

sentative for guest workers. Kuehn has already come up with a list of demands designed to upgrade the rights of the foreigners. The most important is his proposal that all foreign children born and raised in Germany receive all the benefits of German citizenship "by post-card" as soon as they turn eighteen. As it now stands, it is difficult for many juveniles to feel permanently at home in Germany. They can be deported for such a relatively small offense as shoplifting. While most Germans think this just and fair, Wolfgang Bodenbender, assistant director of the Ministry of Labor, disagrees sharply. In his opinion, no integration is possible without the chance for social rehabilitation. Unlike many of his countrymen, he is willing to admit that much of the crime committed by foreign juveniles is directly related to their feeling of rejection and inequality. He therefore wholeheartedly endorses Kuehn's other major proposal, which would give foreign children parity with German children for available apprenticeships.



SCHMIDT ENCOURAGES this politically unpopular trend toward equality, but not solely or even primarily out of concern for a spurned minority. He wants to spare his nation the social strife he witnessed on his many tours of the United States, where many inner-city ghettos--in a view shared by most Germans--resemble combat zones. The "guest" workers are no longer guests but in Germany to stay, and they will eventually exert pressure to rise from the bottom of the social ladder, just as blacks have done in the U.S. But immigration is a problem new to Germany, and Schmidt closely watches the U.S., which, in the sense of achieving equality, has done much for such eager masses of immigrants as the Irish, Poles, Italians, and Germans. Ironically, it has been much less successful for the oldest, involuntary immigrants from Africa.

There are other parallels. In the mid-

Twenties, America also imposed, for a time at least, a virtual halt to large-scale immigration, just as West Germany is now doing. The Federal Republic's borders have been closed to foreign job seekers, and, as Federal Minister of Labor Herbert Ehrenberg bluntly warns: "They won't be opened again to anybody waiting on the Bosphorus or Tajo with a shoe carton under his arm."

There is some illegal immigration, but much less than into the U.S. West Germany levies drastic fines and prison terms against anyone hiring so-called "black workers," who are ruthlessly deported. We in America will soon face some hard decisions, including the question of severely restricting immigration, All of which puts the U.S. and West Germany in a position to learn from each other.

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## SOUTHEAST ASIA RAINSONG

Monsoon rain beating on my roof of tin,  
Rain is very angry but he knows he can't get in,  
Husband mine fixed roof before he gone,  
Now warm and dry I listen to rain song.

Rainsong tell me life is very sweet,  
Rain makes rice grow so there's food to eat;  
Rain makes men put down their guns and come  
Back to homes and wives, to daughters and to sons.

Monsoon rain pounding on my roof above,  
Baby sound asleep in my arms of love;  
Was that noise big gun,...or just thunder I hear?  
Don't cry, little one, it's men not rain we fear.

Monsoon winds blowing strongly from the sea,  
Blow husband in from wherever he may be,  
Then he will hold me in his arms so strong,  
But, just for now, I only have rainsong.

Rainsong tell me life is very sweet,  
Rain makes rice grow so there's food to eat;  
Rain makes men put down their guns and come  
Back to homes and wives, to daughters and to sons.

Monsoon rains, bring my husband back to me,  
Then we go to land where people all are free;  
When we, in our boat, with all the family rest,  
Please, monsoon, turn, and blow us to the West.

JOHN McDOWELL