Report from Bonn by Rainer Apel

CFR makes propaganda for Greens

The Eastern Establishment is promoting the leaders of a party that attacked a U.S. general.

Every politician with some basic feeling of dignity should have thought that the incident in Wiesbaden on Aug. 3, when a Green Party deputy poured blood on Gen. Paul Williams during an official reception for the U.S. Armed Forces, was outrageous enough to forbid any further official courting of the Greens. There was some kind of sentiment even among liberal supporters of the Green Party that with this "direct action," the Greens had crossed the limits of the tolerable, and there was a lot of public criticism of this action, with some even calling for the expulsion of the Green deputy from his own party.

These moral standards are obviously considered irrelevant by members of the prestigious East Coast establishment club, the New York Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), or by officials of the U.S. State Department, including the U.S. ambassador to Bonn, Arthur Burns, While many think that it is about time to move politically and legally against the Green Party because of its open support for the activists of the coming "hot autumn" mobilization against the emplacement of the Euromissiles, the CFR feels compelled to give the most prominent treatment to Green Party leaders Petra Kelly and ex-Gen. Gert Bastian. The two Greens, who are traveling together a lot (there is a saying among journalists that he is her "wife"), will address a highly exclusive audience of CFR members only at the council's building on 58 East 68th Street in New York on Sept. 19.

The arrangements made for this unprecedented gathering at the CFR go far beyond the usual preparations made for these kinds of "off-the-record" events: Even guests, whom the CFR members are usually allowed to bring with them to such events, will be excluded.

The CFR seems the right place for the Greens to go, because the council's mouthpiece, Foreign Affairs magazine, is more than sympathetic to the anti-American views of the Green Party and the affiliated "peace movement." James Chace, the managing director of the magazine, stated in a recent interview that he and his staff believe the "movement" will not disappear after the first missiles are stationed in West Germany, but that it as well as the Green Party "will remain a political power factor for some years to come, and they might even extend their political influence."

In an effort to underline this thesis, the magazine will have Robert Mc-Namara, the "butcher of Vietnam" and recent convert to the U.S. peace movement, write an essay investigating the viability of so-called nuclear-free zones in Europe, which happens to be one of the most prominent demands put forward by the Green Party.

Two days after this distinguished gathering at the CFR, Miss Kelly and her general will be meeting officials at the State Department, and rumors have it that some people at the Pentagon might also be willing to discuss "alternative defense strategies" with them.

The question remains what it is

that the State Department or Pentagon wants to discuss with the Greens, because even those who met Green representatives during their last stay in Washington in July doubt the usefulness of such meetings. One of these officials told a Washington journalist in mid-August that "none of them [the Greens] seemed to have understood the least thing about all the matters we discussed here."

Again, it will be the U.S. ambassador to Bonn, Arthur Burns, whose office will arrange the Greens' trip to Washington.

With the State Department thus setting the precedent, the National War College in Washington seems to feel "in line," too, by inviting Miss Kelly and Bastian for another "off-the-record" debate with military people at the U.S. Army College on Sept. 21.

Political irony might have it that at the same time Petra Kelly will address U.S. officers at the War College in what is considered a "peaceful dialogue among adversaries," her own political combatants in the Green Party and in the "movement" will turn West Germany into a political hotspot of the first degree.

It should be mentioned that Miss Kelly seems to model her own radicalism after the activities of the Berrigan brothers, who have built their own violence-prone organization called the "Ploughshare Movement." This organization, many members of which have been listed on the police records or have been jailed in the past years, has developed a special mode of action which reaches from destroying technical instruments to pouring blood on facilities, symbols, and personnel.

On Sept. 24, Petra Kelly is scheduled to receive a peace award from the "Women's Strike for Peace" in Philadelphia. But compared to the official receptions, this is a routine affair.