

Demand German Reform In Schröder's China Trip

by EIR Staff

"Germany needs a Deng economic reform, too!" demands a mass BüSo party leaflet going out across Germany, as Chancellor Gerhard Schröder prepares for a December economic-cooperation trip to China, while hundreds of thousands of Germans have been demonstrating throughout November against layoffs and depression-cutbacks in every sphere of economic life. In the leaflet, BüSo chairman Helga Zepp-LaRouche calls for a reform in Germany like that which set off China's rapid industrial and infrastructure growth since the 1980s. It makes an ironic challenge to the German "Maoist cultural revolution" which has brought the country the green ecological cult of anti-science, anti-industry, and anti-progress beliefs; and an economic policy of free trade, globalization, and deadly austerity.

The leaflet mobilization is a drive for a dramatic shift in German and European economic policy around the opportunity of Schröder's China visit next month. At a Nov. 17 demonstration of 50,000 students and trade union members protesting education cuts and rising unemployment in the state of Hesse, BüSo activists and LaRouche Youth Movement organizers distributed 10,000 of the leaflets. Nearly 1,000 went to the Social Democratic Party's (SPD) national congress in Bochum in the Ruhr region on Nov. 10, where the party confronted the disastrous recent electoral consequences of the government's austerity-and-deregulation policy domestically, a stark contrast to its growing economic cooperation with China where the opposite policies of national economy are the trend. And the BüSo is also reaching German businessmen through meetings of *Mittelstand* entrepreneurs—small and medium-sized industrial firms—such as a gathering of 19 companies' representatives in the Ruhr on Nov. 15.

"One catastrophic report follows the other," warns the leaflet. "The official unemployment figure is approaching the 5 million mark; pensions are no longer safe, the healthcare system is disintegrating; social security plans are turned into waste paper; the cities are bankrupt; the universities are closing down entire faculties. No halfway intelligent person could think that the problems concerning him are individual problems. What the BüSo has warned of for a long time, is now becoming obvious. The collapse of the German economy is only one symptom of the systemic crisis of the global eco-



In one of Germans' nationwide demonstrations against depression, unemployment, and austerity in "the nation of poets and thinkers," students' banner quotes the poet Heinrich Heine: "Money is round and rolls away; but education remains."

nomic and financial system.

"The Schröder government reacts to the ever-new budget gaps with the worst means: cut, cut, cut to death. The SPD is brutally destroying the social state, which has been fought for for 130 years. The trade unions are being destroyed as well. . . . We must not cut, but rather completely reorganize the world financial and economic system.

"But, there is a way out! Schröder's trip to China in December can become the beginning of a fundamental change. Because the countries of Asia—China, India, Russia, South Korea, Japan, etc.—have already begun to realize the Eurasian Land-Bridge, which the BüSo has proposed for years. Already next year, five new rail lines from East Asia to Europe will be tested, which are then to be expanded to 'development corridors.' The German—and European—economy can only recover, if we return to exporting 40% of our domestic product. China, India, Southeast Asia, with a population of 3.4 billion people, are the fast-growing export markets, which we need, if we want to return to productive full employment. Schröder's trip to China will be a good opportunity to learn, how to correct economic mistakes. China's stunning economic upswing occurred thanks to Deng Xiaoping's rejection of the catastrophic economic policy of the Cultural Revolution!

"If we in Germany want to recover from the consequences of 'our cultural revolution'—i.e., the neo-liberal post-industrial paradigm of the past 35 years—we need as radical a change as was done by China under Deng! Schröder's trip provides an excellent chance, to introduce a 'Deng reform' in Germany as well, and demonstrate to the population that there is an optimistic alternative to cutting, to the [European Union's] Stability Pact, and to economic suicide."