

## EAST GERMANS SEND POLITBURO MEMBER TO PORTUGAL; CIA STEPS UP ATTACK THERE

Dec. 21 (IPS)--In a probable move to block the coalition of southern European Communist Party forces behind Italian Communist Party leader and CIA agent Giorgio Amendola, the hardline East German party sent Politburo member Hermann Axen to Lisbon this week.

While it is not yet known what Axen's high-level delegation's actual mission is, analysts in Europe and the United States believe that Axen will be supporting the Portuguese Communist Party (PCP) against attacks on the party by the Portuguese Socialist Party (PSP).

Founded and funded by the counterinsurgent and CIA-directed Friedrich Ebert Foundation, the PSP used its first national conference which ended last week to mount a frontal attack on the PCP. The conference's guest of honor was the General Secretary of the Danish Communist Party, Santiago Carrillo, an anti-Soviet Amendola cohort and a long-time enemy of his Portuguese counterpart Alvaro Cunhal. Amid enthusiastic cries of "Unity, unity," Carrillo was paraded around expounding his polycentrist ideology in a direct assault on the Portuguese and Soviet Communist Parties alike.

Axen's visit is expected to further the PCP's left turn initiated recently in response to the stepped-up anti-Communist attacks mounted by social democrat and Maoist forces. Although the PCP emerged as the dominant political party after the overthrow of the Caetano dictatorship last April, over the past few months the CIA has beefed up its counterinsurgent activities to the point where Maoist groups and the PSP garnered enough strength to begin a pincer movement against the PCP.

At their recent national conference, the "Maoist Portuguese Revolutionary Movement of the Proletariat" attacked the PCP as "revisionist" and termed its General Secretary Cunhal "a product of the Portuguese bourgeoisie." Last week, Maoist student countergangs were unleashed against PCP university groups. Their clashes erupted into violence and prompted well planned condemnation of the communists by the PSP.

The lead editorial in the PCP's party organ Avante last weekend attacked these anti-communist slanders and warned against the repetition in Portugal of the Greek model with the introduction of a "Portuguese Karamanlis" who would accommodate to foreign monopolies."

### U.S. Keeps Game Going

Significantly, in a major policy reversal this week, the United States government announced that it has promised Portugal between \$20 and \$50 million in initial loans to prop up that

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country's collapsed housing sector and that it will encourage international agencies to offer aid. According to the New York Times, the move was motivated by "fear of serious communist inroads and concern about bolstering non-communist forces there," the logic being that impending economic chaos would work to the advantage of Communist Party organizing. Previously, Washington has maintained a wait-and-see attitude in regard to granting aid to Portugal's "leftist" provisional government which includes a Communist minister.

#### HOUSE VOTE ON ROCKY SHOWS LABOR PARTY INFLUENCE

Dec. 21 (IPS)--A considerable portion of the 128 Congressmen who voted against Rockefeller Dec. 19 voted in direct response to the massive working-class hatred of Rocky which boiled up from their districts. Besides the smattering of right-wing ideologues who voted against Rockefeller, the bulk of the opposition came from liberal Democrats representing working-class districts.

The impact of the four-month-long Labor Party mobilization against Rocky's nomination was greatest in Michigan, where almost the entire United Auto Workers-linked Democratic delegation voted against Rockefeller. A similar pattern prevailed in California, where 15 Democrats pondered the Labor Party's statewide strength and came down on the no side of the vote. In Ohio, the Democratic representatives from the heavy steel and rubber districts in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Akron, and Youngstown voted nay, as did the two Democrats representing Pittsburgh. Textile workers in Raleigh and Wilmington, N.C., where Labor Party influence is considerable, forced anti-Rockefeller votes. And a South Dakota Democrat with close ties to farmers came out against Rocky.

Most of these labor-liberals are backing slave-labor relocation legislation or were Labor Party opponents who have felt the impact of an aroused working class either around the slave-labor bills or the November elections. Three Democrats who saw their districts taken over by Labor Party organizing not so surprisingly came out against Rocky--Satterfield in Virginia, Moakley in Boston, and Barrett in Philadelphia!

#### MIDEAST WAR ESCALATION TO FORCE U.S.-SOVIET JOINT MIDEAST POLICING

Dec. 21 (IPS)--Reacting in a rage to the progressive consolidation of the current left turn on the part of the Soviet Union and the European Communist Parties, Rockefeller and the CIA have ordered a dangerous re-escalation of the Middle East war. Rockefeller is openly making use of the "big stick" of nuclear confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union in the