

pose to an attack upon the purposes of its enemy. Communism will fade and fall by the way only when a positive, creative Christianity goes about its own redemptive business, freshly addressing to each person, to each new day and to every society or social grouping its eternal truths. If Christianity makes the defeat of communism its first business, it will turn as it has several times before into a detour where it will be assaulted by other enemies as less vicious and no less powerful than communism. Only by being what it is and doing what is most in the world to do can Christianity hold all its enemies and accomplish the purpose assigned to it by the Lord of history. The Christian's duty, whatever else the enemy may wear in any given age, is to be a Christian—a witness to the sacrificial love God has poured upon all men in his Son Jesus Christ.

## Henchman Heusinger

♦ HOW MUCH TRUTH is there in the Russian charge that the West German regime is dominated by renegade—nazi—types who are striving to re-establish the Third Reich? Not as much as the Russians claim, but enough to give us pause. Let us consider a case in point: It concerns the present chairman of NATO's military planning commission.

General Adolf Heusinger has been a German militarist for 48 of his 57 years. He rose at a time when Hitler had dismissed all but the most loyal Nazis on his general staff. Heusinger became chief of operations of the *Obstkommando der Wehrmacht* and figured importantly in the planning of all Nazi invasions from then on. In 1942 he was made responsible for all action against partisans on the Eastern front; devising plans and his order saying "the strongest measures of terror" led to the slaughter of thousands of innocent civilians.

One of Hitler's most trusted generals, Heusinger was with the Führer in Nuremberg, East Prussia, on July 20, 1944, when a group of defecting generals made his assassination attempt on the Führer's life. In fact, Heusinger was in the process of briefing Hitler about the Russian attack on the prior moment the planted bomb exploded. Shortly afterward in a radio broadcast Hitler insisted the fact that some of his "true and loyal collaborators"—including Heusinger—had been wounded in the incident; he later gave Heusinger a special citation commemorating the bombing. The wounded Heusinger's unique leadership in the resistance hunt for anti-Hitler plotters served to hasten the execution of 7,000 (official German estimate).

Although Heusinger's name appeared on the first list of war criminals released by the United Nations, it was ~~subsequently~~ removed from subsequent lists. Never brought to trial, Heusinger did testify at the Nuremberg trial, and in his testimony he showed no

moral disapproval of the Nazi attempt to engineer what he termed "the systematic extermination of Slavism and Jewry." He also testified that the man who had been his superior officer, General Alfred Jodl, was a "thoroughly decent man." Jodl, convicted by the Nuremberg tribunal of monstrous war crimes, was hanged on October 16, 1948. A leader in the largely successful postwar campaign to get German war criminals released from prison, Heusinger contended that West Germany could not be an effectively ally of the Western powers without these men. One man he tried but failed to rescue was Oswald Pohl, overseer of all the concentration camps. Characterized by the American prosecution at Nuremberg as a "professional mass murderer," Pohl was charged in June of 1951.

Entrusted by Chancellor Adenauer with a major role in achieving Germany's reunification, Heusinger apparently felt no need to disavow his devotion to Hitler's ideals. In 1953 he said to a group of subordinate officers: "We should remember our past. . . . Let us stick to the principles we used to have." Heusinger did disagree with Hitler about one thing, however: in 1950 he published a book in which he took Hitler to task for failing to annihilate and occupy England before tackling Russia.

Such is the man to whom our government last year awarded the U.S. Legion of Merit for building cooperation among NATO nations and for rebuilding Germany's army. And such is the man who since last spring has been chairman of NATO's military planning commission, with offices in Washington.

When Adenauer suggested Heusinger for the influential NATO post, the United States went along. Four NATO nations—Norway, Denmark, Italy and Greece—did object, but in response to high-powered pressure from the weightier NATO nations they knuckled under. To American Jewish groups who have protested Heusinger's appointment—and to Oregon's Senator Wayne Morse—the state department has tried to depict Heusinger as a professional soldier who simply carried out orders (where have we heard that excuse before?) and has argued that the U.S. must do nothing to displease West Germany or to jeopardize NATO.

Yes, our memories are exceedingly short. So are those of the West Germans who are saying that the only thing wrong with Hitler's scheme was that it failed to win the war. As Senator Morse has said:

This Nazi general unquestionably must bear his share of the responsibility for the death of thousands of American boys. It is one thing to put him in retirement; it is another thing to put him in a position of policy making. . . . It is up to a free Germany to make perfectly clear to the Western world that Nazi psychology has really been brought to an end in West Germany. It will never be very persuasive by elevating Nazi generals to high positions of military power.

Although Heusinger's second year in the high NATO post is not due to begin until April, his reappointment will come up for consideration any day now. We hope that Washington—the state department, the White House, both houses of Congress -- will recognize what a liability this man is to the democratic cause and drop him.