

Current Concerns

The international journal for independent thought, ethical standards, moral responsibility,
and for the promotion and respect of public international law, human rights and humanitarian law

English Edition of Zeit-Fragen

Nuclear energy without radioactivity – no dream

bha. A year ago, Japan was hit by a nuclear disaster of unprecedented extent. The uncertainty of the population concerning the release of radioactivity continues unabatedly; the political debate in our country about the withdrawal from nuclear energy programs prevents taking into account a central concern of man in the nuclear age, namely:

The production and release of large amounts of radioactivity, since the fission of uranium is a source of serious damage to people, animals and the environment.

The tragedy of Fukushima which the world cannot get rid of by whatsoever eloquent explanations, the tragedy of the reactor explosion at Chernobyl in Ukraine and several nuclear disasters more whose implications have been played down for a long time – the core of these tragedies is

the amount of the released radioactivity. Economic losses for the state and society by major reactor accidents additionally hit the countries' vital nerve by the loss of arable land.

While WHO and IAEA stick steadfastly to their model of masking true statistics on disease outcomes such as after the Chernobyl disaster, various medical research findings irrefutably reveal the fact that once released ionizing radiation has somatic and genetic effects on human cells.

While the debate on renewable energy sources creates a stir, – which makes sense by the way, because humanity should learn to deal in a more modest and thrifty way with our natural resources – the debate should be expanded on the subject of the release of ionizing radiation

and its consequences for health and the environment.

With his brochure “Nuclear energy without radioactivity” the author, graduate engineer Heinz Werner Gabriel, makes an important contribution to health and energy policy and to the debate on the closure of aging nuclear power plants. The central message is that a country could be supplied with enough energy if we changed the paradigm so far underlying nuclear technology, i.e. that nuclear fission and release of energy was only possible by means of uranium. A new world opens up to the reader – and the debate on the withdrawal from nuclear energy programs has gained an important constructive dimension more.

The following provides the reader with a sample of the brochure.

Foreword

The idea to deal with the topic of “nuclear energy without radioactivity” dates back to the year 2001. In the vicinity of several nuclear facilities particle-bound radioactivity could be tracked as well as beryllium 7 according to documents from 1986/87.

The type of radioactivity is a clear indicator that lithium was handled there.

Knowledge of the fissility and energy release of lithium has been growing for decades; the knowledge that nuclear power could be produced without radioactive emission has grown accordingly.

Hoping that this research will provide a small contribution to a less risky future, I dedicate this book to my children and grandchildren Ines and Andreas, Anna-Lina and Aurelia.

H.W Gabriel, 20.01.2012

Summary

If asked why they argue against the use of nuclear energy, people mainly answer that “The threat imposed on us by radioactivity and nuclear waste is intolerable”.

If asked whether nuclear power plants could be built that do not produce radioactivity, scientists virtually always answer “no”.

This assessment does not correspond with the latest research in sciences. If the previously used nuclear fuel uranium is

replaced by lithium, the nuclear fission process will produce energy without radioactivity.

This process becomes comprehensible if we look at the fragmentation of lithium 6 by intruding deuterium. First an atom consisting of four protons and 4 neutrons is produced, which is then split up in two similar inactive helium atoms. However, with the fission of uranium, consisting of 92 protons and 143 neutrons, several hundred fragments are generated.

The absence of radioactivity eliminates the risk of an emergency and the necessity of finding a permanent repository for highly radioactive-waste. Nuclear energy can thus become economically usable and acceptable for society.

Lithium fission has been known since 1932 whereas that of uranium has been known since 1938. Documents and patents for the use of lithium in reactors have been available since 1955 or 1975.

We have received only scarce information about the construction of small lithium-reactors. So far hybrid reactors have been used as sources for neutrons in order to procreate fissile material.

Civil construction projects with electricity generation costs of 5 cent/kwh have been announced for 2008.

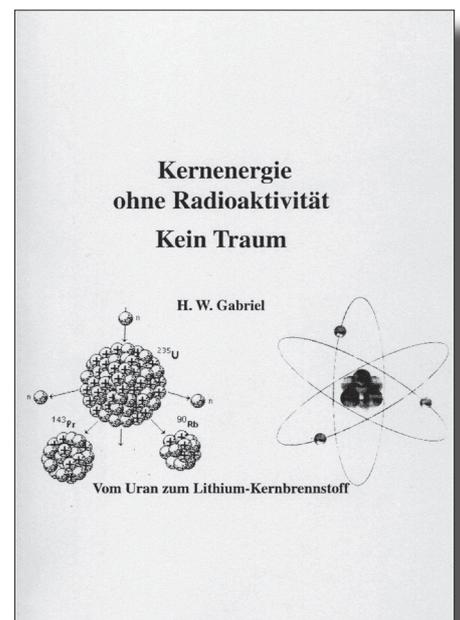
Periods fixed for construction are at an estimated 5 years in case practical ex-

perience with hybrid reactors was amply available.

The question why uranium was the preferred initial fissible atom can easily be answered: uranium was weapon-grade material; lithium however was not, due to the lacking chain reaction.

Considering the lithium resources worldwide the primary energy demands

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"Nuclear energy without ..."

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of the world could be covered for more than 800 years without producing any radioactivity.

Accepting the creation of short-term radioactivity (half-life period < 12 years), the timeframe could be extended three-fold.

Even today lithium fission is a feasible alternative for the not yet available large scale civil nuclear fusion.

According to recent statements (prior to the Fukushima disaster), "uranium and plutonium" are to be split instead of "lithium-deuterium" in the compact reactors announced for 2008.

Who could make an objection to "lithium as long-term energy source free from radioactivity"?

The Fukushima disaster clearly showed the necessity to use energy systems without radioactivity or with strictly reduced radioactivity: both owners and operators of nuclear power plants cannot compensate for the damage caused by an accident – and the state will have to substitute. To sum up: nuclear-energy with today's amount of radioactivity cannot be operated on a private basis.

Chapter 1: Renouncing nuclear energy – a political comedy

The last three explosions and meltdowns in nuclear reactors so far took place in Fukushima in March 2011.

About the author

Heinz Werner Gabriel is a graduate engineer in technical physics. He was active in the planning, construction and operation of five nuclear power plants and was leading projects on the development of safety-enhanced nuclear reactors and nuclear reprocessing plants.

In the scientific staff of the German Bundestag he was part of the shaping of future nuclear energy policy. As an independent expert he supported the legal authorities in investigations of offences against the Atomic Energy Act and the War Weapons Control Act for many years. With specific analytical methods, he cleared the basic origin of trafficked fission materials and the event time as well as the cause of concealed accidents in several nuclear installations.

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Again, some countries want to renounce nuclear power, others are holding on to their nuclear reactors.

Both attitudes are well marked by political opportunism, incompetence and irresponsibility.

Lately one performs somersaults to the citizens' disadvantage because the conflict between security and economics has not yet been solved.

Those who focus the use of nuclear energy on the operation of conceptually outmoded types of nuclear power plants from 1955 may be called incompetent.

A comparison: a car, the VW-Beetle, often causes lethal rear-end collisions due to the explosion of the fuel tanks located at the front. As a consequence, politicians enact a general prohibition of car driving.

Incompetence that is hazardous for the community is also demonstrated when yesterday a 40 billion euro product (NPP) was declared safe and today it is declared unsafe.

Those people who have not sought to install a fundamentally new product after more than seven core meltdown accidents since 1960 (in physically similar reactors) must be called irresponsible. Instead, a tiger (which can eat up a big city in case of failure) was only covered under a sheepskin. The sheepfold is then called "robust" for sheep running against it after a "stress test".

Legislation for the "nuclear phase-out-phase-in" in Germany was not a great moment of expertise on scientific policy.

Below, the key decisions in the development of nuclear energy are discussed, which ultimately led to today's technology and its problems.

The loss of credibility in politics, economics and science should be counteracted in order to be able to objectively assess and realize the chances of nuclear energy use without radioactivity.

These opportunities are not a dream but a professionally proven reality.

The potential for accidents with radioactivity and the necessity for radioactive waste disposal for thousands of years would be eliminated.

Some countries, such as in Switzerland, have taken a step towards objectivity and put strict, supposedly not satisfactory safety criteria for new nuclear power plants forward for discussion:

- Leakage of radioactivity to the environment must be excluded.
- Large releases of radioactivity should be excluded, but not following the principle of likelihood in gambling.
- The radioactive lifetime of radioactive waste should be in the range of a generation.

With lithium-deuterium nuclear fuel such criteria can be met!

The fact that such a decisive perspective can be overlooked results from a restricted nuclear physics education, in which the scientists teach and learn from industrial production only.

The safest way of civilian use of nuclear energy was not allowed to be either named or pursued.

The objectification of the term "security" via fixed criteria was not desirable.

The marketing of standard plants for decades was not permitted to be disturbed by a new "security level of science and technology".

Concern about the spreading of nuclear weapons is being misused by dominant countries to interfere with economic competitors when they develop new methods for the peaceful use of nuclear energy. •

Quotations on the introduction ...

Oath of a professor in front of the administrative Court
I swear, a reactor pressure vessel can not burst.

An upright professor at the Federal Institute of Technology Zurich
You will not be able to cope without risk assessment considering probabilities.

Reproach of a coworker
"A few years working in the nuclear energy policy has probably damaged your rationality – in the nuclear safety one plus one must still be two."

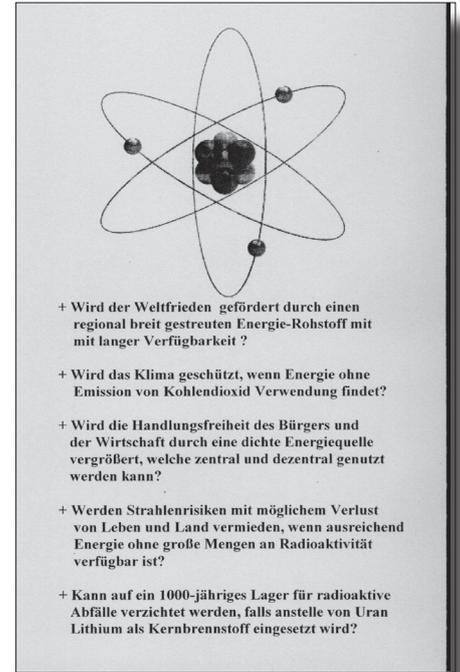
Answer with a counterquestion: "You are married and have a beloved child. Are you not practicing an extensive rationality in which 'one plus one' may take the value three as well?"

Retrospective complaint of a nuclear physicist
Conceited because of the high professional prestige,
being annoyed with doubts of simple-minded citizen,
defending with lies externally controlled,
uncertain about the future of children,
shameless concealment of past actions,
hoping to make up for lost opportunities.

From the brochure:
Nuclear energy without radioactivity – No dream

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The brochure can be ordered by:

Cooperative *Zeit-Fragen*, PO Box, CH-8044 Zürich or Sarkis/A. Gabriel, D-69434 Hirschhorn/Neckar, E-Mail: li-energy.info@arcor.de Price: SFr. 15.–/Euro 12.– (plus postage)

Nuclear power station Mühleberg should be decommissioned

by Dipl Ing H.W. Gabriel

One year after Fukushima the Federal Administrative Court decided to grant operation of the oldest boiling water reactor near Berne only until June 2013 for safety reasons. Further permissions need extensive proof of safety, which are difficult to achieve according to first estimates.

What happens? The nuclear phase-out is to be realised only after 2030 following the government's decision. Was the judiciary right to take action in security and energy issues? Did safety commissions devalue themselves by concealing or whitewashing safety deficiencies?

Are we on the way, where decisions might cause irreparable damage to the common interest? "Mühleberg" also determines the future of the other nuclear power stations in Beznau, Gösgen, and

Leibstadt, which together generate at least 40% of the electric energy.

The decision of the Federal Administrative Court has to be regarded as correct – at least on the basis of a justified presumption – focusing on the principle according to which safety of the citizen has priority over economy. An immediate closing down is not demanded (as it would have been possible). It is given more than a year time to supply proof of its security.

This time should also be used by politics to take control of action. What objections will arise if an accident occurs in the remaining operating time, before the now possible improvements are made?

Some suggestions for cost-effective and efficient measures:

– The behavior of commissions with regard to evaluations of safety and economy is criticized. But such evaluations

have the highest political rank. Parliament ought to draft the main criteria of safety for the protection of people.

- It is in the public interest that the behavior of the management of the nuclear power station receives support during difficult times of pressure. The Federal Council should engage an independent commissioner for nuclear security in the nuclear power station.
- Measures e.g. to reduce operating, mechanical stresses in old facilities with well-founded indications of deficiencies should be considered. Reduction in power to ca. 50% would be such a measure.

Constructive thinking should not be limited. •

(Translation *Current Concerns*)

Switzerland: We protect our territory and landscape ourselves

No ratification of the European Landscape Convention

The Federal Council has requested the Swiss Parliament to ratify the *European Landscape Convention of the European*

Council. The Federal Council's report assures us that the convention underscored "the ecological and cultural value of the landscape and its social and economic importance". It was based "on the principle of solidarity and explicitly respects the existing structures and procedures of a state"; its implementation in Switzerland could "be completed within the existing legal framework, ongoing activities and existing procedures, and with the available resources."

In other words, they want to convince us that the convention takes into account ecological and economic needs alike, respecting the Swiss federal system, and does not include any additional government intervention. First, the Council of States is dealing with this business (11.068). On 15 March we will have seen whether it could be convinced.

It must be feared that this euphemistic presentation does not withstand reality: First, the text of the convention only marginally mentions any economic

"15 European countries have prudently refrained from ratifying, including Germany, Austria, Liechtenstein and Sweden. Switzerland is well advised to follow suit."

needs. The emphasis is on environmentally sound spatial planning, and there in the first place on the preservation and maintenance of the existing landscape. Second, it is important to recall that the protection of landscape is basically a matter for the cantons. Thus, our federation ratified a convention with a broad interpretation of the term "landscape" and whose "landscape policy" intends to penetrate all areas relevant to regional planning. And finally articles 5 and 6 of the convention clearly define general and specific measures that have to be implemented by the contracting parties. It is hard to imagine that this will have no impact on existing structures and procedures.

The ratification of the *European Landscape Convention* might not automatically mean a redistribution of powers in favor of a centralized state, or new and immediate interventions of the same. But surely it would be an additional argument to put the case for any centralization and demands regarding environmental protection, which

are directed against the development of human activities. Elsewhere in the Federal Council's report they concede a bit naive-

ly that "landscape is subject of principles and legislative projects in the fields of agriculture and spatial planning. The significance of the convention for Switzerland lies in its impulse and in the support of the ongoing implementation" (paragraph 2.2 Assessment, Attitude of Switzerland). This means nothing else but restricting or at least influencing legislative freedom in spatial planning decisions due to the European Landscape Convention.

In view of such risks, parliament must take the Federal Council at its word: If this convention actually does not change our institutional and legal order or powers, there is no reason to ratify it. 15 European countries have prudently refrained from ratifying, including Germany, Austria, Liechtenstein and Sweden. Switzerland is well advised to follow suit. •

Source: *Presse- und Informationsdienst* No. 1968. Centre Patronal from 7 March 2012, www.centrepatronal.ch

(Translation *Current Concerns*)

One year after Fukushima

Is nuclear power phase-out a feasible alternative?

by Dr Ing Ernst Pauli

cc. The following article has been written without the author's knowledge and consideration of Dipl Ing H.W. Gabriel's presentation. Both papers jointly create a fundament, on which a rational and pertinent discussion may start. The complex subject requires to neatly analyze past experience, to carefully comprehend the needs of the present and to preserve the basis of life for our children on our globe. This cannot be accomplished by emotions or preconceived ideology. At the same time the problem contains a further – however solvable – difficulty: to explain the facts concerning complex science and power industry in general in such a way that citizens in the democracy can get involved in thinking and deciding on the issue. We consider our specialists capable of that!

Nuclear power phase-out

Discussions on the nuclear power phase-out took place in some countries following the events in Fukushima and partly led to a phase-out decision. Germany and Switzerland took that decision nearly at the same time. But if nuclear power plants are taken off the grid, the respective electricity production must be substituted. Germany has achieved a fast growth of its electricity production by a directed funding of renewable energies during many years. The complete replacement of nuclear power first and foremost by means of renewable energy seems predictable in the near future. A look to Austria may be helpful: The decision to do without nuclear power didn't create disadvantages or problems for Austria. The phase-out in Switzerland is politically intended. Is it actually being realized?

The nuclear energy, communicated to us as a safe source of energy, did not keep its promises. Five core melts and numerous further accidents since the introduction of this technology clearly point out that the probabilities of occurrence of catastrophic accidents as once computed are printers waste. Also newly developed reactor generations will not substantially improve security, as the assumed probabilities of accident occurrence were not corrected on the basis of the actual events up to now. The "myth of security"³ often prevented awareness of essentials. The crucial weak point is man as such, who is finally not able to control extremely complex systems in operation and in the planning of necessary safety precautions in the long run. The accidents of Three Mile Is-

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land, Chernobyl and Fukushima speak an all too plain language.

The decision of the Swiss Federal Council to phase-out from nuclear power should be welcomed. A reasonable energy policy should aim at avoiding the obvious risks of nuclear energy, at carefully dealing with fossil resources and at preventing possible effects on the environment like an inadmissible climate warming. All this points towards an energy policy which puts renewable energy sources for electricity production into the foreground.

The *Kyoto-Protocol*⁴ aims at the goal of limiting the rise in temperature of the earth by greenhouse gases. Apart from other measures the goal of the development and implementation of renewable forms of energy is mentioned in the article 2 for that same purpose. In 2009 a guideline in the same sense became effective on European Union level, in the introductory considerations of which the increased use of energy from renewable energy sources is affirmed as a worthwhile goal guarantying priority in supply to the grid. All member states have pronounced national goals for the share of renewable energy in electric power consumption.⁵

The following examples point the way to replace nuclear-power optimally and to achieve the necessary changes within assessable periods.

Development of electric power production from renewable energies

As early as 1991 Germany walked the path into a lasting power supply with the "Act of Feed-in Electricity". The subsidy model specified in this law was later taken over by 18 states of the European Union and by other countries like China.⁶ Its revision, the "Renewable Energies Law"

(EEG) stated in 2000 with amendments in 2004 and 2009 goes beyond the pure reduction of greenhouse gases. In its application it wants to protect environment and health and to avoid the risks posed by fossil sources of energy and nuclear power for electricity supply. The goals which this German energy policy set itself are ambitious: The EEG prescribes a share of renewable energies in electricity supply from 35% in the year 2020 to 50% in the year 2030 to finally 80% in 2050.⁷ The long-term subsidizing of innovative technology with an assured remuneration for feeding electricity to the grid over 20 years led to a very fast and accelerated introduction of electrical power from wind and solar into the market. The decision to take the seven oldest nuclear power plants in Germany off the grid is feasible on the basis of fast growing capacities in the renewable electricity production and large conventional reserve capacities of Germany's power supply in. The country is equipped with an installed power of approx. 155 GW (2009) with an effective average output of 76.8 GW. Even at the highest peak load of the last 10 years of 80 GW sufficient power reserves would be available to compensate for planned maintenance and unplanned outages.⁸ Within the reserve capacities a surplus of at least 10 GW was specified, which had been available at the end of 2010 for taking the nuclear power plants off the grid.⁹ When turning off the 7 oldest nuclear power plants in Germany and the nuclear power plant Krümmel with a total output of 8.4 GW, supply security as well as grid stability are strained, but controllable according to estimates of the transmission network operators and the Federal Network Agency.

Starting from 2017, Germany could do completely without nuclear power according to this scenario. Beyond the power stations currently being built and additional

Situation in Japan

Although the financially strong lobby of the nuclear industry in Japan advertises to go on with nuclear energy after Fukushima¹, a change in public opinion is taking place. The lack of electric power in the summer of 2011 was mastered by activation of reserve power plants and in addition by voluntary subjection to restrictions in electricity consumption. In January there were only 3 out of 54 Japanese nuclear reactors hooked to the grid. In March probably all nuclear power plants will be switched off. Apart from the stress tests that are taking place and the necessary ongoing of retrofits and repair work on the damages of the last earthquake, the responsible authorities refuse to grant operation permits². It comes as a surprise that the company TEPCO as power station operator in the region of Tokyo affirmed that there will be no shortage of electrical power in the coming summer even at demand peaks.

biomass power stations, an additional capacity requirement of at the most 5 GW would exist until 2017, which would eventually be able to be covered by new highly-flexible and highly-efficient gas-fired power stations, by a faster development of renewable energies as well as by measures to increase energy efficiency.⁹

As an example for the fast development of renewable energies in Germany the following figures may characterize the electric power production there: During the storm front "Andrea" in the early morning of the 5.1.2012 wind power stations provided 23 GW of electric power, 50% of the total electric power produced at that point in time. On the hot summer day 2.8.2011, solar electric power achieved 19 GW, roughly 25% of the total power produced.¹⁰ When the wind blows and when the sun shines, the peak power values of this kind of energy production are impressive and characterize the rapidly progressing development. But it is to be emphasized that averaged during the year the share of renewable energies is still small. The average share of wind energy amounts to 6% over the year and the share of solar power is at 1.9% only. Remarkable is the share to electric power by biomass and waste with 5.4%. All renewable energies summed up, they supplied 16.4% in 2010, 17.1% in 2011 to the generation of electric power in Germany.¹¹

The contributions of renewable energies in Germany are continually and quickly growing: According to current investigations solar power stations with

	Austria ¹⁴ Gross electric-power- production 2011	Switzerland ¹⁵ Net electric-power- production 2010	Germany ¹⁶ Gross electric-power production 2011
Hydro-power	58,5%	54,8%	3,1%
Nuclear-power	–	38,2%	22,5%
Fossile power	31,34%	4,8%	56,7%
Windpower	2,9%	0,06%	6,0%
Solar power	0,04%	0,13%	1,9%
Biomass, waste	6,4%	1,8%	5,4%
Geothermal	0,001%	–	–
Miscellaneous	0,9%	–	4,4%

Share of electric power production technologies in Austria, Switzerland and Germany. The offset in time and different definitions do not hamper the basic message.

"One year after ..."

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a nominal maximum power of 7.4 GW were built in the year 2010. This tendency will continue further. There exists a similar situation concerning wind energy, where new power stations are built. In 2009 1.9 GW and in 2010 1.5 GW have been installed.¹² New impulses are expected by wind parks built offshore, where the average yearly production duration will rise from 2000 hours to 4000 hours. The first "offshore" wind parks are meanwhile commissioned and in operation. Numerous further parks are planned. One can probably assume that the ambitious goals for the introduction of renewable energies will be even exceeded.

In 1978 Austria negated the use of nuclear energy for electric power generation in a plebiscite. In the same year this decision was recorded in the "Federal Constitutional Law for a Non-nuclear Austria" and also anchored in the Federal Constitution in 1999. As a consequence of this renouncement of nuclear energy the average share of renewable energies in the electric power production in Austria is quite high and amounted to 68.2% in 2009. A large part of the power is produced by river-run power plants, in artificial lakes and by storage power stations similarly to Switzerland. Likewise, fossil power stations cover a significant portion. In addition, Austria is actively using "new" renewable sources. Austria converted EU-legislation into its *Öko-Stromgesetz*¹³ and specified a series of goals for its electricity production. Between 2010 and 2015 power stations with a capacity of 2.35 GW shall be installed using renewable energies. Up to the year 2020 another 4.4 GW of electrical power shall be installed. This corresponds to an increase of the existing power generation capacity of roughly 50%.

In the mid 90s the use of wind force began in Austria and got a massive enhancement by attractive framework conditions in the 2003 energy policy, which lasted until 2006. In the years 2003 to 2006 100 wind-power plants were built on average with a cumulated installed power of approx. 0.2 GW per year. In 2009 however, when political and technical boundary conditions changed not one new wind-power plant was installed in Austria. The Austrian wind-power plants generated a total power of 1 GW in 2009, clearly more than the wind power installations in Switzerland.¹⁰ The generation of electric power from renewable energies in Austria is very high with a share of approx. 69%. Beside the power from hydro-electric power plants the wind force contributes 2.9%, the generation of power from biomass is at remarkable 6.4%. The shares of solar power and geothermal power are still negligible.

In Switzerland the statutory cost-covering feed-in compensation for electricity produced by renewable energy exists since 2009. The *Swiss energy bill* as of 1 January 2011 prescribes to increase average production of electric power from renewable energies by at least 0.62 GW equivalent capacity (approx. 8% of the entire capacity), up to the year 2030 in relation to conditions in the year 2000. The average annual production of electricity from hydro-electric power plants shall be increased by at least 0.23 GW equivalent capacity (+ 2.7%) up to the year 2030 compared to 2000.¹⁷ These goals are rather marginally set and reflect in no way the scenario and the necessary action to replace the electric power production in a phase-out from nuclear power in Switzerland.

Switzerland has a considerable capacity of electric power production by renewable energies using its storage power stations and the river-run hydroelectric powerplants; the situation however is very different from the German one. The hydro-electric power plants installed in Switzerland have a power peak of 12.8 GW in summer (17.9.2007) and 10.5 GW in winter (17.12.2008),¹⁸ Besides these maximum values the production scatters quite strongly as a function of the weather-dependent available amount of water. The safe minimum hydropower production is assumed at approximately 9.6 GW in the summer and at approximately 5.25 GW in winter. Conventional thermal power stations with cogeneration of heat and power contribute 0.5 GW or 4.8%.¹⁹ The wind power production in Switzerland contributes negligible 0.046 GW or 0.06%.²⁰ The production capacity of photovoltaic power in Switzerland with 0.07 GW²¹ is within a similar range as the wind force. In addition the Swiss nuclear power plants contribute 3.24 GW. If one adds all available electric power production capacities, a shortage of electric power to cover all requirements results in wintertime. In the last years it was necessary to import electric power. Even if one can export excess power in the summer, the power reserve is much too low.²² Potential losses due to maintenance work or unplanned outages caused by technical problems can be balanced by imported power only.

After the plebiscite from 23. September 1990 (nuclear power plant moratorium) no further nuclear power stations were built in Switzerland. But neither were there any active efforts at enlarging electricity production from renewable energies. Building up the necessary reserve capacity for a nuclear phase-out was not done or not done early enough to,.

An encouraging concept which might make the nuclear phase-out feasible in the foreseeable future is not in sight. The usage of gas-fired power stations would

therefore perhaps be a necessary, but only the second-best solution.

In her speeches backing up the decision on nuclear power phase-out Mrs *Leuthard* touched on the economical impulse of such a decision apart from the avoidance of the nuclear risk. This effect is actually well visible. More than 185,000 people²³ are working in green jobs in Austria, that's every twentieth job in Austria. The occupation in the area of renewable energies in Germany doubled from 2004 onwards to now 367,400 workplaces (2010).²⁴ The number of persons employed in the area of electricity supply decreased slightly to approximately 220,000, particularly through the declining hard coal mining industry and downstream processes.²⁵ A similar development could be expected in Switzerland. The positive economic influence of an active policy for the promotion of renewable energies is obvious particularly with respect to the middle-size companies.

What's next?

The examples grant clues towards a solution. Austria can very well live without nuclear energy on the basis of a high portion of renewable energies, which do not come from hydropower only. Germany is well prepared for the nuclear power phase-out and can take this step in foreseeable time. Switzerland must create a basis for the nuclear phase-out as was now decided on with a clear political framework of conditions. But it will benefit from the available advanced technologies.

Naturally one can only touch on the topic, here. Naturally the problems of the power grid will become larger with the fluctuating energy feed-in at an increasing share of new forms of power production. It is a welcome opportunity to use the engineering spirit and to work out new solutions, which will also pay off economically, as the development of renewable technologies in different countries during the last decades, also in Switzerland, already shows.

A high and very high share of renewable energies becomes feasible if electricity can be transmitted over far distances. To be mentioned is the increasing build of wind-power plants offshore, of solar power production in southern countries. In both cases the efficiency can be increased. New direct current high-voltage transmission technology transports power over large distances with relatively small losses of approx. 3% per 1000 km. Storage techniques must be further developed and organized. In an enlarged and structured electric grid the influence of the weather can be better balanced between distant areas where different weather conditions prevail. Finally, those renewa-

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Whose expert is Hans Rühle?

US and Germany do not agree upon Israel's military assessment with respect to Iran

by Benjamin Weinthal, "Jerusalem Post", 21 February 2012

Competing analysis articles appeared Monday [20 February] in "The New York Times" and last week [16 February] in the German daily "Die Welt" outlining vastly different conclusions about Israel's military capability to knock out Iran's nuclear weapons program.

While "The New York Times" report cast doubt on Israel's success chances, Hans Rühle, who directed the planning department of the German Defense Ministry between 1982 and 1988, expressed confidence that Israel's air force could decimate Iran's principal nuclear installations.

The core differences surround the number of Israeli jets and bombs required to destroy Iran's primary nuclear facilities, as well as the challenge of refueling fighter planes to travel a distance of more than 1,000 miles into Iranian airspace and return safely to Israel.

"The New York Times" titled its rather pessimistic analysis "Iran Raid seen as a Huge Task for Israeli Jets," and wrote that an Israeli mission to annihilate Iran's nuclear infrastructure would require a minimum of 100 fighter jets.

According to a sample of US defense and military analysts, it would be a Hercu-

"The question why uranium was the preferred initial fissile atom can easily be answered: uranium was weapon-grade material; lithium however was not, due to the lacking chain reaction."

From: Heinz Werner Gabriel, Kernenergie ohne Radioaktivität. Kein Traum, 2012 (Nuclear energy without radioactivity – no dream)

lean challenge for Israel to penetrate Iran's air space and launch attacks on the country's nuclear complexes.

"The New York Times" cited Michael V. Hayden, the former director of the Central Intelligence Agency from 2006 to 2009, who explicitly declared that pulverizing Iran's nuclear facilities is "beyond the capacity" of Israel.

Lt. Gen. David A. Deptula told the "The New York Times" that, "All the pundits who talk about 'Oh, yeah, bomb Iran,' it ain't going to be that easy."

Deptula, served as the US Air Force's top intelligence official until last year, and oversaw the air military strikes conducted in the 2001 Afghanistan War theater in 2001, and during the first Gulf war in 1991 in Iraq.

"The New York Times" offered a bleak assessment of Israel's capability to refuel its fighter planes, saying "Israel would have to use airborne refueling planes, called tankers, but Israel is not thought to have enough."

In a sharp contrast to the "The New York Times" analysis, Hans Rühle, a leading German security expert, asserted last week in a lengthy article in the "Die Welt" that a comprehensive Israel-based bombing campaign could significantly set back, perhaps a decade or more,

Iran's nuclear weapons program.

In the article titled "How Israel can destroy Iran's nuclear program" Rühle analyzed the number of Israeli fighter jets and bombs necessary to obliterate Iran's nuclear facilities.

Citing experts, Rühle writes that an extensive bombing campaign is within Israel's capability to decimate Iran's ability to continue to make progress on developing nuclear weapons.

According to Rühle, there are 25 to 30 facilities in Iran used for its atomic program, of which six are primary-bombing targets.

He cites the nuclear enrichment plant Natanz, the conversion facility in Isfahan, the heavy water reactor Arak and the weapons and munitions sites in Parchin. In addition, he notes the deep underground enrichment facility Fordow and Iran's operational nuclear plant Bushehr.

continued on page 8

"One Year after..."

continued from page 6

ble forms of energy should be promoted, which provide constant power like the terrestrial heat, tidal energy or wave-energy. Thereby we can become independent of the available energy's fluctuations from wind, sun and water and develop supply security on this basis.

However, the above-mentioned examples point to the fact that reliable messages and frame conditions must come from politics. The strong funding of renewable power production has contributed to economic success in Germany and should also lead to success in Switzerland this way. Nuclear power phase-out can be achieved and is an alternative when seriously effectuated.

¹ Prof. Koichi Kitazawa, former President of the Japan Science and Technology Agency, Lecture at Paul Scherrer Institut, 8.11.2011

² World Nuclear News, 16 Jan 2012, Japanese reactors await restart approvals (www.world-nuclear-news.org)

³ Fukushima: The myth of safety, the reality of geoscience, J. Nöggerath, R.J.Geller, V.K.Gusiakov *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* 2011

⁴ Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Kyoto 11.12.1997

⁵ Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources and amending and subsequently repealing Directives 2001/77/EC and 2003/30/EC

⁶ *Die Zeit*, 25.9.2009, Oekostrom - Das unterschätzte Gesetz

⁷ Gesetz für den Vorrang Erneuerbarer Energien (Erneuerbare-Energien-Gesetz - EEG) Ausfertigungsdatum: 25.10.2008 geändert am 22. Dezember 2011 (BGBl. I S. 3044)

⁸ Bundesverband der Energie und Wasserwirtschaft e.V. BDEW 2010: Energiemarkt Deutschland Zahlen und Fakten zur Gas-, Strom- und Fernwärmeversorgung, Sommer 2010

⁹ Umweltbundesamt Berlin, Hintergrundpapier zur Umstrukturierung der Stromversorgung in Deutschland, Stand Mai 2011

¹⁰ EEX-transparency platform, exercises statutory disclosure requirement on grind operation, <http://www.transparency.eex.com/de/>,

¹¹ Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Technologie, Berlin, Energiedaten für Deutschland Stand: 15.08.2011

¹² Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit (BMU), Berlin, Stand Juli 2011 Erneuerbare Energien in Zahlen

¹³ 75. Bundesgesetz über die Förderung der Elektrizitätserzeugung aus erneuerbaren Energieträgern

(Ökostromgesetz 2012 ÖSG 2012), *Bundesgesetzblatt für die Republik Österreich* 29.7.2011

¹⁴ Statistikbroschüre 2011, Energie-Control Austria, Wien, Seite 24

¹⁵ Bundesamt für Energie, Sektion Analysen und Perspektiven, Schweizerische Statistik der erneuerbaren Energien, Ausgabe 2010

¹⁶ Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Technologie, Energiedaten, ausgewählte Grafiken, Stand 15.8.2011, Seite 34

¹⁷ Schweizerisches Energiegesetz vom 26. Juni 1998, Stand am 1. Januar 2011

¹⁸ Diplomarbeit, Universität Wien, Die Strommärkte der Schweiz und Österreichs im Vergleich, Clemens Jedlicka, betreut von Univ.-Prof. Dr Franz Wirl

¹⁹ Elektrizitätsstatistik 2009, Bundesamt für Energie, Schweiz

²⁰ Stand 19.1.2012, www.wind-data.ch

²¹ Elektrosuisse Bulletin 5/2010, Das Wachstum bei der Fotovoltaik fällt stärker aus als erwartet

²² Grafiken der Elektrizitäts-Statistik BFE 2009

²³ Bundesministerium für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Umwelt und Wasserwirtschaft, Wien Die Entwicklung erneuerbarer Energie in Österreich im Jahr 2009, Dezember 2010

²⁴ Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit, Entwicklung der erneuerbaren Energien in Deutschland in 2010, Stand Dez 2011

²⁵ Umweltbundesamt Berlin, Hintergrundpapier zu Auswirkungen des EEG, Stand April 2011

(Translation Current Concerns)

"Whose expert is..."

continued from page 7

The popular *PJ Media* news website columnist, *David P. Goldman*, wrote last week that "Hans Rühle was one of the toughest and most perspicacious analysts in those heady days" during the Cold war period.

Goldman added that "Rühle is highly confident that Israel could knock out Iran's nuclear program for a decade or more with about 25 of its 87 F-15 fighter-bombers and a smaller number of its F-16s. Each of the F-15s would carry two of the GBU-28 bunker busters, with the F-16s armed with smaller bombs.

Rühle writes that surveillance "information about Natanz is solid," adding that the "project has been observed from satellites and from the location from 'Israeli tourists.'"

He added that Israel's strongest bunker buster bombs GBU-28 could destroy the roof of the facility. If the damage is not sufficient, a second GBU-28 could be launched to complete the aim of destruction.

According to Rühle, Israel's successful obliteration of the Syrian nuclear reactor in 2007 laid an important precedent. He writes that "many experts believe " that strikes against Iran's nuclear operations could set back the program 10 years, or possibly longer, based on present knowledge.

The fighter plane requirement would entail 20 F-15 machines each accompanied with two GBU-28s. He estimates that Israel's air force has over 87 F-15 planes at its disposal. The conversion Nuclear Technology Center of Isfahan, which is largely vulnerable to attack because its buildings are not underground, could be eliminated with GBU-27 bombs. Isfahan converts the yellow cake process into uranium.

The least difficult challenge for Israel's air force is the heavy-water reactor Arak, observes Rühle. The above-ground facility could be razed with 10 GBU-10 bombs, wrote Rühle. The strike would require 10 F-16 fighter jets.

According to Rühle, the most difficult obstacle to destroy is the underground Fordow enrichment plant. He notes that special team forces would have to attack the facility.

The alternative would be to strike the tunnel openings with GBU-28 bombs to plug the entry points for a period of time.

The complex Parchin site remains beyond the International Atomic Energy Agency inspections and it is unclear how many bombs it would take to destroy the over 100 buildings, many of which are bur-

ied underground. Nuclear warheads are believed to be worked on in the Parchin plant.

Rühle views the nuclear power plant Bushehr as a possible primary military target, largely because the plant's plutonium can be used for weapons. In contrast to the United States State Department, which views the Bushehr plant as a civilian-energy program without a military dimension, Rühle writes that "the destruction of Bushehr should not be a problem for Israel's army – 10 GBU-28 or GBU-27 bombs would be sufficient."

He quotes a high-level representative of the Israeli nuclear expert class who was in Berlin last year. The Israeli expert said "we cannot live with this reactor" in Bushehr because it is not immune to stopping the spread of proliferation-related material.

Rühle adds that if Israel can wipe out essential pieces of Iran's nuclear program, then the problem is solved for a generation.

His essay is filled with a kind of supreme confidence about the ability of Israel's military systems.

"Israel's Air Force is first class," writes Rühle. "Their pilots are conditioned from the history of Israel and the constant dangers faced by the Jewish state."

Though Rühle identifies the refueling of Israel's fighter jets to be a thorny problem because Israel only has five tankers of the type KC-130H and four of the category B-700, he said he believes the number to be higher.

He calls the public refuel tanker number a "rather lean supply," but notes that Israel's government had requested to buy or lease from US president *George W. Bush's* Administration additional refueling tanks. He adds that Israel's Air Force has expertise over the "buddy refueling" process among F-15 and F-16 planes. There is also the possibility of a temporary landing to refuel in Syria, Turkey, or Iraq, noted Rühle.

Source: *Jerusalem Post* from 21 February 2012

* * *

cc. During the Second World War the winter campaign against Russia was triggered off contrary to the judgment of the generals – by Hitler. Will Hans Rühle follow in these footsteps? What makes him so sure? Or is it simply an "extended delusion of grandeur" that will soon exceed psychiatric categories? Is his propaganda part of Germany's appraisal as "world leader" which Deputy Israeli Foreign Minister Daniel Ayalon expressed in Munich on 3 February 2012?

The following may probably be forgotten, and therefore it should be called to mind: The Samson Option means that Israel itself will be destroyed if it should

start a war against Russia, or even Iran. So is it an option for suicide that Mr Rühle advocates?

In his book "The Samson Option: Israel's Nuclear Arsenal and American Foreign Policy" Seymour Hersh refers to an interview with Rabin, stating that people in Israel have long since been well aware of the danger of a collective suicide: A high-ranking American warned Rabin by saying that Israel should never drop a bomb otherwise its government would disappear. As an answer Rabin asked whether his dialog partner considered him to be insane ...

The German Hans Rühle calls for war against Iran waged by Israel. Are we to assume that Hans Rühle is playing with the Samson Option? It is probably no secret that such a war would be waged on a nuclear level. The only question remains, what kind of "artillery shells" (Seymour Hersh) would be used. Are they of American origin? Or of German origin? Manufactured by German know-how, then stored for being assembled within a week?

Current Concerns

The international journal for independent thought, ethical standards, moral responsibility, and for the promotion and respect of public international law, human rights and humanitarian law

Publisher: Zeit-Fragen Cooperative

Editor: Erika Vögeli

Address: Current Concerns,

P.O. Box, CH-8044 Zurich

Phone: +41 (0)44 350 65 50

Fax: +41 (0)44 350 65 51

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Subscription details:

published regularly electronically as PDF file

Annual subscription rate of

SFr. 40,-, € 30,-, £ 25,-, \$ 40,-

for the following countries:

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hongkong, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Qatar, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, USA

Annual subscription rate of

SFr. 20,-, € 15,-, £ 12,50, \$ 20,-

for all other countries.

Account: Postscheck-Konto: PC 87-644472-4

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Saying no to gunboat diplomacy About the Chinese No at the UN Security Council

by Li Qingsi*

The current Syrian crisis is not an issue purely concerning human rights protection as the West alleges. The West wants to topple the Syrian government and replace it with a pro-western one. Syria is considered a problem in the West's Middle East strategy because of its close relations with Iran and Lebanon, which are hostile to the United States.

In order to play a part in the Middle East, the Arab League is willing to charge into the West's Middle East strategy. After solving the Syrian issue in a non-peaceful way, the West's next target, no doubt, will be Iran.

China's veto does not mean that Beijing takes sides with the Syrian government, or that it is turning a blind eye to the bloody clashes, it means it does not want Syria to end up on the same disastrous road as Libya, which finally ended in a fullscale civil war.

As a permanent member of the UN Security Council, China has the responsibility and obligation to defend the UN Charter, international justice and code of conduct, and so must reject any resolutions that are in violation of the UN Charter and purposes.

If China knows that a resolution is likely to endanger state sovereignty and go against justice and it does nothing, it will be serious malpractice.

The West's furious response to the vetoes by China and Russia shows the vetoes have exposed the West's true purpose of trying to dominate the Middle East and monopolize UN affairs, which they had sought to veil behind their lofty claims of protecting human rights in Syria.

Russia

Iran issue is to be settled only by peaceful means

"I am convinced that the *issue is to be settled only by peaceful means*", Prime Minister Vladimir Putin emphasized in his article in the daily Moskovskiy Novosti Newspaper on Monday. "We propose to recognize Iran's right to develop a civilian nuclear program, including the right to enrich uranium. However, then all activities should reliably and thoroughly be controlled by the *International Atomic Energy Agency IAEA*. If this is achieved, then all sanctions against Iran need to be lifted, including those unilaterally imposed", Putin said. Too often, individual countries had been "punished" by the West lately. At the first opportunity, it put excessive pressure on sovereign countries by means of sanctions and military interventions. It might be recollected that the world actually was not in 19th and not in 20th century.

The world has witnessed too many invasions of sovereign states and the killing of innocent civilians in the name of humanitarian intervention. The military interventions since the end of the Cold War show that the West, while holding high the banner of human rights protection is in reality seeking its own global or regional strategic interests.

Whether in the countries invaded after the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks on the US, or in some Muslim states that underwent "color revolutions" last year, the fact of the matter is, instead of protecting human rights the invasions and "revolutions" have caused domestic stability and humanitarian situation to deteriorate.

Experience shows that, since the Cold War, Western countries, no matter how great their quarrels are, will join hands when in conflict with non-western countries. Even in this era of globalization, there is still a clear dividing line between the West and non-western world.

For historical and practical reasons, the balance of power between the West, especially the US, and non-western world is uneven. As absolute power without supervision and restriction results in corruption inside a state, a power without a counterweight in the international community also will become imperious and ruthless, which, threatens the stability of the whole world.

After the Cold War, the US managed to "have a firm hold over the UN to oppress the international community" while small and medium-sized countries dared not voice their discontent.

The US' hysterical reaction to China's veto shows it has not adapted to China's change. At a time when gunboat policy has been revived in a new guise, a modest, self-disciplined diplomatic approach seems ill timed.

If China and the US can peacefully co-exist, it will be an unprecedented, pioneering undertaking. But the history of China-US contacts indicates such cooperation cannot be attained through compromise or requests, nor should expect any cooperation for win-win by our own wishful thinking. Struggle without breaking relations should not be the bottom line of the Chinese attitude to the US, only when we are ready to pay the price for splitting will we manage to attain the struggle without splitting. [...]

As a permanent member of the UN Security Council, China should shoulder the great responsibility of safeguarding world peace. In order to maintain unity, China has been restrained in the use of its veto.

As one member of the international community, China is aware that it cannot realize its own interests without cooperation with the outside world. But China will also be alert to those Western countries that push too far. Having been invaded by Western powers, China understands the suffering that results. So a rising China will not repeat the errors of others, because the Chinese people believe that what you do not want done to yourself, you do not impose on others. •

*Li Qingsi is professor for International Relations at the Renmin University in China.

Source: www.voltairenet.org, 23 February 2012

Speaking of North Korea, the situation about its nuclear issue is seriously as well. "The nuclear status of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) is unacceptable for us. We unwaveringly call for denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, which should be achieved only by politic and diplomatic efforts. We call on resuming the six-party talks (concerning North Korea) as soon as possible", Putin wrote in his article.

Apparently not all Russian partners share this approach. Moreover, *Putin* warned that any attempt to test the hardness of the new DPRK leader was not acceptable. "We are continuing an active dialogue with the country's regime, cultivating good neighborly relations and step by step bringing *Pjöngjang* to settle the nuclear issue", Putin said.

Putin did not rule out that cases of crude and even violent interventions in the internal affairs of countries might stimulate certain authoritarian regimes (and not just them) to acquire nuclear weapons. With the atomic bomb in the pocket, one is better protected against others. "Whether or not we do like this, we have to acknowledge the fact that an intervention from outside may cause such train of thought", Putin wrote.

Thus, the number of the so-called threshold states that can develop military nuclear technologies overnight, is growing. Under these circumstances it is of great importance to establish nuclear-free zones in different parts of the world. •

Source: *Ria Novosti* (German), 27 February 2012

(Translation: *Current Concerns*)

The conflict in Syria primarily aims at the weakening of Iran

Peter Scholl-Latour in an interview with Deutschlandfunk radio station

Who supports the insurgents, and with what interests?

It's not about Syria, and that's just the complete deception of the public opinion. It's about Iran. Iran is portrayed as the great devil, as the great demon. Iran is known to be Shiite, has always been a historical enemy of Saudi Arabia and the Wahhabi sect prevailing there, which is one of the most intolerant branches of Islam. It's about hastily weakening Iran – against whom in fact everything is directed – and above all about stopping Iran from building a continuous land bridge. This is supposed to start in Iraq, which is predominantly Shiite and where *al-Maliki*, a Shia Prime Minister is currently governing. It then runs via Syria, ruled by the Alawites, who are said to be close to the Shiites. Either way, the country is not Sunni,

but rather secular. Then, the land bridge goes on to the Shiite Hezbollah in Lebanon, which is the strongest force there. What one has not taken note of is the following: Hezbollah has defeated the Israelis in 2006. And to prevent this continuous bridge of Shiism, which is connected with Iran, Syria is now to be smashed.

Mr Scholl-Latour, what developments do you expect, should Assad's opponents prevail?

[...] If Syria was relying on itself, the insurgency would have ended long ago. But they want to overthrow Syria from outside. What will come next – well, a look at Libya is very revealing. In Libya there is a civil war going on that has broken out with estimated 60,000 to 70,000 deaths. Of which no one is even speaking, nobody speaks of Libya any longer and of

the chaos that arose there. And not even of the fact that there are various Islamist groups, e.g. the Senussi sect, and so on, and that the separation of Cyrenaika is now imminent. There is a civil war going on. And if today we are talking about 7000 deaths in Syria, reported by the so-called activists, which may be true – we can not judge that. This is terrible enough. But when the civil war breaks out, which is fueled by all sides, namely from Turkey, from the Anbar province in Iraq, from Jordan, from parts of Lebanon and first and foremost from America, you have to say, in that case a civil war will break out with 70 000 deaths.

Source: Original at www.dradio.de on 03/09/2012

The extract was linguistically revised. (Translation Current Concerns)

“The vilification of the nature and dignity of man”

On US Attorney General Holder's statement on the killing of suspected terrorists

by Rainer Rothe, lawyer

Please do not get used to it, but be outraged! Resist being manipulated and use your sense!

On 5 March 2012 US Attorney General *Eric Holder* claimed in the German press that the deliberate killing of people was legal; this is not only wrong and outrageous from a legal point of view. It represents the – unsuccessful – attempt to render inoperative the established and well-proved international law, which the world community has agreed upon after two terrible world wars and to vilify the nature and dignity of human beings by sheer arrogance of power.

To purposefully and constantly repeat false theories is a strategy of manipulation and propaganda that has been developed during decades; it aims at changing opinions and systems leaving aside man's intellect: which means that these methods are anti-democratic and subversive. Spin-doctoring, NLP are only some of these methods. Examples can be experienced every day. The testimony of US Attorney General is one of them. His statement is contrary to international law and human rights. The rulings of international law are clear and comprehensible for everyone.

In international law there is no legitimacy for the killing of individuals. Already the use of violence against other states beyond the nations' right to self-defense or beyond corresponding *UN* resolutions is illegal. In the future the United States will not even comply with this basic requirement. Moreover, however, permitted use of force in international law applies only to conflicts between states.

The killing of individuals is not legitimized by a state's right to self-defense. Martial law, which does no longer exist according to the *UN Charter*, does not justify state violence in armed conflicts with foreign groups. This is still a matter the national state and its judicial system have to take care of. Everything else is a violation of other states' sovereignty and represents an undue interference with the internal affairs of other states. Again, this is one of the main results that the international community and all States have agreed upon after a long struggle after the brutal wars with tens of millions of casualties.

Holder speaks of *alleged* terrorists. *After all, it is to be legal to kill people simply on the basis of an assumption?* A serious violation of basic human rights, of the presumption of innocence, the right to a fair trial and the prohibition of the death penalty. Holder's excuses are worse than medieval arguments and far from what is appropriate for civilized liberal democratic states.

The second distinction, “[...] even if it is about US citizens [...]” is inhuman. In contrast to article 1 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* of 1948 “all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood”. The US Attorney General, however, expresses the fact that in his opinion – which is wrong – people and human lives are of greater or of less value.

On the other hand, the German Federal Constitutional Court stated the unconstitutionality of the *Aviation Security Act*, according to which passenger aircraft and thus all passengers could be shot down in order to protect other people in case of a terrorist attack, by arguing that every human life has equal value. No one should trade off one human life against the other.

Just for completeness, it should be mentioned that the right to self-defense as a justification under criminal law presupposes a present, immediate, sustaining violent attack on relevant legally protected interests. In addition, the principle of proportionality has to be observed in case of resistance. According to the press release, Holder twists (in a speech to law students) this general principle of humanity, claiming that it is even legitimate to kill those who pose the immediate threat of a violent attack. From a legal point of view, a threat is not a current immediate attack at all. A threat does not justify any violence against people.

This idea is destructive to confidence and it represents a forward shift of violence. According to Holder, the citizen should always expect to be shot just because the state considers him a threat. He will prepare himself accordingly. However, this is just not the principle of peace and of the free democratic constitutional state which does not only have to respect human dignity as the supreme principle, but defend and promote it.

Man is a wolf to man. Let us defend rights for the benefit of humanity, peace and social justice. •

When war comes, Ron Paul can say: “George Washington and I tried to warn you.”

by Michael Scheuer

For much more than a decade, *Ron Paul* has warned Americans about the danger inherent in a bipartisan foreign policy that intervenes in other peoples' affairs, seeks to impose Western values on others, and writes blank-check commitments to fight for other countries in wars where no genuine US national interest at risk. Dr Paul often cites *George Washington's* words in this regard, as our first president – and the greatest American – clearly, starkly and eloquently warned of the disasters awaiting the United States if its leaders engaged in an interventionist foreign policy and favored one nation over all the others.

Many Americans, I think, admire Dr Paul for his position on foreign policy not only for its substance but also for the personal courage it takes for him to be consistent in the face of the constant slandering he encounters. Damned as an isolationist, an America-hater, a Pollyanna, and an anti-Semite, Dr Paul perseveres, telling Americans that the road to their nation's destruction has been paved over the last 35 years by Republican and Democratic leaders – and their smarmy acolytes in the media, the lobbies, and the academy – who have unrelentingly intervened in other peoples' business and thereby consistently involved America in wars in which it has no dog in the fight.

Today all Americans have a chance to look into the abyss President Washington and Dr Paul have described and see the horror that lies just ahead in the coming war with Iran. Because of the US government's endless intervention in Israeli and Muslim affairs, America is positioned to be taken to war against Iran if Israel decides to attack the Islamic Republic. This week's media stories that Israeli leaders will not warn President *Obama* and his lieutenants when they set the date for attacking Iran so as to give Obama “deniability” is fodder for fools. When Israel attacks Iran, 1.4 billion Muslims — Shia and Sunni alike – well be sure the United States gave Israel the green light, and the AIPAC-owned Congress will subsequently confirm that belief when it sanctions – as it did in the 2006 Israel-Hizballah war – the very public resupply of Israel with sophisticated U.S. ordnance intended to kill more Muslims.

So what will ignoring Dr Paul and General Washington cost the United States? Well, four things come to mind.

First, the constitution is in part negated. The prime minister of Israel will de-

cide when America goes to war with Iran, not, as the constitution requires, the U.S. Congress.

Second, it will transform Barack Obama from the commander-in-chief of the world's greatest military power into a semi-catatonic automaton who – in his lust for reelection – obeys Israel's prime minister and the campaign-funding leaders of the Jewish-American community and takes the United States to war against a nation which – save for our “alliance” with Israel – would be a marginal threat to us.

Third, as noted in this morning's front-pages, Iran's US-based intelligence apparatus and that of its Hizballah ally will attack in the United States. These attacks will be carried out by Iran and Hizballah, but they will possible mainly because of the unconstitutional picking and choosing of which federal laws to enforce that has been done Obama and all other presidents in the last 30 years, an illegal practice that has left our borders open and – with millions of undocumented aliens in the country – our domestic security in a shambles.

Fourth, and needless to say, war with Iran will wreck the already foundering US economy and usher in a lengthy war with the entire Muslim world.

With time short before Israel attacks Iran, what can be done to stop America's slide to disaster? The answer, I fear, is not much, and what can be done, can only be done by Barack Obama. Still, American history has a precedent and it is Mr. Obama's for the taking. That precedent was established by George Washington in 1793 when he declared America's neutrality in the war between Britain and France, then officially America's ally. (*See, <http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18thcentury/neutra93.asp>*).

In the eerie manner in which history often works, only minimal changes are needed in president Washington's neutrality declaration to make it pertinent to today's crisis. If he has any desire to defend US independence, sovereignty, and prosperity, President Obama could issue the following statement:

A Proclamation of Neutrality 2012

“Whereas it appears that a state of war exists between Israel, of the one part, and Iran on the other, and the duty and interest of the United States require, that they should with sincerity and good faith adopt and pursue a conduct friendly and impartial toward the belligerent Powers.

I have therefore thought fit by these presents to declare the disposition of the United States to observe the conduct aforesaid towards those Powers respectfully; and to exhort and warn the citizens of the United States carefully to avoid all acts, and proceedings whatsoever, which may in any manner tend to contravene such disposition.

And I do hereby also make known, that whatsoever of the citizens of the United States shall render himself liable to punishment or forfeiture under the law of nations, by committing, aiding, or abetting hostilities against any of the said Powers, or by carrying to any of them those articles which are deemed contraband by the modern usage of nations, will not receive the protection of the United States, against such punishment or forfeiture; and further, that I have given instructions to those officers, to whom it belongs, to cause prosecutions to be instituted against all persons, who shall, within the cognizance of the courts of the United States, violate the law of nations, with respect to the powers at war, or any of them.

In testimony whereof, I have caused the seal of the United States of America to be affixed to these presents, and signed the same with my hand. Done at the city of Washington, D.C., the tenth day of March, two thousand and twelve, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-sixth.

Barack Obama, 10 March 2012”

So there is a way out – if Mr Obama has a backbone, a desire to protect the United States, and any modicum of respect for the US Constitution. The foregoing proclamation would defend US interests without intervening in the affairs of either Israel or Iran; they can go to war and will find no US-made obstacle in their way. In addition, such a proclamation by Obama would – at long last – unleash US intelligence and law-enforcement agencies to legally smash not only Iran's covert operations in America, but also Israel's covert-action programs in the United States, programs that steal our military, economic, and technological secrets; suborn US citizens to commit treason against their country; and benefit from the corrupt practices of a small, wealthy, and increasingly disloyal segment of the Jewish-American community that are administered through such agencies as AIPAC.

After the presidential election in Russia

There would be a lot of good foundation for more cooperation between Europe and Russia

by Karl Müller

After the presidential elections in Russia, we can hear voices here and there even in our part of the world that focus on the political future of a coexistence between Russia and Europe. One of these voices is that of the former German chancellor *Gerhard Schröder*, who expressed in a radio interview with the *Deutschlandfunk* on 7 March that Europe and Russia – both of them – could greatly benefit of a “partnership for modernization”.

Vladimir Putin lead in a similar direction in an extensive newspaper article on 27 February (the Russian news agency *Ria Novosti* has translated the text of the article into English, it may be found at: <http://en.rian.ru/analysis/20120227/171547818.html>).

Putin proposes “moving toward the creation of a common economic and human space from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean”. His aim is “that we work toward creating a harmonious community of economies from Lisbon to Vladivostok, which will, in the future, evolve into a free trade zone and even more advanced forms of economic integration”.

The article by *Vladimir Putin* is also of great interest in other respects and could provide a basis for a constructive dialogue about the challenges lying ahead and the cooperation in world politics.

Putin writes: “As before, I believe that the major principles necessary for any feasible civilization include inalienable right to security for all states, the inadmissibility of the excessive use of force, and the unconditional observance of the basic principles of international law. To neglect any of these principles can only lead to the destabilization of international relations.”

Putin reminds of the norms of international law: “It is often said that human rights override state sovereignty. This is undoubtedly true – crimes against humanity must be punished by the International Court. However, when state sovereignty is

too easily violated in the name of this provision, when human rights are protected from abroad and on a selective basis, and when the same rights of a population are trampled underfoot in the process of such ‘protection’, including the most basic and sacred right – the right to one’s life – these actions cannot be considered a noble mission but rather outright demagoguery.”

“Nobody”, *Putin* continues, “has the right to usurp the prerogatives and powers of the UN, particularly the use of force with regard to sovereign nations. This concerns NATO, an organization that has been assuming an attitude that is inconsistent with a ‘defensive alliance’. These points are very serious. We recall how states that have fallen victim to ‘humanitarian’ operations and the export of ‘missile-and-bomb democracy’ appealed for respect for legal standards and common human decency.”

Putin also addresses other hot spots of world events: the events in northern Africa and the Middle East, the problem of proliferation, the situation in Afghanistan, the Asia-Pacific region, and the Russian-American relations.

Tackle the drug crime

As in previous years, he reminds of taking decisive action against any kind of drug-related crime when talking about Afghanistan: “The probable future of Afghanistan is alarming. We have supported the military operation on rendering international aid to that country. However, the NATO-led international military contingent has not met its objectives. The threats of terrorism and drug trafficking have not been reduced. [...]”

Russia has obvious interests in Afghanistan and these interests are understandable. Afghanistan is our close neighbour and we have a stake in its stable and peaceful development. Most important, we want it to stop being the main source of the drug threat. Illegal drug trafficking

has become one of the most urgent threats. It undermines the genetic bank of entire nations, while creating fertile soil for corruption and crime and is leading to the destabilization of Afghanistan. Far from declining, the production of Afghan drugs increased by almost 40% last year. Russia is being subjected to vicious heroin-related aggression that is doing tremendous damage to the health of our people.

The dimensions of the Afghan drug threat make it clear that it can only be overcome by a global effort with reliance on the United Nations and regional organizations – the *Collective Security Treaty Organization*, the *Shanghai Cooperation Organization* and the *CIS*. We are willing to consider much greater participation in the relief operation for the Afghan people but only on the condition that the international contingent in Afghanistan acts with greater zeal and in our interests, that it will pursue the physical destruction of drug crops and underground laboratories.

Invigorated anti-drug measures inside Afghanistan must be accompanied by the reliable blocking of the routes of opiate transportation to external markets, financial flows and the supply of chemical substances used in heroin production. The goal is to build a comprehensive system of anti-drug security in the region. Russia will contribute to the effective cooperation of the international community for turning the tide in the war against the global drug threat.”

If Europe remembers its own values, it can accept the dialogue offered by the new Russian president in all these aspects. The European peoples and states are interested in international law being respected, each state being treated equally and its rights being respected; it is also interested in the states and peoples cooperating in peace, in enhancing the general welfare and the dangers emanating from drugs being contained. •

(Translation *Current Concerns*)

“When war comes ...”

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President Obama, then, has a chance to make history, and all he has to do is follow legitimate historical precedent and enforce the laws he swore to uphold. My guess is that there is not enough courage and pat-

riotism in him to so act, and so he will go down in history not only as failed president, but as the president who listened neither to General Washington nor Dr Paul and so confirmed the enslavement of 300 million Americans to the war-making lust of a foreign country, its leader, and and

a small cabal of disloyal American citizens. •

Source: *Michael Scheuer's Non Intervention.com* from 29 February 2012
<http://non-intervention.com/1033/>

Ukrainian expert: missile defense in Europe directed against Russia

The planned European missile defense is of American origin and is directed against Russia, say experts.

“I think there is actually no European missile defense; this system is American”, said *Yuri Alekseyev*, head of the national space agency of the Ukraine in Kiev at a press conference to mark the 20th anniversary of the institution on Tuesday.

“Considering the position of the base stations and particularly of warships in the Mediterranean, we can clearly recognize that a kind of belt is being created on the western borders of Russia.” With these

stations, the US could monitor new developments in Russia. The northern Plesetsk launch site was a nuclear test site of the Russian Defense Ministry. Each submarine that reported for duty or was being tested circulated in the area of Murmansk. “All these activities are now covered by America”, Alekseyev said.

His predecessor, *Vladimir Gorbulin*, agreed that building a missile defense system in Europe could threaten Russian strategic missile launches. “But the danger is not extremely great, because antiballistic missiles can barely outrun Russian strate-

gic missiles if they were fired from their current positions [...]. There is more politics than engineering and technology in the pie.”

“A certain amount of trust in relations between Russia and the United States does not allow establishing a universal missile defense against those countries that pose a potential threat to European countries, USA, Russia and Ukraine,” the expert said. •

Source: *Ria Novosti* from 28.02.2012

(Translation *Current Concerns*)

USA advocates a harder line for the fight against drug-related crime in Central America

km. The USA have rejected the proposal of Guatemala's President *Perez*, to renounce the fight against production, trade and consumption of drugs. During a visit in Mexico, US Vice-President, *Biden*, said, a discussion on drug policy was legitimate but would inevitably lead to the result that there was no better alternative. *Biden* admitted that the

US should do more for the restriction of drug consumption in the US itself and of arms smuggling to the south. He promised more assistance for the Central American states in their fight against drug-related crime.

Also in other Central American states like Honduras, El Salvador and Panama the proposal of the presi-

dent of Guatemala had met with rejection. The Salvadorian president *Funes* said that decriminalization of the drug business made Central America a paradise for smugglers and consumers.

Source: *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*
from 8.3.2012

(Translation *Current Concerns*)

The University of canton Vaud is betraying its vocation An operation unveiling the pure manipulation of minds!

by *Suzette Sandoz, Pully*

It was an offense by a historian not to be made: the Romands (French speaking Swiss) dared designating *General Guisan* the “Romand of the century”! Considered such a misdeed, such an error of judgment, the university was to react! The “historical truth” on the bourgeois, heartless officers, on the egoistic Swiss authorities so close to the Nazis and on the raptors of the Second World War had to be restored! And for this reason it was necessary to organize a public event reviving the Bergier Report!

On 21 March, at 6:00 pm, and the following day, all day reserved for students of secondary schools, this report will be presented to the public. It is a report written in a time of unrest and under great pressure, denied and dismantled by recognized historians, disdained by many witnesses of the time which it claims to analyze but beware of questioning those who have personally experienced the epoch. Now this report will be presented by a group of “personalities” whose scientific objectivity has to be treated with lots

of caution. Just to name Mrs *Ruth Dreifuss*, *Misters Jost, Guex, Perrenoud, Boschetti*. Trying to find Messrs *Langendorf, Streit, Jagmetti*, for example, is in vain.

The University of Lausanne is betraying its historical mission by devoting a completely unilateral debate to a report so much disputed that no scientist worthy of this name would speak about it without giving several detractors the chance to speak as well.

As a former member of the National Council, I followed the events around the dormant assets and the blackmailing by *Bronfman, d'Amato* and other racketeers. I remember the despair of certain parliamentary colleagues being confronted with the general historical ignorance of our Federal Councillors, of whom Mrs Dreifuss formed part then. I still remember the former rector of Neuchâtel, a historian, expressing his fury confronted with the names of the experts who were going to constitute the commission responsible for the Bergier report. These characters had the chance to get rich comfortably at

the expenses of the Helvetian taxpayer on whose fatherland they were delighted to spit. As usual, unfortunately, the majority of the parliament members prostrated and a part of the Left was all too happy to mingle their saliva with those of the experts. If you had heard – like I did on the occasion of a special meeting with delegates of the Jewish World Congress – the head of the delegation saying that Switzerland was now to do “something illegal” (sic) to be forgiven its attitude during the war, you would know that everything officially published after this period and financed under international pressure, must be handled with tweezers.

The university must act intransigently. Its function is to defend and to use the intellectual probity and the equilibrium of debate against the ideological and totalitarian temptation. The authorities of Lausanne University do the contrary by covering an operation that unveils the pure manipulation of minds! •

Source: *La Nation* from 9.3.12

(Translation *Current Concerns*)

“The schools in Saxony are the best”

The Weisswasser Vocational Training Centre – an example

by Dieter Sprock

“The schools in Saxony are the best, and we are Saxons,” says *Eveline Hubatsch*, the former director of the Lausitz Glassworks Weisswasser, in a conversation with the head and teachers of the Weisswasser Vocational Training Centre, not without justifiable pride. The schools and teachers of the former GDR often did not have an easy time after the regime change, their experiences being hardly noticed by the West despite the fact that its industry was happy to take the highly skilled engineers from the east. The chance was missed to take the best of both school systems and bring them together.

Looking ahead despite uncertainty

The Weisswasser Vocational Training Centre has also experienced several changes, including at least one large one, the transition from the GDR school system to the school system of Baden Württemberg and Bavaria, on whose curricula and structure it had to be based after the regime change. At Weisswasser, for example, there was vocational training with “Abitur” (A-levels) in GDR days. This had been established since the 70s as a successful system. It offered apprentices the opportunity to attain the “Abitur” this way. With the radical change after the regime change this system was to expire. “But the students were still there, we could not simply send them away; in the transition phase there were three Abitur classes in Weisswasser. Although we teachers were very confused, we had to look ahead and bring the classes to an end”, says deputy headmaster *Friedhelm Patock*.

In all of Eastern Germany the number of students fell sharply after the regime change. In the districts Görlitz, Zittau and Hoyerswerda the declines were particularly dramatic. The population of Weisswasser fell from almost 40,000 in the period after the regime change to about 19,000 today. “Particularly younger people went away, and they took their children – even the unborn – with them, and they are now missing. With campaigns like *Sachse komm zurück* (Saxon come back) and others, they are now trying to bring back the people who are urgently needed here”, explains *Friedhelm Patock*. Many went away because the wages were higher in the West. Another reason was the structural changes: The entire textile industry collapsed, and so hundreds of jobs were lost. In the *Lausitzer Glas Combinat*, there was a total of about 14 000 employees, now there are only 500 still working in the glass industry. In the heydays more than 4000 people were working in the Boxberg

power plant, one of the main employers in the region, today 800 to 900 are left.

This development has of course also changed the education landscape: sites were merged and schools closed. This first led to a significant surplus of teachers, which was to be reduced by a hiring freeze. But now there is an acute shortage of teachers in Saxony, at all levels schools are looking for teachers again, but the existing teaching body is getting old. This is especially a problem for vocational schools because there every teacher has his special field and cannot just take over another subject.

“The results are very encouraging”

The introduction of the learning field concept has demanded a lot from the teachers. Hardly anyone still teaches their originally trained subject in the classical way. The teachers not only had to adjust to new subjects, but also the pedagogical and methodological requirements changed. For example, in many vocational fields the classical subject mathematics was embedded in a professional context in order to make it more realistic, since it is a smooth transition.

“The pupil must be able to calculate, he must be able to understand a text, maybe he must even translate it from English or Russian, maybe he will have to develop a strategy and be able to present the results. It was up to the teachers to develop their subject this way. This development took place over a longer period and required a lot of cooperation. For mechatronics engineers the whole curriculum had to be developed from scratch and first of all gain practical relevance. We installed the mechatronics course in our site in Boxberg in 2000, and I must say, these are always classes with a very high potential. I’ve been a marker for several years at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry examinations. There I can see that what we did in our school is correct, goal-oriented and practical. The results are very encouraging”, adds *Friedhelm Patock*.

“What we have here is a wide-ranging programme”

The Weisswasser Vocational Training Centre is a broad-based school. It offers training for a variety of professional fields. The classic trade school with the dual system of vocational education – at school and on the job – is only one column. “We work mainly with the block system. In the block system, students come to school for 14 days, then they are at work for four weeks. Only sales occupations, i.e.

the shop assistants and retailers come to school for two days every week for at least 13 hours”, explains headmaster *Gotthard Bläsche*. “We have carpenters, wood engineers, industrial engineers, manufacturing engineers, electronic engineers, automation engineers, operating engineers, mechanical engineers, part finishers, various construction trades as well as shop assistants and retailers, all work in a training organisation.

There are also pre-employment programmes for young people who have no school certificate. Then we have the Technical College. Good students can gain the advanced technical college entrance qualification in two years after the tenth grade or in one year after completing an apprenticeship.

Another school is called the Vocational College. This is professional training by the state, at Weisswasser in computer science and the social sector. And finally we offer a college course for workers who have completed their apprenticeship, leading to state-certified engineers and business managers. The students come Friday evening and Saturday morning, the training is part-time and takes four years.

This shows that our range of training courses is diverse, and that is very challenging. In terms of the students, the spectrum ranges from very weak to very good students. For teachers, this is certainly not easy, they have to teach the weak ones and two hours later they have to change over and deliver a completely different teaching level.” With its 1,000 students, 53 classes and 56 teachers the Weisswasser Vocational Training Centre is not one of the largest establishments; large centres have 2,000 students and more, yet the “smallness” has its benefits, especially the benefit of the rural area: There is less violence than in the big towns.

“A fantastic job is being done everywhere”

“In Saxony,” *Gotthard Bläsche* continues, “the middle schools (see box) are making a lot of effort, they offer a really good education. For a long time, the problem of middle schools was that after the regime change many students chose grammar school after the fourth grade, thus the top performers were missing in the middle schools. That has now slightly changed again. Today more students choose to go through middle school again and decide

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"The schools in Saxony ..."

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afterwards whether they want to continue. The requirements for the schools are quite high. Perhaps there was some loss of performance during the transition period, everybody was uncertain and had to get used to the new situation. Here, in the elementary schools, too, students always learnt properly how to read, write and do arithmetic. I think a fantastic job is being done everywhere.

"To be able to judge the performance level of our students one must be very differentiated: The really good student attends vocational grammar school. The next, with an average grade of maybe 2.0 gets an apprenticeship at Vattenfall, where he earns a lot of money and can expect to be taken on afterwards. The third maybe also gets an apprenticeship somewhere, and also receive decent money. And then the fourth with perhaps 3.5 or 3 ... We are naturally interested in recruiting students to our technical secondary school, even though not only the best are available. If the teachers then complain about the achievement level of the pupils, this is not necessarily the fault of the previous schools, but rather the simple fact that we do not get the best. I mean, it's hard to judge other types of schools from our position."

And in addition, it is always easy to complain about things that do not please. Of course there would be moments when one wishes that the students could do this or that better, but one has to live with what

Secondary school in Saxony – the "Mittelschule"

In Saxony, *Hauptschule* (lower secondary school) and *Realschule* (junior high school for ages 10 to 16) are combined to one type of school. It includes the years 5 to 10. This "*Mittelschule*" provides both theoretical and a practical education and lays the foundation for professional or higher education.

The classes 5 and 6 form a unity, in which the children are in a phase of orientation. The curricula are balanced, so that switching to a Gymnasium (grammar school) remains possible. Pupils are taught as a class, but they already get in contact with the specialist system of teaching in order to manage the transfer into the higher classes more easily. In order to enable every student to learn according to his abilities, remedial service is offered. On the one hand this service is for students who show deficits in their performances, but in part also for those who evince particularly good performance at an early stage. Starting from year seven, lessons are taught in relation to the final exam. As a parent you will have to decide on the degree your

child will aspire to achieve at Mittelschule. However, this decision is not final, because – according to performance – pupils can change school types even after the years seven, eight and nine.

There are *three qualifications* that can be reached at Mittelschule. After year nine students of Hauptschule obtain the *Hauptschulabschluss* (secondary modern school certificate). When in addition they have successfully taken an examination, then they will obtain the *Qualifizierter Hauptschulabschluss* (qualifying secondary modern school degree). In *Realschule*, pupils who successfully complete year ten, obtain the *Realschulabschluss* (an equivalent to GCSEs) after having passed a final exam. These qualifications offer the students the opportunity to continue further educational programs in professional and general education at high school level.

Source: <http://www.studienkreis.de/service/schulsysteme/artikel/das-schulsystem-in-sachsen.html>

(Translation Current Concerns)

one has, adds *Andreas Diener*. He teaches the care assistants relationship management and music, and German as a second language for young people with immigrant backgrounds. *Petra Weidner*, who teaches economics in the technical college, advocates brain-friendly learning and play: It is the amount that matters.

In any case, everyone is convinced that teaching has primarily to do with the teacher and is not controlled by the head-

master. "It comes down to how the teacher enters the classroom and conveys his goals and his subject." The teaching profession is indeed a very important profession, it requires teachers with heart and soul who convey values again. There is really nothing to add.

Invitation

to talk and discussion with the author

Fritz Edlinger

on the issue:

Who's staging the "Arab Spring"?

Since 1996 Fritz Edlinger has been Secretary-General of the "Society for Austrian-Arab Relations" (GÖAB) and since 1979 he has been publishing the magazine "International". He is well-known as a profound expert on the political and economic situation of the Middle East countries. Beside his scientific activities Edlinger practises various political functions within the SPÖ. His latest publication, "Libya, backgrounds, analyzes, reports," which was published in fall 2011, illuminates in a highly differentiated and balanced manner the background of the Libyan power struggle and the interests of the Western World in this conflict. In his lecture on 24 March Fritz Edlinger will give an insight into the series of protests, riots and revolutions in the Arab World which in the media reports have often been labelled "Arab spring".

Saturday, 24 March 2012, 10.00 to 13.00
Palais Pálffy – Raimond Hall
1010 Vienna, Josefsplatz 6

A meeting of the Society "Initiative for more direct democracy" and the "Austrian-Belarusian Society"

Information events on Somalia

General assembly
Friends' Association
New Ways in Somalia

Saturday, 24 March 2012, 2 p.m. in the parish rooms in Aussersihl, Stauffacher Strasse 10, 8004 Zurich. Latest information on the work of the association and on the situation in Somalia: www.nw-merka.ch; *Godi Koch, Caritas Switzerland*, will report on the Caritas' emergency relief program in the town of Merka and in the village of Ambe Banaan.

Social and Environmental Forum
in Eastern Switzerland, St Gall

Saturday, 12 May 2012, 10 a.m. to 12 a.m. Workshop of the friends' association: Famine and war in Somalia, Swiss organizations help in Merka and Ambe Banaan, Social and Environmental Forum in Eastern Switzerland, St Gall, p.o. box 1930, 9001 St. Gallen, www.sufo.ch.