

ney, had met Violet and other principals of the affair. Also involved was one Daniel Boyer, who bought the main company controlling the sniffer planes from the UBS-linked Swiss shareholders and became its chairman. Boyer is the European chairman of the American Democrats abroad, and is said to be a confederate of Walter Mondale.

Guillaumat's successor at Elf, Albin Chalandon, continued the deal. Chalandon is treasurer of the Gaullist Rassemblement Pour la République (RPR) party but a creature of the Mossad-connected aircraft manufacturer Marcel Dassault.

The sniffer planes were basically assembled by a mechanic and a TV repairman. They were two old planes equipped with a Rube Goldberg contraption of screens and devices which supposedly projected images of objects deep underground by measurement of their "vibrations." In reality the TV sets were pre-programmed to project exactly those images, and no others!

After two unsuccessful and highly expensive oil-drilling experiments, Energy Minister André Giraud finally ordered a test of the planes. A scientist proceeded to ascertain whether the instruments could identify a crowbar through a cement wall, as claimed. The honest fellow showed everyone the straight crowbar to be identified by the machine; then, without telling anyone, he bent it. Lo and behold the machine showed a straight crowbar!

When the fraud was acknowledged and the "inventors" disappeared, Giraud reportedly sought a public inquiry, but was opposed by Chalandon, the Nestlé company, and the Giscard government, which preferred to keep the affair secret. Thus it remained until Socialist Budget Minister Henri Emmanuelli opened a parliamentary inquiry on Dec. 21, 1983 into the fact that tax and other records of the fraudulent affair were destroyed, seemingly under government orders. Then an archived report established by a magistrate, François Gicquel, for the State Accounting Court on ERAP's financial operations was illegally hidden and destroyed in 1982 by the Court President Bernard Beck. Beck justified this destruction by saying that the report had been prepared (in January 1981) for the exclusive use of then-Prime Minister Raymond Barre.

Then a big Socialist campaign began denouncing the support and cover given by the highest authorities of the Giscard presidency. New revelations appeared every day: how Barre covered up the affair, how Barre said he did what he did under orders from Giscard, ad nauseam.

Although the sniffer plane scandal was originally aimed against them, Giscard and Barre are now attempting to turn it against the government. Giscard went on television Jan. 11 to denounce Mitterrand as no longer fit to be president. "This government has come to power through lying and is maintaining itself through lying," he said. "We will not permit this." As for Barre, who was recently in the United States meeting New York bankers as well as Federal Reserve chairman Paul Volcker, his Swiss connections should be investigated if the truth is to be told. He belongs to the Geneva-based Association for the Study of Insurance Economy.

The Kiessling affair boosts Carrington

by Michael Weissbach

After a flood of speculation over every detail of the so-called "Kiessling Affair," only recently have commentaries attempted to situate the case within the current global strategic crisis.

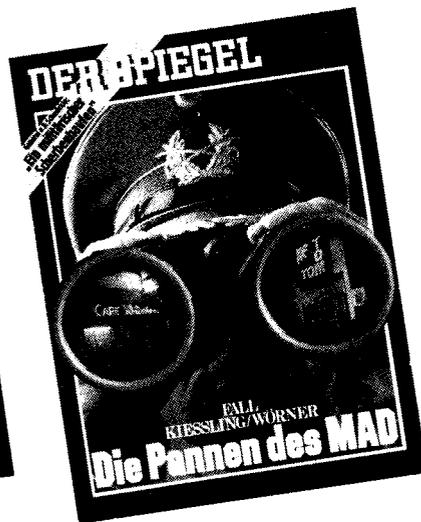
Günter Kiessling, a four-star general, was dismissed from his post as deputy supreme commander of NATO on Dec. 13 on charges presented by the Militärischen Abschirmdienst (MAD) to Defense Minister Manfred Wörner. Kiessling was the only German in the NATO supreme command, and represented a point of view often in conflict with that of Supreme NATO Commander Gen. Bernard Rogers.

The evidence brought against him has been challenged by Kiessling, who vehemently claims innocence of all charges and opened public legal proceedings on Jan. 16. The major evidence against Kiessling does appear to be fraudulent. Testimony that Kiessling frequented homosexual bars and other such locales has been undercut by the production of a "double" of Kiessling whom witnesses identified, and the letter of a doctor stating that Kiessling is homosexual has been denied by the doctor himself. Defense Minister Wörner has, however, stuck by the charges, and claims a "conspiracy" is involved in undercutting the evidence.

The French newspaper *Quotidien de Paris* reports that NATO sources are investigating the hypothesis that "the Soviet Union wants to topple the Kohl government," that "Soviet intelligence services launched the scandal," having "subverted our services." The West German press cited a colleague of Defense Minister Wörner who spoke of "treacherous double dealing by East bloc agents" and "false leads." In this context there are interesting hints about *profis* (professionals) in the notorious Cologne homosexual scene with Eastern Europe backgrounds.

At a time when the Soviets are conducting a total mobilization of their military command structure and their industry, the Kiessling affair has already produced dangerous results: far-reaching demoralization and disorientation of the Bundeswehr officer corps; further political destabilization of the Federal Republic; increased tension within the Western Alliance; and a crisis within NATO's military branch to the advantage of the civilian branch to be headed by Lord Peter Carrington this spring.

In this context, pornographic preoccupations with the



Since the Kiessling affair broke, the West German media has focussed obsessively on the scandal—Watergate-style. Above are the two most recent covers of Der Spiegel, the German equivalent of Time magazine.

alleged homosexuality of Kiessling are irrelevant. The fact is that General Kiessling has become the victim of a strategic intrigue. This was undoubtedly clear to Kiessling himself when he said: "A private person simply is not in a position to construct what is happening now. And this is not simply against me—it is against the entire Bundeswehr."

By no means has Kiessling arbitrarily become the target of this operation. He belongs to a circle within the Bundeswehr that can be described as "traditionalist," which has pursued a military policy oriented to strategic realities, and has opposed appeasement tendencies. That explains the Soviets' frontal propaganda attack against the group as "Prusso-Hitlerian."

Two sensitive points are involved in the Kiessling affair: 1) corrupt elements within the NATO leadership which have grouped themselves around "chief appeaser" Lord Carrington, the incoming secretary-general of NATO; and 2) serious incompetence of MAD, the military intelligence branch of the Bundeswehr.

The problems within the NATO leadership are much more serious than the "climate" problems identified by *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* military specialist Adalbert Weinstein, the last correspondent one could suspect of anti-NATO sentiments, who recently described NATO as an Anglo-Saxon club; the NATO commanders at SHAPE are not a general staff in the traditional sense, and could hardly be called an instrument for leadership. Weinstein describes the mood in Brussels: "Anyone who doesn't participate in the numerous parties, social events, and encounters where the ladies play a particularly important role finds himself cut out of 50 percent of the official work." Kiessling and his predecessor Adm. Günter Luther had both refused to be "cocktail generals."

Apart from the personal feud between NATO Supreme Commander Bernard Rogers and General Kiessling, General Kiessling was excluded from NATO's command process. The first denunciation of Kiessling as a homosexual was made in Brussels in July 1983.

As American sources have reported, the circle of Lord

Carrington, Henry Kissinger, U.S. Ambassador to Bonn Arthur Burns, and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher considered Kiessling an obstacle to their plan for a "new Yalta" agreement with the Soviets which would, among other things, effectively move West Germany out of NATO and into the Soviet sphere. The same Carrington group opposes the commitment of President Reagan and U.S. Defense Secretary Weinberger for the rapid development of defensive beam-weapons systems. The real cause of the Kiessling Affair is to be found here.

The problem of certain cliques within the MAD and the rest of the Federal Republic's defense establishment has now openly emerged. As with the other intelligence services, the MAD suffered from the campaign by Social Democratic leader Horst Ehmke to "disarm" the services starting in the early 1970s. A left Social Democratic wing has maintained itself within the MAD, and become the touchpoint for KGB and East German Stasi (secret service) operations. A decisive resolution of this problem is long overdue.

This need has nothing to do with the way North Rhine Westphalian state Interior Minister Schnoor is approaching the issue. Schnoor, who immediately came out full blast against the MAD, sees an opportunity to weaken the internal security apparatus of West Germany, much along the lines of former federal Interior Minister Gerhard Baum, a member of the Free Democratic Party:
ious security agencies must be put under intense scrutiny.

There is a further aspect of the Kiessling affair without which it could not have developed as it did: The behavior of Defense Minister Wörner, who has shown the kind of character weakness that in military and security matters leads to tragic consequences. In order to keep himself out of the target zone, Wörner let his friend Kiessling get the axe.

Now, the debate on who should replace Wörner cannot redeem the situation. Only decisive measures against Socialist International chairman Willy Brandt's clique within the defense structure, and above all the creation at NATO of a general staff worthy of the name, will do that.