

German Social Chauvinist Party Dissolves

The thoroughly opportunist Communist Party of Germany (KPD) is dead—killed by its own hand. Last month, the KPD announced it had dissolved.

Many of our readers know about the KPD's line of social-chauvinism from watching the all-American representative of that line, the KPD's cousin, the Communist Party Marxist-Leninist (CPML). These two were part of a whole swarm of organizations that arose in the 1970s. Encouraged by revisionists within the Communist Party of China (the same forces who seized political power and restored capitalism after Mao's death), the social-chauvinist organizations have long been noted for their capitulation to the imperialism of the U.S.-led bloc in general and to their own ruling classes in particular. As an excuse for this belly crawling, they have used the fact that the Soviet Union is the rising and developing imperialist power which must now challenge the status quo, that is, the existing division of the world now dominated by the U.S. imperialists.

In 1975, the KPD withdrew from the mass movement against German rearmament and militarism, an important focus of radical struggles in West Germany. Instead, they announced, they would support West German rearmament in order to win Germany's "national liberation" from Soviet domination in East Germany and the Soviet threat to West Germany. Only after this step had been taken, claimed the KPD, could the question of socialism be put on the agenda.

Of course, West Germany was no

more rearming for self-defense than in the previous two world wars. The Soviet "threat" is a threat to West German imperialism, a threat to the domination and expansion of the empire enjoyed by the bourgeoisie of West Germany and the other members of the U.S. alliance.

The problem lies in the fact that this kind of support for imperialism in the name of communism is getting a little hard to perform lately. For one thing, while holding together a ragtag crew under an opportunist political line is hard enough under any circumstances, the dissolution of the KPD was due *not mainly* to the internal dynamics of the organization, but to what's shaping up in the world and the speed at which it's approaching world war.

The question of world war, of whether to stand for or against your own ruling class in this war, is a question which consciously or not has conditioned the development of all the political forces which arose in the 1970s, including both the genuine and phony communists. It is fast becoming a practical question. For the KPD, so practiced in capitulation, the very label "communist" and the existence of a "communist" organization became an obstacle to crawling all the way into the imperialists' foxhole.

In the KPD's third and final congress on March 7, 300 delegates assembled in Gelsenkirchen, West Germany. After three days filled with bitter internal warfare and mutual denunciations, they scattered in "shock and relief" after having agreed on only one thing—the first motion on the floor, which was to

dissolve the KPD. The vote was almost unanimous, with only eight delegates voting to carry on. From every corner came the summation that the KPD was "a shipwreck," "a total failure," and "politically bankrupt." Of course, we agree with these assessments, but it certainly is not the case that these forces, in dissolving the KPD, have put the political line which guided the KPD behind them. By rejecting Marxism-Leninism even in words, they have freed themselves up to work both directly with the Socialist Party, West Germany's ruling party (itself ironically a former workers' party which degenerated into social-chauvinism prior to World War I), and as infiltrators in West Germany's anti-nuke "Green Party," where no doubt they will devote themselves to winning over these mainly middle-class dissident elements to fall in line with the ruling class.

The approach of war is making itself felt in different ways in different countries and organizations—but it is being intensely felt in every single one, especially within the imperialist countries. Those forces which have played the role of advocating capitulation among revolutionary-minded people are now more and more openly practicing counter-revolution. For instance, the Norwegian Workers Communist Party Marxist-Leninist (WCPM-L), long one of the brightest stars in the social-chauvinist heavens, has recently come out for an increase of Norway's war budget in parliament. It has called for drafting women and other practical moves for dragging the Norwegian peo-

ple into World War 3—a war which is no less imperialist for the fact that the tiny Norwegian bourgeoisie enjoys and seeks to expand a subsidiary role in the U.S. bloc, like the small parasites who live off the droppings of bigger ones. In return for this service the Norwegian government has given the WCPM-L a state subsidy for its daily newspaper, which up till now was in danger of going out of business. And, of course, in the U.S., the CPML's latest maneuvers, including the removal of the slogan "People of the World Unite to Defeat Imperialism" from the masthead of its newspaper, is part and parcel of this trend. (See "How to Support/Oppose the Draft," *RW*, April 18.)

Describing the social-chauvinist parties of his time, Lenin wrote that with the outbreak of World War I "the boil burst"—the true essence of these parties and their disgusting nature broke into plain view. One such pimple has now broken in West Germany, and more will follow. This scrambling to openly fly the political banner of the bourgeoisie is a truthful act, even if it is not in any way motivated by honesty, and it's all the better when these forces drop even the pretense of Marxism-Leninism.

We realize that the unique dramatic touches of the West German congress make it a tough act to follow. But we suspect that the U.S.'s own social-chauvinists, the CPML, have enough pus and venom building up in their own rotten organization to put the KPD's suicide to shame.

Encore! Encore! Encore! □