

## U.S. POLITICAL NEWSLETTER

# Kissinger and Ford Play with Fire; US-USSR Prepare for War in 1977

President Ford and his foreign policy coach Henry Kissinger this week delivered hardline ultimatums to the Soviet leadership: peaceful coexistence "cannot survive any more Angolas." Their remarks climaxed a week of confrontationist sabre-rattling statements by Administration officials and renewed speculation in Washington that Ford and his advisors are considering a naval blockade of Cuba in retaliation for Cuban "armed adventurism" in Africa.

The first-stage implementation of Schachtian economic policies by the Atlanticist financiers is already forcing Wall Street towards the undertaking of military adventures to prop up their collapsing Dollar Empire. The headlong dash toward nuclear holocaust is backed up by Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld's well-advertised military budget for 1977, which calls for massive arms production "in width." A full analysis of the budget (which will be included in the next IPS weekly) shows that it makes absolutely no sense except from a 1977 war perspective. Publicizing the fact, former Undersecretary of Defense Paul Nitze recently told a Senate committee that the U.S. must prepare a "war winning capability" for 1977.

Defense Department Research Director Dr. Malcom Currie had last week agreed that the U.S. no longer has a long term military strategy and had in fact embarked on an arms development program identical to that of Nazi Germany in the three years prior to the outbreak of the Second World War. He also conceded that Soviet technological breakthroughs could give them a strategic advantage in an actual war.

The Soviets, for their part, have repeatedly demonstrated their war readiness and reiterated their commitment to a policy of mutually assured destruction should the insane capitalists of the West provoke them too far. This was once again made explicit by the recent publication of an article by German Democratic Republic (DDR) Defense Minister Heniz Hoffman in the March issue of *Einheit*, the theoretical journal of the DDR's ruling party.

On Friday, Secretary of State Kissinger told the Boston World Affairs Council, "Moderation is a virtue only in those who are thought to have a choice." "In the age of thermonuclear weapons and strategic equality," he continued, "we face the necessity of a dual polity: on the one hand we are determined to prevent Soviet military power from being used for political expansion; we will firmly discourage and resist adventurist policies. But at the same time, we cannot accelerate every political dispute into a central crisis." Abandoning all "moderation," Kissinger lashed out at the USSR, his domestic critics, nonaligned nations and West European countries who are bolting from the Atlanticist orbit over the issue of austerity in a speech *New York Times* editor James Reston described as "diplomatic as a punch in the nose."

Kissinger then threatened the "industrial democracies" of the West with "Soviet expansionism" and worried that if Communists participated in the governments of France or Italy, "they would be tempted to orient their economies to a much greater extent toward the East" or "at best steer their countries' policies toward the positions of the non-aligned." Accusing the non-aligned developing nations of "extortion," "self-righteous rhetoric and adolescent posturing," the Secretary of State complained, "Nations which originally chose nonalignment to shield themselves from the pressure of global conditions have themselves formed a rigid, ideological confrontationist coalition of their own" which is challenging the U.S. in the international arena.

Domestically, Kissinger charged, the political climate is hardly any more sympathetic to the Atlanticists, as he demanded militarization and a show of "national unity. . . If one group of critics undermines arms control negotiations . . . while another group cuts away at our defense budgets and intelligence services and thwarts American resistance to Soviet adventurism . . . the result will be paralysis.

In an unequivocal confession of Wall Street's bankruptcy and commitment to "War by 1977," Kissinger had informed the Senate Government Operations Committee March 8: "We cannot rule out the use of nuclear weapons on a regional basis when our national interests are involved" — a restatement of the "flexible response" war fighting posture. In an interview in this week's *U.S. News and World Report*, the Secretary of State advocated an intensive military buildup for war, warning "Regional dangers require a substantial buildup on our part of those forces needed for such contingencies." In the same magazine, Defense Secretary Rumsfeld claimed that the Soviets were outspending the U.S. by 42 per cent on defense and advocated a crash military expansion program.

Ford backed up his insane Secretary of State. Speaking yesterday before the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations, the President maintained the "peace through strength" Cold War rhetoric he adopted for the Florida primaries and declared, the U.S. "must be prepared to meet challenges wherever and whenever they occur. . . One need only remember Pearl Harbor," he continued, "to know that weakness invites war." By continuing his electoral war mongering in the industrial states of the North, Ford is giving the psychotic Atlanticist financial factions of Nelson Rockefeller and Averell Harriman dangerous leeway to precipitate a nuclear holocaust.

In a campaign swing through Illinois, Ford told a Rockford audience the night before the U.S. would oppose Cuban and Soviet "adventurism" in Africa or Latin America. The same evening Rumsfeld advocated a crash arms production program to the Chicago Commonwealth Club.

### **A Warning**

But there can be no mistaking Warsaw Pact policy if pushed across the trip wire. In perhaps the strongest warning to the Atlanticists to date on this matter, East German Defense Minister Hoffman warned in a speech last month that the NATO powers are converging on a policy of fascism. He then announced that the Warsaw Pact is committed to fight a thermonuclear war to defend the existence of the Soviet bloc from U.S. or NATO incursions. "The socialist states could not and would not accept aggression by the U.S. or NATO without resistance," he said. "The Warsaw Pact would have to, and would, strike back rapidly and destructively. In spite of all the sorrow which would descend on the peoples, especially in the capitalist countries, in this last and decisive conflict between progress and reaction — this would

be a just war on our part." Hoffman, echoing Rosa Luxemburg, concluded that a lasting peace is impossible as long as capitalist looting continues.

"We do not share the opinion, which exists even among progressive people in the peace movement, that no just war is possible in the nuclear age, or that nuclear war is not a continuation of the politics of the struggling classes but is only nuclear inferno and destruction of the world.. .

"Neither do we agree with the Maoists or with those American scientists who say that a nuclear war will not have such a tremendous effect on the existence of mankind and the health of the next generation as is usually assumed."

From a position of strategic weakness, Kissinger and Ford are playing with fire.