

Report from Bonn by Rainer Apel

The Genscher-Qaddafi connection

Last month, Der Spiegel hinted that the foreign minister was an East bloc asset; now he may be shielding Libya from sanctions.

President Reagan's announcement on Jan. 7, that his administration would answer Libyan dictator Muammar Qaddafi's support for international terrorism with economic sanctions, was officially rejected by the government here a day later.

But one day after that, in a TV interview Jan. 9, Qaddafi replied to a question on how he will counter the U.S. economic sanctions, by stating that he will expand support and funding for the pro-Soviet Green Party in West Germany, as a way of driving the United States out of West Germany. He also aims at bringing the Soviets into control in the Mediterranean.

Immediately, the European Labor Party (EAP), led by Helga Zepp-LaRouche, went on a full-scale mobilization against the Green Party. The EAP has exposed the Greens as a neo-Nazi, pro-terrorist group operating under the cover of "ecologism" and "pacifism." The leading edge of the EAP campaign is the demand that the Bonn government fully support the sanctions against Libya. On the basis of Qaddafi's remarks, any politician in West Germany who opposes the boycott against Libya, is exposed as a Soviet agent-of-influence.

The heat will be on Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the foreign minister, the main architect of West German-Libyan relations, and of Bonn's rejection of sanctions.

It has been only a few weeks since *Der Spiegel* magazine dropped the bombshell that "the rumor has made

the circuit of the Chancellor's office, that the vice-chancellor [Genscher] was working for an Eastern secret service." The weekly wrote in December that the Chancellor's office and the interior ministry knew of "certain hints" out of "American and British secret service sources," that "Genscher works for the East, possibly for the Stasi in East Berlin"—but they never told Genscher.

After the cabinet's Jan. 8 meeting, government spokesman Friedhelm Ost told the press that sanctions were rejected "on the basis of experience that this has never proven to be an effective measure." He continued: "The basic roots and causes of the problem of terrorism . . . lie in the absence of a peace settlement for the Mideast." The other reason given was that "the lives and the freedom of 1,500 Germans working in Libya" had to be considered. Qaddafi could easily hold them hostage in retaliation.

But the key to the official rejection of Reagan's appeal lies in the close economic relations the Federal Republic has developed to the dictator in Tripoli. In 1984 and 1985, Libya supplied 15% (!) of West Germany's total crude oil imports. Libya is also a purchaser of German machinery and industrial plant worth \$500 million per year. Construction of a huge industrial facility at Misurata is ongoing—a project estimated to be worth \$850 million.

The government's export risk insurance, the Hermes Facility, has granted guarantees for exports to Lib-

ya totaling \$4 billion.

This economic relationship was developed over the past decade, precisely the period in which Genscher has been foreign minister. For the same 10 years, the economics ministry has been occupied by Genscher's Free Democratic Party. The economics ministry decides which countries are put on the list of those "worthy of Hermes." There are "bad risk" countries like Peru, Brazil, and Nigeria; and "good risk" countries like Iran, Syria, and Libya—all of them Soviet proxies. The foreign ministry advises the economics ministry on who should be on which list.

Libyan terrorists have no problems traveling from the Mideast into Western Europe, via Switzerland and West Germany. Sources say that the air route from Geneva-Zurich to Frankfurt is being used by Libyan and other Arab terrorists with the toleration of the Bonn government—i.e., the foreign ministry. There are no tight security checks for diplomatic couriers on that route, although it is known that many couriers work for terrorism.

The same route was used by Khomeini's son-in-law, Sadegh Tabatabai, when he escaped a German trial for drug smuggling in spring 1984. The foreign ministry had arranged a special flight for him from Frankfurt to Zurich. Tabatabai fled as a court in Duesseldorf was to question the foreign ministry's official testimony, that a trial would interfere with a "special diplomatic mission" the Iranian was involved in. What mission?

The same modus operandi was repeated in various cases of Libyan terrorists, who were tried in Germany, but sent home to Libya instead of being jailed. In each case the foreign ministry argued that imprisonment would have provoked "retaliation of the Libyans against Germans working in Libya"—the same argument used to reject sanctions against Qaddafi.