemptive strikes against all NATO military concentrations. Simultaneously, there would begin the most fantastic naval warfare imaginable, as all sides attempt to quickly destroy the opposing submarine and surface "second strike" forces. Behind this attack would come a full invasion of Western Europe, at least up to the borders of France, involving full use of combined nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, she added.

The Soviet response to a hardened defense in the Federal Republic (BRD), she added, would be to escalate the quality of preparatory barrages by various nuclear and other weapons against a deployment which might include some of Leber's proposed "miracle weapons." The only practical effect of such "miracle weapons" is to drastically lower the nuclear threshold for the BRD itself.

"The second set of facts which ought to be fully known to every citizen," she continued, "are the conditions under which the Warsaw Pact forces launch a preemptive war.

"Unless the war were to begin through a preemptive attack by combined U.S. and NATO forces, it would begin as I have indicated by way of a preemptive war launched by the Warsaw Pact. The Warsaw Pact would attack only under those conditions in which Soviet and other officials believed that the U.S. and NATO forces were politically committed to a policy of thermonuclear confrontation, so that the act of making the first strike would represent an effort to gain a slight margin of advantage in determining the final outcome. No leading Western source, including former U.S. Defense Secretary James Schlesinger, have denied that this is Warsaw Pact policy."

"That," she stated, "is my informed estimation of the reasons for President Ford's public denunciation of Reagan and Jackson."

"We in the BRD either went through the last campaign around 'miracle weapons,' especially during the 1944-45 period, or we are the children of parents who suffered through that period. As such parents and their children, we experienced the life of the black market, stealing and so forth to which many of us were degraded in order to obtain enough food and fuel to get through each next day. We lived through the 'winter of turnips,' a period so horrible that most of us have learned to block out our memories of that awful time. When we hear again talk of 'miracle weapons,' our memories of that period come back to us in all the horror and agony we experienced and have tried to forget. This time we know it would be much worse, our nation would be reduced to a radioactive field of rubble, poisoned with chemical and biological weapons, with only rats and insects running among our unburied bodies."

"However," she added, "although the danger of war is now far greater than during any other period since 1945, the war is not inevitable. It will be inevitable only if we are foolish enough to permit the U.S. and Western Europe to become militarized regimes under the kind of Schachtian austerity now being demanded by

(more)

key New York bankers and their friends. War would occur only if some fool with too much power were able to make a thermonuclear confrontation, or if the advanced capitalist sector were transformed into a system of militarized austerity regimes.

"That is why the kind of policy demanded by Weinstein in today's Frankfurter Allgemeine is so horribly dangerous."

End of News Bulletin No. 50