

group of comparable countries. Competition for us is not something which we wage with the countries of Southeast Asia or with Latin America. It is a competition which we carry out with the Americans, the Germans, the Japanese

When I was Finance Minister (during the 1960s — ed.) I had set as a personal goal that France, from the economic standpoint, overtake Great Britain. I remember our big debates with the British, and we were always behind. I said to myself that we must overtake them I think that if we do what is necessary, we can be on the same order of economic development and economic power as West Germany within 10 years. This is winning, by catching up with the strong. Looting the weak is not winning.

2. Brezhnev also has a lesson for Carter

French government radio recently characterized Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev's intentions as geared to teaching the United States a lesson in world affairs. The Soviets' Mideast diplomacy and the French Foreign Ministry's dramatic condemnation of the Lebanese fascist "Christians" and support for the moderating role of Syria signal that Paris and Moscow are seeking the same route to stopping the bloodshed in Lebanon, working parallel and in cooperation.

At the same time the efforts of Schmidt and Giscard to fill the policy vacuum left by the Carter Administration both by restoring the world monetary system, as well as by vigorous diplomatic intervention into the worst areas of instability, mesh with the core policies of the Brezhnev leadership in the USSR.

Those policies were affirmed most recently in the communiqué issued by Brezhnev and the leader of the Italian Communist Party, Enrico Berlinguer (see below). Overriding the "ideological" issues, which ostensibly are central to relations between Communist Parties, Brezhnev and Berlinguer situated their agreement on the matter of assisting the solution of the Third World problems of economic development and of peace.

Brezhnev and Soviet Prime Minister Kosygin are taking personal charge of Soviet diplomatic activity vis-à-vis the Middle East. In recent days they have received President Boumediene of Algeria and the brother of Jordan's King Hussein. The Soviet goal is to bring Middle East negotiations back on track towards a Geneva conference, in accordance with the USSR's responsibilities as Geneva cochairman. Brezhnev himself recently cited Soviet resolve to act on these responsibilities.

Endorsement of the European Monetary System

plan for currency stability and economic recovery is yet to be issued from Moscow, and the party daily Pravda remains officially opposed to the EMS. Yet the Soviet economy is already fully geared up to join in by virtue of the extensive economic agreements in effect on a bilateral basis with France and West Germany, and under negotiation with Japan. The Soviet-West German economic commission has held an early fall meeting to chart implementation of the Schmidt-Brezhnev 25-year-cooperation agreement signed between the two country's last May, and the Soviet-French commission has planned a tripling of trade in the next two years. Negotiations with the Japanese are scheduled, including both trade and banking officials.

Moreover, recent attention in Soviet specialized journals on the trend to a gold-based international monetary system (see *Executive Intelligence Review*, Sept. 26 to Oct. 7) reflect the lively support for the EMS which exists within the Soviet policymaking elite.

The Brezhnev-Berlinguer communiqué

From Moscow Oct. 8, the Soviet news agency TASS, issued an English translation of the official joint communiqué signed by Italian Communist Party General Secretary Enrico Berlinguer and Soviet Premier Leonid Brezhnev. Portions are reprinted here.

...As a result of the conversations that took place, the following joint communiqué was adopted.

Representatives of the CPSU and the ICP (Italian Communist Party—ed.) had a wide-ranging exchange of views on key problems of the present-day international situation.

...Noted was a joint concern over the slowing down of detente and international cooperation, the slowing down which was resultant of the activities of certain imperialist, militarist and reactionary circles and which brought about a growing threat of a new spiral of the arms race.

The delegations of the CPSU and the ICP emphasized an urgent necessity to take new and energetic efforts to give a new impulse to the process of detente and international cooperation, consolidate in Europe the constructive results achieved at the European conference in Helsinki, through full implementation of all the provisions of the Final Act.

In this respect, of major importance would be real measures aimed at preventing an intensification of the arms race. The two sides consider that a valuable contribution to attaining this goal would be provided by an earliest completion of the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks, by concrete headway at the Vienna talks on the reduction of the armed forces and armaments in central Europe, by a consistent implementation of the recommendations of the UN General Assembly's special session on disarmament....

A policy of international economic cooperation capable of placing resources and means at the service of the cause of consistent emancipation of billions of men and women from hunger, backwardness and illiteracy, policy capable of creating prerequisites for organizing a new international economic order would be of great benefit to the development of those peoples.

The leaders of the CPSU and the ICP pointed out that the working-class movement of the countries of Western Europe on the basis of cooperation between the communists, the socialists and the social democrats, and other democratic forces, including Christian ones, can make its own contribution to strengthening the processes of detente and cooperation between states with different social systems and to ensuring the success of the struggle for democratization of international relations and development of social progress.

The movement of non-aligned countries can make an important contribution to the attainment of these goals. . . .

The representatives of the CPSU and the ICP exchanged a detailed information on the state of affairs in their countries and the activities of the two parties. In so doing, the delegation of the Italian Communist Party informed the Soviet side of the adventurist activities of criminal groupings with the help of which reactionary forces try, by organizing terrorist acts, to impede the development of the democratic gains of the workers and development of the democratic gains of the workers and the Italian people.

The representatives of the two parties condemned those terrorist activities as utterly contradicting to the interests of the working-class and democratic movement.

3. John Paul II acts as 'the Pope of peace'

The election of Polish Cardinal Karol Wojtyla to the papacy on Oct. 16 promises to be one of the important events of 20th century humanist history. Pope John Paul II, a vigorous man of great philosophical depth and culture, is a worthy successor to the profound and politically sophisticated Paul VI. Understandably, enemies of humanism in the press and supporters of what is in fact a pagan oligarchist movement behind Archbishop Lefebvre have become frankly hysterical at Wojtyla's election.

This faction, including U.S. national Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski, has reacted by generating a disinformation campaign that already rivals the camouflage operation organized against Paul VI and John Paul I. This includes continuous

editorial comments in the London *Times* on Wojtyla's presumed "Mariology" — a code term for the pagan cult of Isis as practiced by the schismatic Archbishop Lefebvre and others — as well as Wojtyla's ideological "anticommunism," and even the short-lived fairy-tale of his supposed warm friendship with Brzezinski.

One of the Inner Elite

The facts as indicated by Wojtyla's own writings and behavior while Cardinal of Krakow demonstrate rather that the new Pope is an "inner elite" of Christian humanism in the tradition of Paul VI, Giovanni Battista Montini. Montini, as the Pope of ecumenicism and "*Ostpolitik*" — the opening of detente with socialist Eastern Europe and the USSR — was of course anathema to Brzezinski, Lefebvre, and the international fascist nobility.

In his first formal speech to the Cardinals on the morning of Oct. 17, John Paul II lost no time in laying out the programmatic basis for his future rule under three major topics: the implementation of the Second Vatican Council, ecumenicism, and peace.

First, he told the Cardinals that Vatican II, as shaped by "the unforgettable Paul VI," had yet to be implemented, characterizing this as *the* problem of internal Church discipline.

The forthrightness with which Wojtyla addressed this problem in his very first address as Pontiff must have made Genoese Cardinal Siri and the other Lefebvre supporters inside the College of Cardinals quake, for it was against the ecumenical principle as laid out in Vatican II that Lefebvre "revolted." Its full implementation has been partially blocked by infiltrators for whom Lefebvre is the contemporary expression.

Vatican II, under Paul VI's guiding hand, represented the modern renewal of Christianity's fundamental principles from its foundation: the Neoplatonic knowledge that man is man through the exercise of his reason for self-perfectibility, and that this is mediated through science and "the transformation of nature by man," to use Wojtyla's words. It is against this worldview that the pagan faction around Lefebvre, including Siri and Benelli, are in revolt, and it is this that Wojtyla promised to reinforce in the Church. As one Italian newspaper rightly said, "Watch out, Lefebvre."

Wojtyla dealt with the issue of world peace by focusing on the Middle East and the situation in Lebanon. Here the continuity with John Paul I is striking: the late Pontiff was reported to be planning a personal visit to Lebanon in an effort to reach peace.

Wojtyla stated: "Allow me to take into my heart directly the very serious problem of the beloved land of Lebanon We must have peace immediately We want social life ordered according to the faith Permanent inequalities and incomprehension are the reason for the conflicts and the dangers of more terrible catastrophes still." On the day of his election,