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MR ON THE SAME WEEKEND THAT THE CHANCELLOR AND FDP CHAIRMAN MENDE WERE ADDRESSING REASSURING MESSAGES ON SELF-DETERMINATION AND "RIGHT TO THE HOMETLAND" TO THE REFUGEE GATHERING "TAG DER HEIMAT" IN BERLIN (BEING REPORTED BY BERLIN), SPD LEADERS WERE COMMEMORATING THROUGHOUT THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OUT-
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BREAK OF WORLD WAR II. IN CONTRAST TO THE ERHARD AND MENDE MESSAGE, THE MAJOR THEME IN ALMOST EVERY SPD SPEECH WAS A UNITED EUROPE WHICH WOULD PREVENT ANOTHER CATAclysmic WAR. BERLIN MAYOR BRANDT (WHO HAD ALSO ADDRESSED THE REFUGEES), SPEAKING IN AACHEN BEFORE A GATHERING OF GERMANS, BELGIANS, AND DUTCH, SAID THAT THE CREATION OF A UNITED EUROPE WOULD BE THE BEST MEMORIAL OF ALL TO THE DEAD OF WORLD WAR II. FRITZ ERLER MADE A SIMILAR APPEAL FOR SOLIDARITY IN EUROPE IN A SPEECH IN KEHL ACROSS THE RHINE FROM STRASBOURG (WHERE A GROUP OF GERMAN AND FRENCH SOCIAL DEMOCRATS HAD GATHERED). HE ADDED THAT THE DOOR SHOULD BE LEFT OPEN FOR THE UK AND SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES. MINISTER-PRESIDENT DIEDERICH (LOWER SAXONY) SAID IN GOSLAR THAT THE TIME HAD COME TO BURY HATE, AND THAT A UNITED EUROPE WAS PREREQUISITE FOR BOTH A LASTING PEACE AND GERMAN REUNIFICATION. INTERIOR

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-2- 821, AUGUST 31, FROM BONN

SENATOR SCHMIDT (HAMBURG) ADDRESSED A GROUP OF GERMAN, NORWEGIANS AND DANES ALONG SIMILAR LINES IN FLENSBURG NEAR THE DANISH BORDER. FORMER MINISTER-PRESIDENT HOEGNER OF BAVARIA, SPEAKING AT THE SITE OF THE FORMER CONCENTRATION CAMP IN DACHAU, CALLED FOR AN ETERNAL UNION OF THE EUROPEAN PEOPLES.

FDP LEADER MENDE, IN HIS SPEECH TO THE REFUGEES, ALSO TOUCHED ON THE ORIGINS OF WORLD WAR II. HE SAID THAT THE HITLER-STALIN PACT HAD BEEN THE FINAL PREREQUISITE FOR THE BEGINNING OF THE WAR, SOMETHING COMMUNIST SPEAKERS CONVENIENTLY FORGOT.

IN A STATEMENT DIRECTED AT REFUGEE GROUPS, WHICH IS ALMOST SURE TO PROVOKE REACTIONS, ZOGLMANN (VICE PRESIDENT OF THE FDP PARLIAMENTARY GROUP) SAID IN BAVARIA THAT THE 1938 MUNICH AGREEMENT WAS "VALID UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW". HE REJECTED THE THESIS, WHICH HE ATTRIBUTED TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, THAT IT WAS INVALID BECAUSE SIGNED UNDER PRESSURE FROM HITLER. HE SAID THE AGREEMENT WAS "NOTHING MORE THAN A SUBSEQUENT CONFIRMATION OF A DECISION WHICH SHOULD HAVE BEEN MADE IN 1919".

COMMENT: "SUNDAY SPEECHES" ARE A BYWORD IN GERMANY FOR POLITICS NOT MEANT TO BE TAKEN TOO SERIOUSLY. NEVERTHELESS, THE CONTRASTS ARE STRIKING BETWEEN THE STATESMANLIKE TENOR OF THE SPD SPEECHES ON THE THEME OF EUROPE, AND ERNARD'S AND MENDE'S REPETITION OF CUSTOMARY FORMULAS IN THE MESSAGES TO THE REFUGEE GROUPS CELEBRATING "TAG DER HEIMAT".

ZOGLMANN'S "UNRECONSTRUCTED" DEFENSE OF THE MUNICH AGREEMENT IS PERHAPS NOT SURPRISING FROM A BORN SUDETENLANDER, WHO ALSO HELD A POSITION IN THE OFFICE OF THE REICHSPROTEKTOR FOR BOHEMIA AND MORAVIA DURING THE PERIOD OF THE MUNICH AGREEMENT. HILLENBRAND

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