

Germans Grapple With U.S. Political Shift

by Rainer Apel

Given the tight mind-control that Anglo-Dutch oligarchs maintain over the media, it did not come as a surprise that press coverage in Germany of the U.S. midterm elections was grossly distorted. The dominant line was that voiced by John Kornblum, former U.S. Ambassador to Germany, now chairman of Lazard bank's Germany operations, in an interview with German public radio on Nov. 8: The "only reasonable" approach for the Democrats, he said, was not to go for "revenge strategies" but to "cooperate with the President." In other words: no impeachment.

Reflecting the views of those in Germany who oppose Bush and Cheney (and there are quite a lot of them), were remarks by Andreas Zumach, a left-liberal author, at an event in Wiesbaden on Nov. 7, a few hours before the vote-counting in the United States was completed.

In response to a question from *EIR* about the red-hot danger of a U.S. war against Iran by the end of January, Zumach said that "indeed, these weeks between the election and the State of the Union Address are highly dangerous, because Bush and his people know that even if the Democrats conquer a majority in only one house of Congress, all the investigations will start again, and they will face impeachment. It makes a lot of sense, therefore, for Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld, and so on, to try a trick to get out of that. I hope it will not happen, but it could happen—the attack on Iran."

War Crimes Charged

Reflecting the same ferment, the German Republican Attorneys' Association (RAV) held an event in Berlin on Nov. 14, together with the U.S. Center for Constitutional Rights and the Paris-based International League of Human Rights. These organizations filed a complaint before the Supreme Court of Germany that same day, involving charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity against U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, Vice President Richard Cheney, General Attorney Alberto Gonzales, and 11 other leading political and military officials, in connection with torture at Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo Bay. Prof. Scott Horton of the New York City Bar Association addressed the meeting, and so did Col. Janis Karpinski, former commander of the Abu Ghraib prison at the rank of brigadier general, who was demoted by Rumsfeld for her public opposition to the torture. Karpinski also said in a Nov. 15 interview with the left-wing Berlin

daily *Junge Welt*, that when Gen. Geoffrey Miller, who had previously directed interrogations at Guantanamo, was flown to Baghdad to oversee the interrogation of prisoners at Abu Ghraib, this entire operation was done behind her back, and when she learned about it and protested, she was punished by the Pentagon.

In a discussion with this author on Nov. 15, a spokesman for the RAV said that for the time being, Cheney has not been chosen as the prime target of the war crimes complaint, but that in his personal view, Cheney was the main culprit, and should be impeached. Briefed on the LaRouche Youth Movement's Week of Action in Washington, D.C., Nov. 13-18, which put the focus on the impeachment issue, the RAV spokesman voiced appreciation for campaigns like this one, which would expose Cheney's crucial role.

And Willy Wimmer, a fierce opponent among German parliamentarians to the Bush-Cheney-Rumsfeld war strategy since 2001, on Nov. 10 called for the immediate pullout of German troops from Afghanistan, before they sink into deeper complicity with the U.S. practice of taking prisoners there, who are then abducted to prisons like Guantanamo.

Dangerous Illusions

Other elements among the German political establishment, however, were more cautious. Ruprecht Polenz, chairman of the foreign relations committee of the Bundestag (parliament), said in a Nov. 10 interview with German public radio, that pacification and stabilization of Iraq can only be achieved through direct talks between the United States, and Syria and Iran, that a new start for U.S. policy toward Iran is possible now, after the U.S. election.

German President Horst Köhler said in a Nov. 11, interview with the *Frankfurter Rundschau* daily: "The era of the coalition of the willing is over. What must come into being, now, is a coalition of the reasonable and of the common responsibility for global stability. This can, by the way, no longer be achieved without Russia and China. We have to get accustomed to new coordinates in world politics."

As in the United States, so in Germany, the catalytic role for a broad public debate about the necessity of a *double impeachment* is being played by the LaRouche Movement, in particular the LaRouche Youth. With their literature distributions at subway stations, public institutions, and government offices in Berlin, thousands of pamphlets, leaflets, and other material is focussing attention on the need for impeachment of Bush and Cheney. Pressure will be increased on political institutions not only to distance themselves from the Bush Administration, but also to establish direct contact to the LaRouche Democrats. The unprecedentedly high attendance at LaRouche's Berlin webcast on Oct. 31, indicates that an increasing number of Germans have begun to recognize the new political opportunities that are going to result from the U.S. midterm elections, and are looking to LaRouche as the man who knows what to do.