Exile Publishing in the Netherlands

Some thirty thousand German exiles entered the Netherlands between 1933 and 1940. An estimated five hundred of these were socialist and communist party officials, labor leaders and other political exiles. The others fled Germany because they were or were considered to be Jewish. This included a sizable number of Eastern Europeans, who had fled to Germany before and were now considered stateless or unwelcome. The Dutch government initially took a rather liberal position with regard to the German exiles. There were no visa requirements. Those who asked, were provided with political asylum, but with the stipulation that they refrain from political activity. But as the influx of political and Jewish exiles grew, so did the government efforts to stem the tide. Border security increased, combined with stricter control of labor permits.

Several of the political exiles used Amsterdam as the city from which they planned to continue their activities. The Sozialistischen Jugend-Internationale, moved its headquarters from Berlin to Amsterdam and from there it continued its publication Internationale Sozialistische Jugendkorrespondenz. Its editor was Erich Ollenhauer (1901–1963). Ollenhauer had moved to Prague in 1933, and from there he directed many of the German Socialist Party (S.P.D.) activities. After the war, Ollenhauer would play a major role in German politics.

The Internationalen Arbeiter-Assoziation also used Amsterdam as its base to continue publication of Die Internationale. Anarchosyndikalistisches Organ, which had been published in Berlin since 1927. The Internationale Transportarbeiter-Föderation, set up headquarters in Amsterdam. Under the editorship of prominent labor leader Walter Auerbach (1905–1975), it began publishing Hakenkreuz über Deutschland. It was an ambitious anti-Nazi project and it appeared in separate German, English, French, Dutch, Spanish and Swedish editions. Its title later changed to Faschismus. Auerbach moved to London in 1939 from where the publication was continued until the end of the war.
Under the auspices of the Dutch socialist opposition party S.D.A.P., a German-language weekly newspaper, *Freie Presse. Wochenblatt für Geistige und Politische Freiheit* began publishing in July 1933. The presses of the Amsterdam socialist publishing house, Arbeiderspers, were used for the purpose. Editors were Helmut Kern, Alfred Mozer, Emil Gross and Franz Vogt. Its publication lasted until January, 1934, when it was discontinued after the intervention of JohanWillem Alberda (1877–1957), the political leader of the socialists in the Dutch parliament, who feared political repercussions from the Dutch government if anti-Nazi publications were written by German exiles.¹

The German government did protest on several occasions, and the Dutch government listened and often acted. In 1934, the International Bureau of Revolutionary Youth Organizations was founded in exile

¹ Langkau-Alex (1982).