

# Children told to attack Germans

By Paul Peachey

TO THE German school party stoned and accused of Nazism during a visit to Britain, the promise of a "warm and friendly" Cornish welcome rang a little hollow.

Their trip to one of the county's best known landmarks, St Michael's Mount, ended in confrontation as English youngsters were encouraged to attack the group by their parents, according to teachers.

Tourism officials apologised to the party from Berlin yesterday in an attempt to limit the damage to the tourist trade.

The group of 44 said that they were confronted by the youngsters chanting abuse during a visit to Marazion at the weekend. Gabbi Muller, a teacher, said the youngsters were encouraged by parents to throw stones and waterbombs at the German teenagers.

It had been yet another epi-

sode of racism they were forced to endure during their week-long stay in the South West. "It's in the nightclubs and pubs and in the street — we are German bitches and Nazis," the teacher told BBC Radio Cornwall.

Henrika Heyers, one of the German students, said: "They were just giving in to hate. There were little children as young as six or seven shouting 'fight, fight'. I just could not believe it; I was deeply, deeply shocked."

The Cornwall Tourist Board was left deeply embarrassed. Deborah Smith apologised to the group. "It's appalling and very, very distressing. The children appear to have been encouraged by their parents," she said. "All our research shows Cornwall is well known for giving a warm and friendly welcome and the German market is one of our strongest overseas markets."