



NEW SOLIDARITY International Press Service

P O. Box 1972, G.P.O.
New York, New York 10001
Editorial (212)279-5950
Customer Service (212)564-8529

NEW SOLIDARITY INTERNATIONAL PRESS SERVICE (IPS)

LATE EVENING NEWS WRAP-UP
TUESDAY, 16 MARCH 1976

I. PRIORITIES

LONDON TIMES CARRIES NATO PLANTED STORY ON SOVIET WAR THREAT

March 16 (IPS)--The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) yesterday planted a phony war scare story "Surprise Attack Could Make Nuclear Weapons Useless" on the front page of the London Times.

The Times states that its story is based on "a report, prepared by a senior officer of NATO's armed forces and now circulating within the alliance." According to the Times, the report "reaches the startling conclusion that the Warsaw Pact is capable of delivering a successful surprise attack on Western Europe using only conventional forces."

The NATO red-scare report stresses the "danger from within": "The Soviet Armies' advance would be assisted by Fifth Column operations organized by some 16,000 Soviet agents now known to be active in the (German) Federal Republic." The report, the Times says, decries "the significant growth of communist influence in Western Europe," warns of the imminent "arrival of regimes with dominating communist tendencies in certain European countries" and demands that "Western Europe assume responsibility for its own security, no longer depending entirely on the American nuclear umbrella."

The Times claims that "defense officials in Washington are expressing concern at the conclusions of the NATO study."

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF HEAD: NATO CAN TURN BACK WARSAW PACT ATTACK

March 16 (IPS)--Gen. George Brown, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said yesterday in Pensacola, Fla., that NATO "can turn back a Warsaw Pact attack without resorting to the early use of nuclear weapons," today's Baltimore Sun reports.

FORMER MI-5 AGENTS WARNS WEST TO REARM

March 16 (IPS)--Commenting on the conclusions of an alleged NATO document leaked yesterday to the London Times, former British Intelligence agent Lord Chalfont warns that "the West must

(MORE)

act to defend itself while it still has the chance." In an Op-Ed, yesterday, Chalfont gives a detailed analysis of the report, discounting the idea of tactical nuclear war in favor of a conventional arms buildup.

PENTAGON CLAIMS NATO REPORT UNOFFICIAL

March 16 (IPS)--the Pentagon today denied the official character of a NATO report published in today's London Times, which calls on Western Europe to assume responsibility for its defense against what the report characterizes as overwhelming Warsaw Pact forces and Fifth comuns in West Germany. The London Times described the report as an official NATO document written by "a senior officer of NATO's armed services." The Pentagon's public affairs spokesman scoffed at the reference to the author of the report as "a senior officer of NATO" and said that "the report is not an official NATO report and therefore does not call for comment."

SWEDISH MILITARY ON LARGEST ALERT SINCE WORLD WAR II

March 16 (IPS)--Swedish Commander-in-Chief, Stig Synnergren early this morning called an unannounced "Total Defense" alert mobilization around the industrial port city, Gothenburg, Sweden.

According to Swedish Radio reports, Synnergren said that the reason for the maneuver was "because of the increased tension in Europe now." More than 16,000 forces are directly involved in the largest mobilization since World War II, including units of police, the Swedish "Homeguard", Customs Police, navy and air force. Synnergren, who in the past has warned of threat of possible Soviet attack in Northern Europe, stated that the scenario of the current maneuver includes the collapse of "Geneva talks, with the forces in Europe already going over the borders, even the Swedish borders."

SWEDISH MANEUVERS UNPRECEDENTED

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 16 (IPS)--this morning's sudden announcement of a major Swedish military mobilization caught Swedish Embassy officials here totally by surprise. One spokesman said this afternoon that such broad-based maneuvers were "totally unprecedented."

KISSINGER SAYS CONFRONTATION IS NEAR

March 16 (IPS)--Secretary of State Kissinger, testifying before the docile Senate Foreign Relations committee today, informed Congress that the U.S. should expect to be at a point of confrontation with the Third World or elsewhere in the very near future. Kissinger warned that the U.S. must "demonstrate its purposefulness," and cannot sustain itself in a future conflict or confrontation if the messy debates like those surrounding the Vietnam debacle occur.

Kissinger called on the Senate to appoint a small number of Senators to deal with the conflict situations, who would function as a "crisis management" subcommittee.

(MORE)

REP. RICHARD OTTINGER CALLS FOR MASSIVE CONVENTIONAL ARMS BUILDUP

March 16 (IPS)--Rep. Richard Ottinger (D-NY), testifying before the House International Relations subcommittee of International Security and Scientific Affairs, called for massive conventional weapons buildup for U.S. forces in Europe to reduce the likelihood of nuclear confrontation. Ottinger, who has traditionally opposed increasing defense spending justified his sudden support for conventional weapons saying that if NATO had adequate conventional weaponry it would be less likely that they would have to rely on nuclear weapons.

When questioned by Committee chairman Rep. Clement Zablocki (D-Wis) on whether he would support the increased defense spending necessary to reduce U.S. dependence on nuclear weapons, Ottinger declared, "I'd be willing to spend whatever it takes."

NO GAULLIST POLICIES CAN BE IMPLEMENTED UNDER GISCARD

March 16 (IPS)--Former Minister of Industrial Development Jean Charbonnel today warned that there is no possibility of Gaullist policies being implemented by the government of French President Giscard D'Estaing. His statement, printed in today's Le Monde, rehashes the history of the Gaullist UDR party's participation in Giscard's coalition, and asks whether "the Gaullists rallied to the new majority but wanting to remain faithful to themselves still have chance of safeguarding in any way the principles to which they say they are still attached?" Answering with a definitive no, Charbonnel claims that it "is highly improbable that Giscard D'Estaing would renege his lifelong convictions to convert himself to Gaullism."

What is demanded at the present time is a policy of "cooperation with the social partners" on the left and right, Charbonnel writes, based on "an active and realistic policy which takes into account: the multinational firms, the inflationist disorganization of the international monetary system, the tribulations of Europe on the energy and raw materials markets."

In conclusion, Charbonnel issues the rallying cry "that for Gaullists who refuse death under any shape or form, the choice is thus clear. If they want the heritage for which they are the trustees to live, they must take up a new path, totally different from that in which their "companions" are presently trapped. It is their problem for today and tomorrow."

FRENCH GOVERNMENT SPLIT CALLED "IRREPARABLE" BY FRENCH EDITORIALIST

March 16 (IPS)--Leading editorialist for the French daily Le Figaro, Pierre Thibon today characterized the split in President Giscard D'Estaing's government majority between members of the Gaullist party, the UDR, and Giscard's own Independent Republicans, as "irreparable." Describing the process of the split in the coalition as the equivalent of leaving the sinking ship", Thibon argues that the relatively poor showing of the government majority in the recently concluded local cantonal elections is due to the failure of Giscard to stabilize his "center-left to center-right" coalition.

(MORE)

BRITISH PRIME MINISTER TENDERS RESIGNATION

March 16 (IPS)--British Prime Minister Harold Wilson today resigned as leader of the majority Labour Party and therefore, as Prime Minister, pending the naming of his successor by his party. The Parliamentary Labour Party will meet March 25 to choose Wilson's replacement.

The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) tonight discounted the possibility of general elections following Wilson's resignation. Britain's form of parliamentary democracy does not require a national vote to form a new government.

BRITISH FASCIST, POWELL CALLS FOR ARMY REORGANIZATION

March 16 (IPS)--British Conservative Enoch Powell, a professed fascist, told a conference of the Oil Club in Scotland this weekend that Britain needs to re-think the concept behind its army organization. According to yesterday's London Times, Powell told his audience: "What Britain needs is the insular counterpart of a conscript army, namely, a cadre army which is also a people's army."

BRITISH THINK TANK CALLS FOR PARAMILITARY POLICE FORCE

March 16 (IPS)--The counterinsurgent think-tank, the Institute for the Study of Conflict has published a book calling for the creation of a paramilitary force in Britain. This new force, more highly trained than police, but without the political stigma of the military, would allegedly be used against terrorists. The review of the study in the Daily Telegraph, however, specifically documents the ineffectiveness of the London police in recent political demonstrations.

LONDON BANKERS IN FOG OVER WILSON RESIGNATION

NEW YORK, March 16 (IPS)--Several leading representatives of top London banking houses here indicated their total mystification over the reason behind British Prime Minister Wilson's resignation -- even after extended trans-Atlantic calls to their parent companies in London. Refusing to swallow official reports of Wilson's "poor health", one representative concluded that "something entirely different from normal internal politics" was at work. He could not however, say what this process might be. Another, who less than a week before had disclaimed the importance of the Labour Party left-wing revolt against the Wilson government's austerity White Paper, today expressed fear of what would happen if left wing Ministers Michael Foot or Tony Benn succeeded Wilson.

U.S. BANKERS SAY RIGHT WINGER JENKINS OR COALITION TO REPLACE WILSON

NEW YORK, March 16 (IPS)--Officials at leading U.S. banks and think-tanks contacted here almost unanimously named Trilateral Commission member Roy Jenkins as Prime Minister Wilson's successor, or as the main figure in a government coalition.

(MORE)

Jenkins, as current Home Secretary has direct responsibility for coordinating the so-called anti-terrorist police operations, as well as domestic police surveillance, in the current government.

BRD BANKER AGREES DEBT MORATORIUM IS NECESSARY

WIESBADEN, West Germany, March 16 (IPS)--The chief economist of the bank fuer Gemeinwirtschaft (a financial institution tied to Social Democratic Party-controlled trade unions) agreed today that a debt moratorium was "the only solution to the present dollar crisis which is choking Europe, U.S. and the Third World to death." He deplored the agent-infested government of West Germany for its opposition to the new world economic order.

"In the next few weeks we need a general debt moratorium," the banker declared adding: "they (the debtors) cannot pay." He suggested that a "general conference of finance minister and central bank governors," is needed to put together a new monetary order. He regretted that West German "government can't do much," because they think "the security of Germany depends on the U.S. Army."

JAPAN GRANTS PARTIAL DEBT MORATORIUM TO PAKISTAN

March 16 (IPS)--Japan has granted a nine-year moratorium to Pakistan on 29 million dollars in payments due this year on government to government debt, arising from yen-denominated loans made during the 1960's and subsequently rescheduled. The present agreement stipulates that Pakistan will not begin payments until 1985, and then the payments will be spread over 20 years at 2.5 per cent interest. The agreement was reported in the March 13 Japanese daily, Mainichi.

NORTH KOREA ASKS JAPAN FOR PARTIAL DEBT MORATORIUM

March 16 (IPS)--North Korea has asked Japan for a two-year deferment on payment of 200 million in back debt, according to the March 13 (South) Korea Herald. North Korea is particularly interested in moratoria on debts arising from imports of machinery and plants. No specific terms were released.

BANCA D'ITALIA OFFICIAL SAYS SIMON'S PROMISED LOAN IS A HOAX

WIESBADEN, West Germany, March 16 (IPS)--An authoritative spokesman for the Banca D'Italia said today that none of the money that U.S. Treasury Secretary William Simon promised to Italy last week in return for the implementation of domestic austerity, is expected to come through. The 1.3 billion dollar loan package, 500 million of which were incredibly supposed to have come from the bankrupt Bank of England, was a pure and simple hoax, the official said.

ITALIAN WEEKLY SAYS DEBT MORATORIUM ANSWER TO AUSTERITY DEMANDS

March 16 (IPS)--the Italian weekly Tempo Illustrato today poses a debt moratorium as the means of preventing the economic destruction

(MORE)

that would follow Italian acceptance of austerity conditions imposed on various proposed bail-out loans. "Our creditors", writes Tempo, "will face requests of suspension and postponement (of the debt) and they could do nothing else but approve them. ...they will not give any money if we delay the necessary measures. ...within some weeks Italy must cut imports drastically; and this means autarchy and as a consequence... it would destroy one third of the productive activity and a large part of employment."

PSI PAPER CALLS FOR REJECTION OF AUSTERITY CONDITIONS ON LOANS

March 16 (IPS)--Avanti, organ of the Italian Socialist Party, today published two articles stating that "the crisis of the European (currency) snake is the consequence of the compromises of Kingston and Rambouillet." Both articles stressed that the European Economic Community's austerity conditions for loan guarantees to Italy must be rejected and deplored the dollar's hegemonic position within the international monetary system.

ITALIAN WEEKLY REPORTS AGNELLI ARRAIGNED IN COUP INVESTIGATION

March 16 (IPS)--The Italian weekly, Tempo Illustrato, reported yesterday that FIAT president Gianni Agnelli, FIAT managing director Umberto Agnelli, FIAT general director Nicolo Gioia, and FIAT president advisor Vittorio Chiusano have all been arraigned preliminary to an investigation of charges that they financed the nearly successful fascist coup d'etat attempt of 1964.

Tempo also published the first in a series of articles documenting how Gianni Agnelli and the FIAT president before him built up an entire shadow government with sections of Italy's secret service, the air force and General Staff, and the FIAT-controlled war industry with the help of generous American financing.

Tempo also links up the Italian Communist Party directly in the affair charging that the PCI's military "expert", Pocchioli, has been more preoccupied with investigating the Lockheed scandal rather than the real story which this scandal intends to cover.

"DISGUISED" SYRIAN FORCES INVADE LEBANON; SYRIAN PROTECTORATE OVER COUNTRY PREDICTED

March 16 (IPS)--Two thousand Syrian regular army troops "disguised" as Palestine Liberation Army forces entered Lebanon yesterday, according to reliable Lebanese diplomatic sources.

Commenting on this report, a leading U.S. Middle East policy maker suggested today that Lebanon is heading towards becoming a "province of Syria, a mandate, ...perhaps with an autonomous province for the Christians' area."

(MORE)

PRO-SYRIAN COMMANDOS BLOCK DRIVE TO OUST RIGHT-WING LEBANESE HEAD

March 16 (IPS)—Syrian-controlled Saiqa Palestinian guerilla units blocked moves yesterday by rebel Lebanese army units to oust fascist Lebanese President Suleiman Franjieh. According to today's Washington Post, the Sqiqa moves coincided with meetings in Damascus between the Syrian leadership and representatives of the fascist Falange Party and are "a clear signal that Damascus would not ... allow the Lebanese left to dictate its political stance."

According to the Post, the syrians at this point "exercise no control" over a large portion of the mutineering armed forces, "widely reported to be manipulated by the Lebanese left and the Palestinian commandos."

SPENCER TO REPLACE CALLAWAY AS FORD CAMPAIGN COORDINATOR

March 16 (IPS)—Stuart Spencer has been appointed to replace Howard "Bo" Callaway as chief coordinator of President Ford's election campaign, according to yesterday's New York Times. Spencer, a California Republican, is co-director of the Spencer-Roberts Associates, a "scientific" campaign advisory service which has coordinated Republican campaigns ranging from Ronald Reagan's 1966 California gubernatorial campaign to Nelson Rockefeller's 1964 California primary effort.

JIMMY CARTER SHIFTS APPEAL TO CAPTURE "EASTERN LIBS"

CHICAGO, March 16 (IPS)—Attempting to broaden his appeal to the liberal wing of the Democratic Party, presidential hopeful Jimmy Carter softened his criticism of detente and openly attacked Secretary of State Henry Kissinger in what was billed as a major foreign policy address here last night. Speaking to an audience at the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations, Carter endorsed "the objective of detente" but argued that Kissinger, in strategic negotiations with the Soviet Union, was "giving up too much and asking for too little." Carter, however, also said that the "U.S. should help Eastern European countries regain their independence" through trade and cultural relations with the U.S. Carter was "advised" on his speech by well-known Atlanticist agents, including Zbigniew Brzezinski, Richard Cooper, and Richard Gardner of the Trilateral Commission.

END OF IPS ALTE PRIORITIES 03-16-76
