

CADET SLOUCH

by Jim Earle

AP analysis

Soviets safe with Bonn policy

The West German opposition's decision to challenge Chancellor Willy Brandt's government on economic issues may mean that Soviet leaders can stop worrying so much about Bonn's foreign policy.

It seems that the opposition Christian Democratic Union having handed Chancellor Brandt a couple of rough jolts over the weekend, probably is scared to tackle his policy toward the Soviet Union and Communist East Europe.

If that is the case, the treaties negotiated in 1970 with the Soviet Union and Communist-ruled Poland, recognizing the finality of German loss of territory in World War II, are now safe. The CDU doesn't want to be blamed for torpedoing them.

Within reach of a political bomb, the conservatives decided they had to approach it timidly, fearful of overkill and fallout. It begins to look as if they'll let the treaties slide through ratification, in which case the Soviet

leadership can stop chewing its collective fingernails.

A big dollop of Soviet policy rides on the Kremlin expectation that the pacts will be ratified May 4 when the vote on the matter comes before the Bundestag, lower house of West Germany's parliament. Defeat of the pacts could change the whole European atmosphere radically.

What may be saving the treaties is a dilemma facing the CDU in its attempt to bring down Brandt's coalition of Social Democrats and Free Democrats.

A weekend success for the CDU in Baden-Wuerttemberg state voting for the Bundesrat and a defection from Brandt's coalition by a Free Democrat lawmaker might have meant that the moment of truth had arrived on the treaty issue. The CDU has assailed the pacts as going too far and giving away too much.

Brandt's coalition strength in the Bundestag, after the defection, is exactly 249, which produces a majority of one vote. An absolute majority is needed to

ratify. A tie could defeat the treaties. If any Brandt supporter should be prevented from getting to the Bundestag May 4, the treaties could be defeated. But it may not be that much of a cliffhanger now.

Brandt probably would have preferred to be challenged on his "Ostpolitik," or East policy rather than on domestic issues. Ostpolitik is a hot potato for the opposition.

While the CDU lacked strength to defeat the treaties it could afford the luxury of criticizing and opposing them. But prospects of increased trade with the East and substantial easing of tension have been popular in West Germany. The CDU could suffer from public reaction if it tried to fell Brandt on the treaty issue. Thus, it may want to give the impression that it accepts the treaties grudgingly while deploring the terms.

The opposition still has the power to delay ratification and keep the Russians annoyed and on edge. The Baden-Wuerttemberg result left the conservatives in control of the Bundesrat, the upper house. While it cannot prevent ratification, the Bundestag could, if it chose, delay it.

Hightower receives grant

Dr. Dan Hightower of the College of Veterinary Medicine has received an \$89,000 renewal grant from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to continue studies of radiation effects on the skin and eyes.

The associate professor of veterinary physiology and pharmacology will research biological effects of low energy protons on eyes and skin. NASA has awarded the grant for the fourth year, with the current funds running through Dec. 31, 1972.

Co-investigators are Dr. James B. Smathers, associate professor of nuclear engineering, and Drs. James R. Kyzar and Eugene Wright, both research associates

TRY BATTALION CLASSIFIED



"Doctor, it's been the same dream since I became a graduating senior! It's the day before graduation and I get this slip from the Registrar's office..."

Nixon's dilemma

The old phrase "You can't please all of the people all of the time" will bear particular significance tonight as President Nixon addresses the nation concerning current and future Vietnam policy.

With the House Democrats and campus rioters leaning heavily on the President already, any decision involving increases rather than reductions of troop levels in the war zone will undoubtedly invoke more verbal protests and violence. Such a decision would also indicate the failure of Vietnamization.

In view of recent step-ups in the bombing of targets above the Demilitarized Zone it is evident that Vietnamization is off to a slow and shaky start.

Here is the dilemma. Protests in recent years have set the stage for U.S. troop reductions.

Nixon attempted to turn the war over to the South Vietnamese, with questionable effectiveness. So now people are calling that policy a failure.

The same group that opposed U.S. involvement is now hammering Vietnamization. If Nixon keeps U.S. troops in Vietnam, they complain. If he takes the troops out and turns the show over to the South Vietnamese, they complain. Nixon loses either way.

It will be interesting to see which way the President will take now. If he doesn't have a third alternative up his sleeve, more complaining will be the order of the day.

The Battalion

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Janice M. Johnson

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By Charles M. Schulz

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