

'Foreign mercenaries' schemes in Berlin fail (2)' from Pravda (18 June 1953)

Caption: On 18 June 1953, the day after the workers' revolt in East Berlin, the Soviet newspaper Pravda gives the Soviet viewpoint on these events.

Source: Pravda. 26.03.1953, n° 174. Moskva. "Krakh avantiury inostrannykh naimitov v Berline (2)", p. 1.


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http://www.cvce.eu/obj/foreign_mercenaries_schemes_in_berlin_fail_2_from_pravda_18_june_1953-en-494849d5-2801-4coe-a8f7-cddafa90d527.html

Last updated: 05/07/2016



Foreign mercenaries' schemes in Berlin fail

Over the last few days, reports of foreign agitation in Berlin and provocative actions by the Lee Sin-Man clique in South Korea have shocked the world. There can be little doubt that these events, though occurring on different continents, are inextricably linked. The enemies of peace are plotting criminal schemes, as are the reactionaries who fear and reject peace and are doing everything possible to impede détente.

The reactionary press in the USA, the United Kingdom, West Germany and some other countries have recently launched a propaganda campaign aimed at distorting the real meaning of the events of 17 June in Berlin. These newspapers are doing all they can to prevent the public from discovering what really happened while at the same time concealing the subversive activities of those behind the criminal schemes in Berlin.

The facts prove that the events of 17 June in Berlin were meticulously planned by Western reactionaries and their West German capitalist accomplices, who, for their own selfish, antisocial ends, are trying to wreck any peace efforts, poison international relations and sow the seeds of discord between peoples.

Provocation in Berlin's democratic sector is the work of those who fear a peaceful resolution of the German question, who fear a strengthening of democratic forces amongst the German people, and who despise the German Democratic Republic's achievements.

Those who are hostile to the German people, who are entrenched in the Western sectors of Berlin, mainly the American sector, have long been preparing to strike a blow against the German Democratic Republic. According to the West German newspaper *Der Spiegel*, Kaiser, a minister in the Bonn Government — Adenauer's right-hand man and coordinator of the troublemaking in Berlin — was bragging as long ago as March last year that the 'general plan, one might say, is ready' and that the appointed day 'is approaching more quickly than the sceptics dare hope'.

There are grounds for considering that Britain and France, the occupying powers, were also aware of the criminal schemes being planned in Berlin.

The testimony given by the ringleaders detained on 17 June proves that the riots were planned by the top ranks of the US military authorities. Groups of fascist reactionaries gathered in Berlin's American sector. American officers armed and trained the troublemakers, who were paid in US dollars, and showed them the targets for arson and attack. One of these mercenaries, arrested on the day of the unrest, Verner Kalkovsky, a reactionary, had been sent as part of a large fascist group from the American sector to the democratic sector of Berlin to plan the riots. He had the following to say during his interrogation: 'We received an assignment to raid the Government buildings, to commit arson, to loot shops, to knock over popular militia and generally to cause as much disruption to the authorities as we could, including with the use of weapons.'

In an attempt to cover up any trace of criminal activity, the organisers of the Berlin riots are claiming that the events of 17 June were just an 'expression of German sentiment'. One might ask what 'German sentiment' has to do with the fact that, at the start of the unrest, American trucks loaded with Molotov cocktails to burn down buildings appeared on the edge of the Soviet sector in Berlin. Was it not to incite riots that American loudspeakers were installed there? Is this not why American officers appeared in the centre of fascist groups, behaving outrageously in East Berlin? Was it not American planes that dropped into the democratic sector pamphlets that had been prepared in advance and that called for a continuation of the strikes? Did the American police not play a direct part in the abduction of Otto Nuschke, the Deputy Prime Minister of the German Democratic Republic?

The organisers of the riots in the democratic sector of Berlin will not be able to cover their tracks. The global community already knows what any investigation of the events of 17 June will reveal. They show incontrovertibly that the warmongers had chosen this day for planned, widespread riots in the German capital, against the fundamental interests of the German people and against world peace.

It is clear now that the foreign agitators' attempts in Berlin were prepared long in advance and financed by

the US intelligence services, using the 100 million US dollars allocated by the US Congress in 1951 for subversive activities against the Soviet Union and other democratic countries. These funds were used to buy the services of foreign agents and to try to bring about a fascist uprising in Berlin.

Even the British bourgeois media are saying that the provocation was due largely to major efforts by Western powers. 'In this case,' writes the British weekly *The Economist*, 'we of course have our own ultimate objective, which, for many years, has been helped by the propaganda delivered by the BBC, The Voice of America and Radio Free Europe.' Yet another British weekly journal, the *New Statesman & Nation*, acknowledges: 'The statement made by the Western powers to the effect that the uprising was spontaneous should be considered in the light of the fact that, as everyone knows, millions of dollars were spent on agents and radio propaganda campaigns aimed at having just such an effect.'

Similar admissions are to be found not only in the British press but also the American press. According to the United Press Agency, on 18 June, some members of the US Congress 'tended to attribute' the unrest in Berlin to 'the US propaganda machine and the covert use of covert government funds'. Senator Potter claimed that it was 'no coincidence' that the disturbances in the democratic sector of Berlin took place at the same time as the attempts by foreign agents in Czechoslovakia, and that they were triggered by American actions.

There is no doubt that, were it not for the foreign instigation of the Berlin uprising, were it not for the millions of dollars given to fascist hotheads from certain groups across the Atlantic, there would have been no uprising at all.

Given all this, it is quite telling that after the failure of the deliberate act of provocation, President Eisenhower felt it the right moment to announce on 18 June that the USA would provide so-called 'additional' aid to West Berlin to the tune of 50 million dollars. The official purpose for such aid was 'to further strengthen West Berlin's economy'. Berliners, however — not without reason — see this handout as an attempt to cheer up American agents in Berlin after their debacle.

The uprising, instigated by foreign intelligence services in the democratic sector of Berlin, should not be considered in isolation. There is a direct link between the foreign mercenaries in Berlin and Lee Sin-Man's band of provocateurs in South Korea.

It is no accident that the exploits of fascist conspirators in Berlin and the actions of Lee Sin-Man in South Korea occurred at the very time that peace-oriented policies were beginning to bring about a degree of détente.

Talks held in Panmunjom resulted in the signing of an agreement to repatriate prisoners of war. The armistice in Korea may become a reality very soon. However, the end of the fighting in Korea does not suit the warmongers who were counting on war. Extremists have resorted to criminal schemes in an attempt to disrupt the signing of the peace treaty in Korea. On the evening of 18 June, on the orders of Lee Sin-Man, a mass 'freeing' of Korean National Army prisoners of war took place in Masan, Pusan and other POW camps under American command and was overseen by a commission comprising neutral countries.

Many people throughout the world rightly see the provocative actions of Lee Sin-Man's clique as a direct attempt to disrupt the peace treaty in Korea. Echoing widespread public opinion, the Conference of Indian Ambassadors in Europe, chaired by Nehru, considered the actions of Lee Sin-Man as 'a deliberate attempt to disrupt the peace treaty just as it was nearing completion'.

It seems obvious that the provocations in Berlin and South Korea had the same objective: to disrupt the increasing efforts for peace and détente whilst rallying the reactionary forces and warmongers.

It is no surprise that the hawks chose that particular moment to strike.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic supports the efforts of peace-loving countries and so,

in an attempt to bring about détente, recently took a series of important measures to bring the Eastern and Western parts of Germany closer together. The Government of the German Democratic Republic also took a series of decisions that significantly improved the standard of living of the Republic's population. These measures by the Government of the GDR were rightly seen by people in Germany and abroad as an important step towards building an overall basis for the unification of a dismembered Germany into a single, democratic and peace-loving state.

The Adenauer clique and its backers saw these measures as a serious threat to their policy to prevent German reunification and lasting peace in Europe by whatever means possible.

Foreign agitators are nudging the Germans towards war. For them, Germany is a foreign land and the Germans a foreign race. They are attempting to use the German people to fulfil their plans, giving no thought to their effect on the German people.

It is fortunate for the German people, and for peace in Europe, that the foreign agitators' attempts failed. The events in Berlin have shown just how strong the democratic movement is in the German Democratic Republic and the large extent to which the Government has the support of its people. The agitators were unable to attract a significant number of Berliners to their cause. The people of the German Democratic Republic have decisively repelled the fascist agitators and their foreign bosses.

Following their defeat, the organisers of the events of 17 June are shedding crocodile tears at the losses suffered in Berlin. This display of hypocrisy, however, does not fool honest people. Who cannot see that, were it not for the back-room organisers of the criminal schemes, had fascist thugs and provocateurs not been sent from the Western sectors into the democratic sector, there would have been no unrest or casualties in Berlin at all?

The foreign mercenaries' failure in Berlin has opened the eyes of all those who believed the lies and propaganda spouted by the warmongers. Many Germans curse the conspirators' crimes. Workers in the German Democratic Republic support the measures taken by their Government to suppress enemy activities. They are in favour of the Government's actions to significantly improve the standard of living, to develop private industry and private trade and crafts, and to improve agriculture. Millions of Germans understand that these measures will significantly help address the main issue facing the German people: to unite Germany into a country built upon peace and democracy. The German people have a great desire to see their homeland united and show no support for those who are attempting to plunge it into the abyss of yet more hardship and misfortune. They are on the path towards peace, democracy and unity.

In the declaration made on 21 June, entitled 'The Situation and Immediate Tasks of the Party', the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, having exposed the true instigators and participants in the fascist uprising in Berlin, outlined a specific programme to consolidate further democracy in the GDR and improve workers' living conditions in the Republic. This declaration stressed the fundamental distinction between the two political alternatives: that of Adenauer's clique, aimed at unleashing war, and that of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and the Government of the GDR, aimed at consolidating peace. To quote part of the declaration:

'Adenauer, Ollenhauer, Kaiser and Reiter have chosen the path to war. They are therefore raining blows down upon us. West Germany is therefore becoming the focal point of fascism and extremism.

'Our Party and our Government support peace. We shall therefore remain steadfast on our course towards an exemplary peaceful economy. Our new policy line is our best weapon against any military provocation on German territory.'

The events in Berlin and South Korea have shown that the warmongers will stop at nothing to disrupt the process of détente, to hamper any attempts to enhance cooperation between peoples. These events have also shown that the people's capacity to fight for peace is growing and becoming stronger, and withstands the schemes of the hawks. The foreign mercenaries' attempts in Berlin have failed. Solidarity and organisation

amongst those who value peace and a united front will ensure that the provocations by Lee Sin-Man's clique will also fail.

Anyone who values peace will draw the necessary conclusions from events such as these and will be ever more diligent in their attempts to expose the schemes of the extremists and step up efforts to preserve and consolidate peace.