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Institute for International Relations Institut des Rencontres Internationales
SUPPLEMENT OF NEWS LETTER NO. 1

From now on we shall publish a supplement of our News Letter as
needed. This supplement will carry topical news and information in
detail related to German policies towards Africa and thus will be
also of interest for our readers as we hope.

HANS KOSCHNICK ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE FOR
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY
OF GERMANY

Hans Koschnick, Mayor and Head of the Federal State of
Bremen, recently has been elected Chairman of the
Committee for International Relations of the Federal
Executive of the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD),
the major opposition party in the Federal Parliament. q
Previously, on May 20th the last party convention of the '
SPD reelected him with the highest number of votes to
the Federal Executive of the party that called him also
again to the party's Presidium.

In his new position as Chairman of the party's Committee
for International Relations Mr. Koschnick will also take
responsibility of the party's stand towards Africa and
he will be in charge of keeping and improving the party's
relations to politicians and parties in African countries
and organizations.

Who is Mr. Hans Koschnick, this German politician of good
and long standing ?

Mayor Hans K o s c h n i c k was elected to the Senate (State Government) by Bremen
Parliament on November 10th, 1983 for the sixth time and elected President of the
Senate of the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen by the same body for the fifth time.
Mayor Koschnick was entrusted with this office for the first time in 1967 and is
thus the longest-serving head of any state government in the Federal Republic of Germany.

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Mayor Koschnick was born in Bremen on April 2nd, 1921 . He is an Administrative Officer by profession and he finally served as head of the Department of Youth, Family Affairs and Sports at the local Ministry of Social Affairs. He has been a member of the German Social Democratic Party (SPD) since 1950.

Mayor Koschnick has served on the Federal Executive of the SPD since May 14th, 1970. He was Deputy Chairman of the party between November 14th, 1975 and December 1979. Mayor Koschnick was elected a member of Bremen State Parliament for the first time in 1955. In 1963 he became Senator (State Minister) of the Interior and in 1965 he became Mayor and Vice-President of the Senate. The Senate (State Government) elected him to be its President on November 28th, 1967 for the first time.

Mayor Koschnick is also the German Federal Commissioner of Cultural Affairs under the Treaty of Franco-German Co-operation.

On numerous trips abroad Mayor Koschnick has made a point of striking up trade and economic relations in particular between the state of Bremen and its major

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between nations and international co-operation, particularly in France in the Netherlands, Norway, Israel, Yugoslavia and Poland. In 1974 Mayor Koschnick visited the People's Republic of China for political and economic talks :

Koschnick also visited various African countries on several occasions '15 and

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north and east of the continent so that he will not be a newcomer to the continent in his new position as chairman of the party's international committee:

In 1971/72 and 1981/82 Mayor Koschnick was President of the Bundesrat (representation of federal states). It was in this capacity, as deputy of the head of state (Federal President) , that Mayor Koschnick was host to the Japanese Emperor and his wife on their official visit to West Germany in 1971

Between 1971 and 1977 Mayor Koschnick held the office of President of the German Convention of Municipal Authorities and between 1975 and 1978 he was Chairman of the Association of Municipal Companies (VKU) . .

The Annual General Meeting of the "International Union of Local Authorities" (IULA) elected Mayor Koschnick as President in Columbus/Ohio (USA) in 1981 .

Mayor Koschnick is married and has one son. .

Source: Press Office of the Senate (State Government), City Hall, D-2800 Bremen 1

The visit of the South African Prime Minister, Pieter Botha;

in Bonn beginning of June led to a very controversial dispute

in a parliamentary debate on June 6th, 1984 in the

Federal Parliament (Deutscher Bundestag). The government

camp held the opinion that the Government could positively

influence the situation in South Africa by accepting the

visit of Prime Minister Botha - the first part of this

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newsletter carries a report on the respective position of the government camp. However, the parliamentary group of the Social Democratic Party again expressed its severe criticism against South Africa and the system of apartheid and opposed the visit of the Prime Minister. In the following you will find excerpts of a parliamentary speech by GUnter Verheugen MP, speaker for African affairs of the parliamentary group of the Social Democratic Party of Germany.

SOUTH AFRICA: DEATH OF FREEDOM AND HUMAN RIGHTS! a.

n Excehptb 06 a pantiamentany Apeech by Gantea Veaeheugen MP

In contrast to the Federal Government we do not hold that the treaties between Smith Africa and some of her neighbours are encouraging . . .

Who should be in a better position than us to understand that peace cannot be gained as cheaply? One cannot bomb countries to the conference table, one cannot impose conditions on countries - and then look out to be celebrated as peacemaker. One should imagine somebody who is practicing such a policy in other parts of the world, for instance over here - a policy, on which our Federal Chancellor congratulated. The South African initiative in foreign affairs is aiming rather at dcnestic objects. Thus the domination of a minority over a majority in South Africa shall be secured and time shall be gained until probably one day in Namibia a make-believe independence. and a puppet government can be installed.

Peace in the region only will be achieved if the cause of discord will be removed: The system of apartheid . . .

deay apartheid means that the majority of black population is exploited as a potential for cheap labor force without political and social rights. The situation did not improve but rather became worse. Therefore, we cannot escape questioning our own attitudes. . . .

Finally, we demand again intensified economic ccooperation with the neighbour countries ' of South Africa in the region. The more those neighbouring countries tecne economic-ally stabilized, the better they can resist South African power-politics.

we side with those groupings and organizations that fight against South African racialism and colonialism, we side with the liberation movements ANC and SWAPO, with churches and trade unions and also with the progressive white opposition in South Africa Let me say to Prime Minister Botha a last word. This man and his Government wish to give the impression that they are an outpost of Western freedom in Southern Africa. However, that they are in addition anticommunist does not justify the inhuman policies of South Africa. we do not want to be engaged for this policy. South Africa is not an outpost of freebknu but means death to freedom and to the human dignity of many millions. That is what we want to convey to Mr. Botha. The international reputation for which he is looking out, he shall not find it here.

Source: Protocol of the German Federal Parliament (Deutscher Bundestag) 73. Session on June 6th, 1984