



NEW SOLIDARITY International Press Service

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NEW SOLIDARITY INTERNATIONAL PRESS SERVICE (IPS)
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BLOODBATH IN LEBANON; FRANJIEH SAYS HE WILL RESIGN TOMORROW

April 16 (IPS)--Heavy fighting broke out today in Beirut and surrounding areas, according to reports monitored by WINS, Westinghouse radio in New York City. Some 400 people are reported to have been killed over the last 24 hours in what some observers described as the "most intense fighting of the year-long conflict." WINS reports that the Christian Lebanese President Suleiman Franjeh announced a few hours after the fighting intensified that he would resign tomorrow.

REPORT NEW ASSAD-PLO AGREEMENT ON LEBANESE CEASEFIRE

April 16 (IPS)--According to wire services cited in today's New York Post, Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organization agreed today on a new peace initiative in Lebanon and pledged to take a joint stand against any faction that renewed the fighting. A seven-point statement issued at the end of the talks between the Syrian President Hafez Assad and PLO leader Yassir Arafat called for revival of a tripartite committee of Lebanese, Syrians and Palestinians "to implement the ceasefire and reject all other involvements" and includes a call for the withdrawal of 17,000 Syrian troops from Lebanon. The statement also rejected the "American solution and plan in Lebanon."

LEBANESE LEFT CHARGES FALANGISTS STEP UP FIGHTING TO PROVOKE SYRIAN INTERVENTION

April 16 (IPS)--Leaders of the Lebanese left, headed by Kamal Jumblatt, charged today that the right-wing Christian Falange forces have deliberately escalated fighting in Lebanon "to force the Syrians to intervene and save them," the New York Post stated today.

ARRESTS OF PRO-SOVIET EGYPTIAN ARMY OFFICERS ESCALATE

April 16 (IPS)--"At the command of Egyptian President Sadat," Rude Pravo, the Czechoslovak Communist Party newspaper, reported April 13 that "a dismissal campaign and waves of arrests of progressives in the army" has been advancing in Egypt. This campaign is being directed against "officers of the upper and middle ranks who had openly criticized the anti-Arab and pro-imperialist course of the government."

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Rude Pravo also reports that a "large number of high military officers leHOLDt the army in protest against Sadat's polic!Js even before the announcements of the ordered arrests came from War Minister Gamassy."

Rude Pravo concludes that the majority were arrested "under the accusation of having distributed anti-Sadat propaganda in the army."

TIMES UNVEILS KISSINGER'S NEW SCHACHTIAN COMMODITY SWINDLE FOR THIRD WORLD

April 16 (IPS)--According to the New York Times, the State Department is planning to unveil a scheme for an "International Resources Bank" at the Nairobi meeting of UNCTAD, the UN's thinktank for the Third World, next month. Following the lines of similar con games practiced by the State Department to dupe Third World leaders, the new International Resources Bank will make massive loans to the Third World with unmined mineral resources as collateral.

Times columnist Ann Crittenden describes the scheme as follows: "As the new International Resources Bank is now conceived, it could issue bonds against a particular raw material, say a copper deposit, and sell the bonds to investors, who would likely be major copper producers. The agency would then pass the money on to the nation owning the copper deposit to develop it. The bank would take a lien on production and would be paid out of the process. Thus the bank would act as an intermediary between the host country and the corporation, indirectly providing the corporation with insurance against nationalization."

The Kissinger plan, designed to prop the bankrupt U.S. dollar, is identical to Hjalmar Schacht's solution for hyperinflation in Weimar Germany: Schacht announced that the "value" of the mark would be a mortgage on all the land in Germany.

The IRB scheme is reported to have originated with Deputy Secretary of State Charles Robinson, formerly a top executive of the Marcona Corporation, which has large mining operations in Peru.

LONDON TIMES PROPOSES FASCIST PROGRAM FOR BRITAIN

April 16 (IPS)--In his April 15 column, London Times economics editor Peter Jay proposes a "solution of the last resort" to Britain's economic problems, involving authoritarian control over the money supply and a suspension of collective bargaining.

Jay demands the regulation of the growth of the money supply under a specially created bipartisan Currency Commission appointed by the Crown. The Commission would be given "absolute authority," by-passing the formal powers of the Bank of England and Parliament. The Commission would simply determine a planned rate of the money supply and take all steps necessary to see that monetary expansion never fluctuated from this level by more than 2 per cent.

Once this was done, says Jay, "the whole debate about incomes policy would be put in its proper light. It would be quite clear

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that the only effects of collective bargaining...would be to cause unemployment of men and resources."

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND ENDORSES JAY PROPOSAL FOR BRITISH FASCISM

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 16 (IPS)--The chief of the British desk at the International Monetary Fund today endorsed a plan for the creation of a supralegal Currency Commission in Britain to control the rate of growth of Britain's money supply and abolish workers' collective bargaining rights, that was put forward yesterday by London Times economics editor Peter Jay. The IMF official said that he had not read Jay's article on the plan in yesterday's Times, but stated he knew about it and that it is entirely in keeping with IMF suggestions.

"Peter Jay has been talking about that plan of his with the IMF and we think it's very definitely the right direction for Britain" he stated. "If anything, it doesn't go far enough."

Commenting on the proposal's chances for success, the IMF official stated that "we are going to run into some problems with the Bank of England, which such a commission would supersede, as you know."

The Jay plan is centered around the primary condition attached by the IMF when it loaned 1.2 billion dollars to Britain at the end of last year, i.e., that Britain's money supply is not to grow at a rate more than 2 per cent per year above the growth of the Gross National Product.

FRENCH GOVERNMENT UNVEILS DETAILS OF FASCIST ECONOMIC PROGRAM

April 16 (IPS)--The Planning Commission for the official French government seven-year economic program today released the text of proposed labor measures to "improve the state of the French economy." According to today's French daily Le Monde, the plan calls for the looting of the French working class through hefty increase in general taxation and social security taxes, as well as the implementation of price and wage controls. The government's proposal also calls for a levelling of working-class income, such that "the lowest incomes be accompanied by a clear moderation in the progression of higher incomes." The entirety of the plan will be implemented, according to the Planning Commission, through "voluntary regulation of revenues and enlarged concertation" of the social classes.

KISSINGER REPEATS INTENTION TO PROVOKE REGIONAL CONFRONTATIONS

April 16 (IPS)--Speaking to a Rotary Club audience in Phoenix, Arizona today, Secretary of State Henry Kissinger repeated his intentions to provoke regional confrontations with the Soviet Union. Kissinger declared that there had been no international crisis since the 1962 Cuban missile crisis which necessitated the use of strategic weapons and that the current "global equilibrium" had to be maintained to perpetuate that. He stressed, however, that the

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danger lies in numerous regional situations, where the moral force of U.S. foreign policy was being tested by the Soviets. To this end, he pronounced the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) "beneficial" because their successful culmination would free U.S. resources for a conventional arms buildup which can be "devoted to regional priorities where the need is greatest."

The Secretary of State singled out southern Africa, where he will be travelling in two weeks, as a particular area of attention—repeating his two-tiered approach to the region of support of majority rule in the area coupled with strong warnings "against any foreign intervention into the area."

"Freedom is under serious challenge around the world," he said. "Democracies are in the minority." In this light, Kissinger reiterated his warnings to Western European countries to keep the Communist Parties out of their governments.

Kissinger also made several direct threats to the Third World. He menacingly noted, "As the world's strongest power, the U.S. can best survive an era of economic warfare....Those who indulge in unrealistic proposals, one-sided bloc voting, appeals to stale ideologies of confrontation or resentment will only block cooperative progress."

RESTON SAYS THAT BALL HAS NO FOREIGN POLICY

April 16 (IPS)—New York Times columnist James Reston today charges that Democratic Party spokesmen such as George Ball, Paul Warnke and Zbigniew Brzezinski have no actual foreign policy differences with Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and that they only differ on the question of "style." In a column entitled "The Great Nondebate," Reston says "They are being identified in the press as 'Democratic Party spokesmen,' but there is no Democratic Party foreign policy, there is no Democratic 'plan' to oppose the Administration's foreign policy, and until they get a candidate, there really is no Democratic Party in terms of a different foreign policy."

A Times editorial on the same page, entitled "Foreign Policy Debate," draws the same conclusion: "The inevitable emphasis on the differences between Mr. Kissinger and his critics should not obscure their wide area of agreement on the basic goals of American policy."

MCCLOY DENOUNCES BALL, WARNKE, BRZEZINSKI

April 16 (IPS)—John J. McCloy, Sr., lawyer for the "Seven Sisters" multinational oil corporations and former High Commissioner of Germany under the U.S. occupation government, today called recent criticisms of Secretary of State Henry Kissinger by leading spokesmen for the financier faction linked to Averell Harriman "unjust." Speaking of recent attacks on Kissinger by New York investment banker George Ball, Trilateral Commission director Zbigniew Brzezinski and former Deputy Defense Secretary Cyrus Vance, McCloy said: "They've attached a skunk to Kissinger....Each of them wants to be Secretary of State." The 86-year-old McCloy described

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THOLDoday's column by New York Times Washington bureau chief James Reston, which attacked the three critics of Kissinger, as "very intelligent."

NEW YORK TIMES ANNOUNCES AFRICA FOREIGN POLICY DEBATE

April 16 (IPS)—With a front-page article, today's New York Times opens up a "debate" on U.S. policy toward Africa. An article authored by Times reporter Leslie Gelb outlines Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's Africa policy as a twin approach: "brandishing a verbal stick at the Soviet Union and Cuba to deter future Angolas while giving new emphasis to calls for majority rule in southern Africa and economic development across the continent."

In contraposition to Kissinger, Gelb details Sen. Dick Clark's (D-Iowa) argument that stick-waving at the Soviet Union and Cuba undermines rather than reinforces the call for support of majority rule in southern Africa. Clark argues that the U.S. hardline toward the Soviets encourages the white regimes in southern Africa to resist black majority rule in hopes of U.S. intervention into the situation.

ECHVERRIA BLASTS WALL STREET ATTACKS ON MEXICAN PESO, DEFENDS DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

April 16 (IPS)—Mexican President Luis Echeverria two days ago derided recent calls from Wall Street publications, including the April 13 Wall Street Journal, for a devaluation of the peso. In a Mexico City press conference, Echeverria stated that "very eager" Wall Street bankers have pushed the idea of a devaluation every Easter Week for the last 22 years because it was during Easter Week in 1954 that the peso was last devalued. "Some international news agencies and some American papers who don't like us very much say, 'Now it will happen, now it will happen'," the president stated. Echeverria firmly rejected any possibility that there would be a devaluation of the peso at this time.

Asked how the Third World would be able to get the European Common Market countries to accept the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties, Echeverria discussed the implications of the present world collapse for the advanced sector: "...when more than 100 countries are in a state of economic depression, this strikes back at them, not just politically...but also through loss of markets and of activities." Echeverria concluded with a strong defense of Mexico's law placing restrictions on foreign investment and called for high import levels of advanced technology in heavy industry.

Echeverria's remarks were given top front-page coverage in all the Mexican press April 15.

CONGRESSMAN LARRY MCDONALD ATTACKS ECHEVERRIA

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 16 (IPS)—Congressman Larry McDonald (D-Ga) made a vicious attack against Mexican President Echeverria yesterday in a speech before the House and said that Echeverria's policies are leading Mexico along the same path that produced the 1973 right-wing coup in Chile.

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Complaining that the U.S. pays too little attention to what is happening inside countries which receive aid from the U.S., the Congressman said, "For example, how many of us here realize that the people of Mexico are threatened by the collectivization of their property--property of all types, holdings of all sizes? They face this threat at the insistence of their president, who has chosen to place in high official positions the very Communists who brought Chile to disaster and who participated in similar attempts throughout Latin America....There is no mystery about how this occurs. The same individuals float from country to country, planning the Communist takeover of whatever nation is foolish enough to afford them the opportunity to do so. Should they succeed, they will fasten themselves forever upon the host society as bureaucratic parasites. And should they fail, they simply move on to some other country, leaving their victims to suffer." McDonald adds that "Mexican newspapers are filled with paid advertisements appealing for relief, inserted by beleaguered businessmen and farmers" who are opposed to Echeverria's land reform.

McDonald is the same Congressman who late last year read into the Congressional Record a slander attack claiming that members of the National Caucus of Labor Committees are East German intelligence agents.

WORKER AND PEASANT LEADERS ASSASSINATED IN MEXICO

April 16 (IPS)--Over the past three days, a Mexican peasant leader in the northwest state of Sonora and two labor leaders in Mexico City have been assassinated amid increased terror from right groups throughout the country.

One of the leaders of the major land invasion which has dominated Sonora politics for the last weeks, Rosa Delia Amaya, was killed in a suspicious automobile accident when a truck crossed lanes coming toward her on the state's major highway. Peasants on the invasion site said they had received death threats against their leaders in the preceding week.

In Mexico City, a congressional candidate of the ruling PRI party and lottery union official, Sara Ornela, was killed under mysterious circumstances April 14. The same day the air transport workers union, TASA, took out a paid advertisement in the Mexico City press denouncing a killing of one of their leaders by right-wing elements trying to take over the union. The statement from the TASA workers stated that the killing "is a fascist attack modeled after the case of Argentina...designed to destabilize the national institutions," and warned that the assassination was aimed at testing how far the rightwing could move against the government of Echeverria with "violent and illegal actions."

PCI ORGANIZES WORKERS INTO FASCIST VIGILANTE SQUADS

Milan, April 16 (IPS)--Claiming it seeks to protect factories from a three-week old terrorist wave in Italy, the Italian Communist Party has helped initiate the organizing of "anti-terrorism vigilante squads" to police Italian factories. The squads closely

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resemble fascist dictator Benito Mussolini's black shirt squadristi. PCI leader Giancarlo Pajetta said today in Milan that "today we have to defend our factories just like we did under fascism."

According to yesterday's Corriere della Sera, the Communist mayor of Turin held a meeting with trade union and industrialist confederation leaders two days ago, following a terrorist attempt on the Rivalta FIAT plant. Also present at the meeting were the FIAT factory council and representatives of political parties. The participants discussed extraordinary defense measures since, Corriere stated, "such attempts cannot be fought with the ordinary means already in existence." Following the meeting, all participants issued communiques calling on workers to "be responsible and protect the plants," since this means protecting jobs. "The type of vigilance needed," said Corriere, "is that implemented in Savona during the 1974 attempts" when an entire town was mobilized to defend against a series of bomb attacks.

Backing up the PCI and union initiative, Interior Minister Cossiga, the cousin of PCI General Secretary Enrico Berlinguer, said in an interview in today's Corriere that the squads are already formed and operational. Cossiga stated that "I got the big trade unions and Confindustria (the industrialists' federation) interested in this. In a short time we will have direct contacts to discuss the defense measures. It is not conceivable to do anything serious without the participation of workers and industrialists."

BLACK CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS MEMBER SAYS "LABOR PARTY PROGRAM IS WAY AHEAD OF EVERYONE ELSE'S"

April 16 (IPS)--Rep. Andrew Young (D-GA), a well-known member of the Congressional Black Caucus told a meeting of the Black Students association at Chicago State University yesterday that "The U.S. Labor Party is doing an excellent service...its program is way ahead of everyone else's." As with the program of the civil rights movement of the 1960's, Young said, the Labor Party program "will be implemented" ultimately. Young also commented that a key Labor Party demand, "abolishing the debt of the third World ...is in the interests of the U.S." The Congressman also reported that the Black Caucus receives regular briefings on the Labor Party program from a Caucus staffer.

REPORT AGREEMENT ON MEDIATION IN SAN FRANCISCO STRIKE

San Francisco, April 16 (IPS)--The San Francisco Board of Supervisors today agreed to submit their proposal for wage cuts for municipal craft unionists to federal mediation, in an effort to end the 16 day near-general strike here. Union leaders who had demanded Federal mediation expecting their contracts to be honored have agreed to send union members back to work once negotiations are underway, the San Francisco Examiner reports. The Central Labor Council, however, denied the report, indicating that they were still debating the matter.

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At the same time, the Board of Supervisors have placed two fascist charter amendments on the ballot asking for 1- wage and pension ceilings for the municipal employees, and 2- that a no-strike clause be included in all union contracts. Also today, Mayor Moscone announced his new austerity budget which provides no money for wage increases, and an 80 million dollar reduction in city services.

ROCKEFELLER STILL IN RUNNING FOR VP, MORTON SAYS

April 16 (IPS)--Rogers C.B. Morton, President Ford's campaign chairman, two days ago raised the possibility that Nelson Rockefeller may yet be renominated as the President's running mate in November. Speaking at a breakfast meeting yesterday, Morton stated: "He's (Rockefeller) a prominent political leader, a person of tremendous stature and capability. Nobody of that caliber ought to be ruled out."

Rockefeller had withdrawn himself from the running on Nov. 1 the day after the so-called "Halloween Massacre" when his leading political allies in the Administration were either removed from office (CIA Director Colby and Defense Secretary Schlesinger) or were given reduced responsibilities (Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.) President Ford's former campaign manager, Bo Callaway, had carried out a strong anti-Rockefeller polemic until he was removed from his position last month.

Yesterday's New York Times reported Morton's remarks under the headline, "Rockefeller Revived as Possible Ford Ticket Mate."

QUEBEC GOV'T GRANTS CONCESSIONS TO DEFUSE TEACHER STRIKE SITUATION

April 16 (IPS)--A special government appointed "Commission for School Disputes" in Quebec recommended April 14 that the provincial government extend an immediate 17 per cent Cost-of-living wage increase to all Quebec teachers as a precondition for further contract negotiations. The three Commissioners additionally called on the government to drop all legal actions against the teachers for violations of anti-strike legislation, and that the teachers cease further "harassment tactics" according to the Montreal press.

While response from the unions is not yet available, La Presse of Montreal reports today that Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa had personally suggested the Commissioners' action and indicates that the government may comply with the recommendations. Most Quebec papers have labelled the Commission's action "a major concession."

The teachers have been the leading edge of a series of day long general strikes against the austerity policies of Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau.

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SADAT STEPS UP CRACKDOWN AGAINST COMMUNISTS IN EGYPT

April 16 (IPS)--Twenty people have been taken into custody as part of an Egyptian crackdown against a "Communist ring" in the city of Alexandria, yesterday's London Daily telegraph reports. According to the Telegraph, the arrested persons were charged with being part of a "Soviet plot" in Egypt.

The paper further reports the charges by Sayed Marei, a top Egyptian official and a close ally of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, that the Soviets are "aiming at incitement of youth, workers, and peasants against the regime," and are also "creating confusion among Egyptian workers."

Similarly, a leading right-wing Egyptian daily, Al Akhbar, has claimed that a "deliberate Soviet plot" is taking place in Egypt, the Telegraph reported.

NEW JERSEY MUNICIPALITY PROPOSES CANCELLATION OF SCHOOL DEBT SERVICE

East Orange, N.J., April 16 (IPS)--The City Council here has proposed cutting 500,000 dollars of school debt service from their 1976 Municipal Purposes Budget according to today's Newark Star Ledger. The debt service cut is part of an overall budget cutback of 1.4 million dollars and totals a full quarter of all school debt service due.

Last week the East Orange Board of Education voted unanimously to rescind on the planned layoffs of 217 employees which was intended to save the city 600,000 dollars. Board President Barbara McCloud said following that action, "The Board restored the positions because it feels that they are necessary to provide appropriate programs and services for students...those responsible for funding education in our community recognized the need to restore our budget to an adequate level."

MASS HEPATITIS REPORTED IN OAKLAND

Oakland, Calif., April 16 (IPS)-- An epidemic of over forty hepatitis cases has exploded in Oakland, Department of Health officials here have revealed. The officials said that the outbreak of the disease has been traced to a doughnut shop which serves 3000 customers a day, and they have advised everyone who has eaten there in the past two months to undergo emergency treatment.

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