



German Prominents Sign Call In Support of Snowden

November 5th, 2013 • 11:42 AM

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In the new edition of the weekly magazine, *Der Spiegel*, more than 50 prominent figures in politics, sports, and the arts are asking the government in Berlin to show more solidarity with Edward Snowden and to grant him help. Heiner Geissler, the former general secretary of Angela Merkel's Christian Democrats, says in the appeal: "Snowden has done the Western world a great service. It is now up to us to help him."

The writer and public intellectual Hans Magnus Enzensberger argues in his contribution that "the American dream is turning into a nightmare," suggesting that rather than Germany (as many of the co-signers say), Norway would be best placed to offer Snowden refuge, given its track record of offering political asylum to Leon Trotsky in 1935. He bemoans the fact that in Britain, "which has become a U.S. colony," Snowden is regarded as a traitor.

Other public figures on the list include the drug store chain owner Dirk Rossmann, the feminist activist Alice Schwarzer, plus many more who are widely known as actors, writers, sports figures.

A spokesman for Chancellor Angela Merkel however said this afternoon that the government would avoid anything that might aggravate relations between Germany and the United States—which are working out an agreement to settle the phone tapping dispute sometime in early 2014. That almost rules out that Merkel would engage in any move towards Snowden that would embarrass Obama. But only a handful a people may known what kind of revelations will emerge next, from the vast set of files which Snowden has taken with him. The Merkel-Obama agenda will have to change soon, therefore.

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Paid for by the Lyndon LaRouche Political Action Committee
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