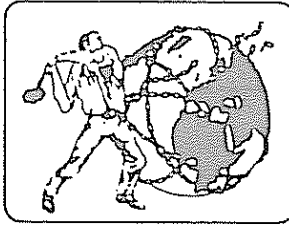


GEGEN DIE STROMUNG



Organ for the Building of the Marxist-Leninist Party of West Germany

April 1992 / In English November 1993

A Nazi Criminal And His Career: Nazi Officer - Official of the Revisionist SED (Socialist Unity Party of Germany) - Top-Level Social Democrat Politician

What the "Just Case" Shows Us

Gustav Just, a former high-ranking SED official and current Social Democrat politician, had to resign as President by seniority of and Representative in the State Parliament of Brandenburg (former GDR). It had leaked out that Just was a volunteer in the Nazi-Wehrmacht when German imperialism attacked the Soviet Union; Gustav Just participated in the murder of Jewish prisoners stately-organized by the Nazis in the USSR. The circumstances of his resignation says a great deal about the way Nazi War Crimes are dealt with by the press of West/German imperialism: they systematically play them down or hush them up altogether. But these circumstances also tell us about the way the SED suppressed and hushed up the memory of Nazi crimes in the Soviet Occupied Zone and the GDR.

SPD and CDU - Their "Indignation" About Untried Nazi Criminals Is Pure Hypocrisy

The "Just Case" demonstrates that Gustav Just's Nazi crimes are only used as "small change" in the party political squabbling between the SPD, CDU and all the other parties in Bonn.

Hushing up the Nazi past of people "from their own ranks" and "unmasking" Nazi criminals in other parties if party politics require it - that's the hypocritical morals of both CDU and SPD.

Thus it's only logical that neither party wants Just brought to court or given a just punishment. Both CDU and SPD, as well as the other parties of West/German imperialism, are fully in favor of the current "legal rulings" by the Federal Supreme Court. The Court stated that in all trials against Nazi criminals the "necessity to obey orders" be taken into account, i.e. if a Nazi committed his crimes "acting under orders", he is not considered a murderer but can only be accused of "acting as an accessory to murder". That meant then as now that some of the worst Nazi criminals are protected. It means that in West Germany nearly all of them escaped their just punishment - often because, according to West German "law",

"being an accessory to murder" came under the Statute of Limitations.

State Prosecutor Lehmann in Frankfurt/Oder, said in an interview about the "Just Case":

"Even if one implied that he acted out of racial hatred, his crimes come under the statute of limitations."
(TAZ, March 10, 1992)

So by pleading "expiration" a charge against Just in this matter could be prevented - this is a continuation of the policy of non-punishment and rehabilitation of Nazi criminals in West Germany.

The "Just Case" - a Ploy to Divert Attention From the Rehabilitated Nazi Criminals in West Germany

The "Just Case" was also a means to divert attention away from the long history of known Nazi criminals able to continue in West Germany their careers from Nazi times without any interruption.

It's intended to be kept quiet that there was a qualitative difference in the way Denazification was carried out in the first years after 1945 in the Soviet Occupied Zone/GDR on the one hand, and the Western occupied zones/FRG on the other.

Solidarity With the Just Struggle of the Kurdish people!

The supplying of tanks to the Turkish regime by the West/German imperialists for suppressing the liberation struggle of the Kurdish people is another proof that West/German imperialism sides with counter-revolution wherever revolutionary movements start to form!

Some West/German imperialist army officers and politicians were so clumsy that the secret tank delivery leaked out. However, the policy of supplying arms to the Turkish regime is not only supplemented by hypocritically "condemning" the bombardment - mainly in Turkey - of Kurdish territory in order to present the tank supplies as a "slip". This hypocrisy has several other motives: *First*, it serves to hush up the *direct* participation of West/German imperialism in the decade-long policy of oppressing the Kurdish people in Turkey. *Second*, the liberation struggle of the Kurds has - under the leadership of the PKK, whose theory and practice should be discussed by every revolutionary force - assumed such proportions in Turkey that West/German imperialism is forced to reckon with it as an important factor. Thus it wants to influence the Kurdish liberation struggle by flattering in accordance with its own interests and to use that struggle in the long term as an instrument in the intra-imperialist struggle, mainly against US imperialism.

The old story of the criminal who's outraged when another criminal calls him a crook repeated itself after the hypocritical protests of West/German imperialists - Genscher above all - against the murderous bombardments of Kurdish territory in Turkey: the Turkish murderers immediately answered, telling West/German imperialists to quit trying to be the upholder of moral standards, since in their own country they don't treat "their political prisoners" with kid gloves either. They said that everybody knew that Baader, Raspe, Meinhof and Ensslin, members of the RAF (Red Army Faction), were killed by state organs in West/German prisons! It's as Marx once said: When criminals bicker, the truth is revealed!

It's our task to tirelessly expose the reactionary and counter-revolutionary double tactics of West/German imperialism. Today they are pleased to present themselves as the "saviour" of the Kurdish people in order to deprive the Kurdish struggle of its revolutionary power and to use it for their own interests.

Strengthen Our Solidarity With the Kurdish Comrades!

Death to West/German Imperialism, Militarism and Revanchism!

The SED (Socialist Unity Party of Germany) and Denazification: Merits - Mistakes - Betrayals

Defend the Successes of Denazification in the Soviet Occupied Zone/GDR

During the first years of the SOZ and the GDR after 1945 the implementation of the Potsdam Treaty achieved - under Red Army control and with their crucial support - great success. This, and in particular these definite achievements in Denazification, must be defended against all West/German imperialist slander and lies:

More than 12 000 Nazis were convicted in court, 95% of them between 1945 and 1950; 118 war criminals were sentenced to death and executed. During Denazification in the SOZ/GDR 500 000 persons lost their positions and 70% of all teachers and the majority of the more than 2000 judges and public prosecutors were dismissed.

These were important achievements that could have served as a basis for further, more far-reaching Denazification in the GDR.

Expose the Mistakes in Denazification in the GDR

It soon became evident, however, that the SED didn't consistently follow up what they had begun in the first years and even made crucial mistakes in Denazification.

As early as October 1949, the SED executive committee recommended to state organs of the GDR:

"The SED executive committee proposes to the organs of the German state that they:

a) grant a general amnesty to former members of the NSDAP (German Nazi Party) with the exception of those serving sentences."

(Documents of the SED, Berlin 1962, Volume 2, pg. 370)

That opened a door to accept Nazi party officials into the state apparatus of the GDR and even within the SED.

This decision by the SED executive committee in 1949 was totally wrong. It signalled that the SED, in their effort to influence the masses, took the false path of currying favor with the Nazi-influenced portion of the masses.

This decision shows that it's absolutely essential to mercilessly expose the decisive mistakes in SED history - and particularly those made in the first few years. These mistakes contributed to the revisionist filth, betrayal, nationalism and fawning to West/German imperialism which came from the SED in the years that followed up till today.

The SED Betrayal of the Anti-fascist Struggle

After Stalin's death in 1953 the revisionist Krushchev clique was able to capture crucial positions

within the CPSU and the Soviet State apparatus. Revisionist decay within the CPSU proceeded quickly.

This situation also influenced communist and worker parties in other countries. The revisionist canker within the SED, which had been allowed to spread more and more until 1953, burst after Stalin's death. That was also the basis for the beginning betrayal of the antifascist struggle.

In 1946 Stalin was asked by a bourgeois representative of the press how far one should go in persecuting Nazi criminals of the second rank. Stalin replied:

"The further, the better."

(Stalin, Works, Volume 15, pg. 92 German edition)

Soon after Stalin's death in 1953 nothing was left of this goal in the GDR and within the SED. There was a *deep break* and disgusting "competition" between the GDR's Prime Minister and the SED leadership on the one hand and the Adenauer regime on the other, about who would "successfully" achieve the release of German war criminals from the Soviet Union.

The government of West German imperialism with Adenauer at their top had, in a large-scale campaign in 1954/55, mobilized "public opinion" in West Germany in favour of an amnesty for the roughly 9,000 war criminals still imprisoned in the Soviet Union. They stood a good chance to achieve their goal, because in the Soviet Union, the revisionist clique around Krushchev had gained ground in the state apparatus and in the CPSU.

Adenauer's call for diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union (without a peace treaty!) was linked with economic bait and with the demand that the 9 000 German war criminals be released.

Among those who were opposed to these concessions was the then Prime Minister of the Soviet Union, Bulganin. In September 1955 he rightly justified the necessity of keeping Nazi criminals imprisoned in the USSR:

"There are no German prisoners of war in the Soviet Union. All German prisoners of war have been released and have returned. In the Soviet Union there are only war criminals from the Hitler Army, criminals, who were tried by Soviet courts because of particularly grave crimes against the Soviet people, against peace and against humanity. In reality, there were 9626 such persons in our country on September 1. But these are people that, according to the laws and rules of humanity, belong behind bars... They are violent criminals, arsonists and murderers of women, children and old people. They were tried by Soviet courts according to their actions and cannot be regarded as prisoners of war."

(From the declaration by Prime Minister Bulganin of Sept. 10, 1955)

But the revisionist traitor Krushchev took Adenauer's bait and his policy of releasing the German war criminals in the Soviet Union prevailed.

Wilhelm Pieck, co-founder of the KPD (German Communist Party) and high-ranking SED official, also supported the release of German war criminals in the Soviet Union. In August 1955 he sent a letter to Woroschilow, chairman of the committee of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, which stated:

"I therefore feel that the time has come for me to turn to the committee of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR with an official recommendation on the part of the German Democratic Republic for an early release of all former prisoners of war serving their sentence in the Soviet Union and for their return to their homes."

(From the letter by Pieck to Woroschilow on October 31, 1955)

And indeed, on September 28, 1955, the Supreme Soviet decided to release 8877 war criminals to the GDR and to West Germany. Only 749 murderers convicted of especially severe crimes were to serve their remaining sentence in West German or GDR prisons. ("Neues Deutschland", Sept. 30, 1955)

Naturally, those war criminals who arrived in West Germany were released immediately.

But even in the GDR all 3300 war criminals who'd had been turned over by the Soviet Union were pardoned as early as 1956. (ibid, June 6, 1956)

Not only were leading SED officials concerned about the well-being of Nazi murderers, but Grotewohl, Prime Minister of the GDR, even boasted about this being a "great achievement". In September, 1955 he celebrated the "success" of his, i.e. the GDR's efforts for the Nazi murderers over Adenauer:

"This once and for all destroys the legend of Mr. Adenauer as being the first German to act on this matter in Moscow. We'd already been working on it in a quiet, selfless and successful way for years, when Mr. Adenauer was still heavily engaged in his excessive propaganda on the so-called issue of war prisoners."

(From Grotewohl's declaration of Sept. 26, 1955)

Pieck's and Grotewohl's "commitment" to the question of the German war criminals was an outrageous lack of character and a milestone on the SED's path to a total loss of morals!

The Soviet Communist Party's 20th Conference in 1956, which established a revisionist party line, is a further step in the process of the counter-revolutionary decay of the Communist Party and also of the SED. The SED took up the line of the 20th Party Conference. That paved the way for their complete transformation into a revisionist party in the 1960s, for the transformation of the GDR into a revisionist and capitalist country. As a result, old Nazis were ever more unscrupulously appointed to important offices in the 1960s, particularly in the GDR propaganda apparatus but also in the SED itself - as has amply been proved.

☆☆☆

To expose this ploy it's necessary to reveal also the continuity of the personnel from Nazi fascism to the West/German imperialist system. Here are a few careers of Nazi criminals in West Germany after 1945 in government and business; a few highlights from this unbroken tradition:

Krupp, Abs and Flick - Representatives of German Monopoly Capital

At the 7th World Congress of the Communist International, Dimitroff summarized the class character of fascism:

"Fascism - that's the power of financial capital itself."
(Dimitroff, 'Against Fascism and War', Selected Speeches and Documents, Leipzig 1982, p.51 German edition)

This is the core of our assessment of Nazi fascism. Accordingly, German financial capital is the main factor to blame for the crimes of Nazi fascism.

During Nazi fascism, the representatives of German monopoly capital, Krupp, Abs and Flick, organized such things as forced labor, the murderous program "Destruction by Work". They equipped the Nazi Army with the most sophisticated weapons so that they could lead their wars of conquest. German monopoly capital thus earned enormous profit. Krupp, Abs and Flick are responsible for the murder of hundreds of thousands of forced laborers and millions of Soviet soldiers and civilians. After 1945 they continued where they had left off before 1945. After Krupp, Abs and Flick got unscathed through the short period of the Nuremberg trials against leading Nazis, they again earned maximum profits with their old plants and banks. They were aided by the West German state

Gegen die Strömung No 58, 44 pg, DM 4 (only available in German)



The Development of the SED - A Part of the 'German Misery'

Topics:

- ★ The 'Call of the Central Committee of the KPD of June, 1945'
- ★ The Potsdam Agreement
- ★ The Founding of the SED
- ★ The 'Special German Path' to Socialism
- ★ The Fight Against Nazi Ideology
- ★ Regarding the Character of State Power in the Soviet Occupation Zone/GDR
- ★ Living Conditions in the GDR
- ★ The 17th of July, 1953
- ★ A Deeper Struggle Against German Ideology

and soon continued to exploit peoples of other countries.

Globke: Co-Author and Commentator of the Nuremberg 'Race Laws'

In Nazi Germany, Globke was a ministry official in the Ministry of the Interior of the Nazi state apparatus. He was responsible for most of the racial laws against the Jewish population, the Sinti and Roma or other groups described as "racially inferior" by the Nazis. He was co-author and commentator of the racist 'Nuremberg Laws' of 1935. In 1949 he continued his career as State

Secretary under Adenauer and in the CDU into the 1960s.

Nazi and Later West German Chancellor Kiesinger

From 1933 to 1945 Kiesinger was a member of the Nazi party. From 1940 to 1945 he worked in the Foreign Ministry, Broadcasting Department, as head of a propaganda department. There he was involved in the "proper" dissemination of Nazi cooing about "peace", with the purpose of preparing the German imperialist wars of conquest. He also dealt with racist propaganda, which helped to prepare the Nazi extermination of other peoples.

In West Germany the career of the former Nazi went even further up than during Nazi fascism. Kiesinger was Chancellor in Bonn from 1966-69.

Nazi Judge Filbinger

During Nazi fascism Filbinger was a Navy Judge and sentenced to death deserted sailors until shortly before the end of the war.

In West Germany he started his political career in the 1960s. From 1960-66 he was Minister of the Interior in Baden-Wuerttemberg and from 1966 to 1978 Prime Minister of this state.

SS Schleyer

In Nazi times Schleyer headed the office of the 'Central Association of Industry in Bohemia and Moravia'. In Nazi occupied Czechoslovakia he was the right hand man in economics for Heydrich, Head of the Security Department of the Reich. Heydrich coordinated the exploitation and extermination of European Jews. As head of this Nazi organization, Schleyer had the task of squeezing ever higher maximum profits from the Czechoslovakian peoples. Schleyer had long been

Excerpt from a letter to the editorial collective of "Gegen die Strömung":

We received a letter from a comrade in the former GDR containing information on Just's career which we have not found in the bourgeois press.

On Just's crimes and his career after 1945:

- In 1957 "it was revealed that Just had been involved in the shooting of six Jews in a Ukrainian village in 1941. Just speaks of "Jewish bandits", or at least "strangers", possibly partisans (who in Nazi jargon were described as 'bandits').".
- "In 1943 Just was delegated to join a course for reserve officers and became a lieutenant. In 1946 he applied for a 'new teacher's course', not mentioning the fact that he was an officer. He was a new teacher in Quedlinburg in 1946 and then (in 1946?) worked in the local Quedlinburg party apparatus, in the Executive Committee of the State of Sachsen-Anhalt and in the Culture Department of the Central Committee. Later he was a sector leader in the SED's Central Committee and General Secretary of the Writers' Association of the GDR, from 1955 Deputy Editor-in-Chief of "Der Sonntag". On the occasion of a visit to the FRG he met old war comrades."

Until the day of his arrest, Just withheld the fact that he had participated in war crimes in Nazi Wehrmacht. Only some diaries found during a house search revealed the information that Just, who had secretly assumed leading positions within the SED and the Writers' Association, had participated in the shooting of Jews in the Ukraine. This crime, however, was not an issue during his trial.

Neues Deutschland, July 26, 1957, (translated)

(Excerpt from a report on the trial "against four members of the group Harich described as hostile to the state". Just had never been called to account for his war crimes by the GDR's courts!)

sentenced to death a thousand times by the peoples living in Czechoslovakia and he narrowly escaped the partisan squad that executed Heydrich.

In West Germany after 1945 Schleyer sat on the boards of numerous firms in West German monopoly industry, including Daimler-Benz. Until 1977 he was chairman of the West German "Association of Employers".

The Partisan Hunter H. J. Vogel

In 1943 Vogel voluntarily enlisted in the Nazi Wehrmacht and as a sergeant hunted antifascist partisans in Northern Italy. In 1985 Vogel reported how - during the partisan hunt - he just closely escaped his execution thanks to a priest:

"...we were suddenly surrounded by armed civilians. 'That's it!' I thought. We raised our hands. Death was just seconds away. At that moment a Catholic priest with a waving cassock went in between and talked to the civilians."

(Bild, May 5, 1985)

Vogel started his political career in West Germany after 1945. He joined the SPD and became, among other things, Minister of Justice in 1981 and was Chairman of the SPD until recently.

The Nazi Army Captain Richard von Weizsaecker

During Nazi fascism he "served" in the "famous" and infamous Prussian Infantry Regiment Nr.9 of Potsdam as captain in the fascist German Wehrmacht. He "fought" in France, Poland and in the Soviet Union (at the siege of Leningrad) and in the last days of the II World War was "recom-

In March Alone Three More Murders By Neo-Nazi Gangs! Don't Underestimate the Nazi forces!

- In Gifhorn, 23-year-old Matthias Knabe was hunted and struck down by neo-Nazi skins and then run over by a car. After months in the hospital, he died on March 4, 1992 from the consequences of the murderous attack.
- In a refugee home in Rostock (former GDR) 25 neo-fascist killers murdered an 18-year-old Romanian by beating him to death with baseball bats.
- On March 19, 1992, in Flensburg, an old man who had spoken up against the fascist views of a Nazi, was beaten up and drowned in a harbor basin.

Three cases from a series of murders in the last three months!

The so-called "public" hardly noticed them. The groups that fight against neo-Nazis are exposed to grave terror by the police, the West German state and often they are fragmented and weak. The extent of "habituation" to Nazi murders and the lack of militant and centrally organized actions against this murderous Nazi terror involving tens of thousands of people are a striking sign of the weakness of the revolutionary movement in West Germany!

One of our priority tasks in building up a strong communist party is to form in practical terms an effective anti-fascist front against the Nazi murderers!

mended for the 'Army Leaf of Honor' because of extraordinary bravery" (Bild, May 7, 1985). We know what the Nazis meant by "bravery": "bravery" at murdering innocent civilians, at hunting partisans, at shooting hostages, etc. Today Weizsaecker is President of the West German state.

Fight For Just Punishment of Nazi Criminals

It must be realized without illusions that large numbers of Nazi criminals got away without being punished. They either fled by the hundreds of thousands to other countries immediately after 1945, or by means of amnesties granted in West Germany at least from the 1950s onwards. The GDR's share in the persecution and punishment of Nazi criminals, is also smaller than many assumed, although they've mainly been protected in West Germany.

Everything must be done to lead Nazi criminals still alive to the punishment they deserve.

The challenge in the ideological civil war against West/German imperialism lies in the fact that the "Just Case", like so many other "cases", is part of a large-scale campaign on the part of West/German imperialism which qualifies, plays down or outright denies crimes committed by Nazi fascism. It's the duty of all revolutionary and communist forces to expose the *unbroken tradition* of German imperialism - without making concessions like the revisionist SED did towards West/German imperialism.

Basic Revolutionary Tasks

The tasks in question are much more far-reaching. They're concerned with the destruction of the system of world imperialism in general and the German imperialism in particular, which brought about Nazi facism. This must take place in proletarian revolution through the armed struggle of

the working class and its allies. It can only be achieved with a *communist party* that:

★ works through and evaluates all international experiences of the communist and working class movement.

★ bases itself on the principles of the theory of scientific communism, but which also evaluates very thoroughly the entire history of Germany and uses this evaluation for analyzing today's times and tasks.

★ Without removing all the reactionary junk produced by the West/German imperialist falsifiers of history and by the SED revisionists as well, there won't be a communist party with really clear objectives that will win the confidence of the majority of the revolutionary working class, under whose leadership the proletarian revolution will be carried out.

39 Former Nazis Holding Important Positions in the Revisionist GDR of the 1960s

39 ehemalige Nazis in wichtigen Positionen der revisionistischen DDR der 60er Jahre

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