

a tactical maneuver similar to the right-wing coup plots in Italy, which have been used to terrify the PCI and drive it into organizing local-control, policing apparatuses for fascism with a democratic face.

Full Employment

The rearmament program as projected would create to begin with more than 900,000 jobs combined in the armaments, steel, and capital goods sectors. There has already been the promise of re-hiring for arms production, with General Electric hiring in anticipation of Trident turbine production, while continuing to lay off from its home appliance divisions.

This promise of new employment is likely to be used to hang over the heads of the United States working class--if workers behave, they will get the new jobs. To get a clear idea of what such a full-employment paradise would look like, it is sufficient to look at the last place a comparable policy was tried--the Nazi war economy.

BROOKINGS' BERGSTEN FORMS NUCLEAR CARTEL

Dec. 18 (IPS)--C. Fred Bergsten, the Brookings Institution's leading Trilateral operative on "Third World commodity cartels," has issued a frantic call for stepped-up nuclear proliferation throughout the world in the face of a temporarily stalled Rockefeller strategy for managed commodity trade wars as the pretext for internationally coordinated austerity.

In a lead article in the winter edition of Rockefeller's think-tank journal Foreign Policy, Bergsten tries to add weight to his attempts to activate a variety of OPEC-style commodity cartels among Third World countries by citing "dangerous threats" from Third World countries in the "security sphere."

While eight so-called commodity cartels have been formed, with Bergsten's help, in a variety of primary commodities in addition to oil, drastically falling prices in materials such as copper signal that Mr. Bergsten has yet to accomplish his objective of active regional blocs. In Foreign Policy, Bergsten raises the spectre of not merely trade blocs and trade wars, but regional defense blocs and increased proliferation of nuclear weapons to Third World countries.

"The Third World has become the focal point of potential nuclear proliferation," writes Bergsten. "India has attained nuclear capability, and is helping Argentina to do so. Brazil is almost certain to go nuclear. Israel already has a major capability; both it and Egypt are to get expanded U.S. help. Iran is buying reactors from France, and the Shah has reportedly

stated his intention to become a nuclear power. And there seems a high probability that some of the oil producers in the Middle East will also seek to do so."

Confirming the analysis published in IPS, Bergsten "warns" that "with or without nuclear weapons, the incidence of armed conflict within the Third World could well accelerate," based on the formation of regional "security blocs" in Latin America, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East.

PALME PREPARING A "TOTAL DEFENSE"?

STOCKHOLM, Dec. 18 (IPS)--An editorial in the unofficial party mouthpiece of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme indicates that the Palme government is seriously considering a substantial increase in that "neutral" government's immense arms budget. Other evidence in recent days from high-level Palme people in the Riksbank indicates that this renewed concern with defense is related to the recent international tendency for Rockefeller's economic policy to converge on a frantic short-term conversion away from Mideast redevelopment projects and into a hardline offensive primarily against the Soviet Union.

The editorial, appearing in the Dec. 12 issue of Arbetet, calls for a broad debate around "Total Defense--civil, economic and psychological integrated into one." This call amounts to justification for increased regimentation of the Swedish economy in the face of international economic collapse. Citing the twofold danger of "war from the Soviets over the strategic Barents Sea passage" and a "peacetime crisis as a result of vital import cutoff, such as oil from the Mideast," the Arbetet piece calls for activation of small "study circle debate" on this "growing danger."

The Real Significance

A statement last week by Krister Wickman, Palme's man in charge of the Riksbank, indicates changes are taking place behind the scenes in government circles. Talking about the possibility of world economic depression, Wickman said: "We must count on slower standard of living rises...decreased oil consumption...and [adopt] a restrictive credit policy."

Under the cover of manipulated fear of the Soviet Union and the Mideast oil producers, Arbetet is pushing a domestic policy which amounts to a version of the U.S. Law Enforcement Assistance Administration on an expanded scale. Information has recently been published in the Swedish press revealing a vast network coordinated through the Defense Department, Defense Research Agency, the Military Psychological Institute, and other agencies, which has compiled psychological dossiers and other information