

according to the Italian press. In Libya, Prime Minister Jalloud explicitly praised the EMS as a good partner for the Arabs. Upon his return to Rome, Andreotti declared that his tour was completely successful and that Italy would be playing a critical role in the search for a Middle East peace.

• In an interview with the West German daily *Der Spiegel*, King Hussein of Jordan called for the convening of Geneva immediately, with the presence of the PLO, as the only possible way to avert a Middle East crisis. Hussein, who supported the resolutions of the Baghdad Arab summit that took place earlier this month, spent two weeks on a private visit to West Germany, where he consulted closely with Bonn officials including Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. According to Hussein, President Sadat in 1977 deliberately wrecked an emerging Geneva strategy, to which Syria, Jordan, and the PLO were agreed, after the Oct. 1 U.S.-Soviet joint statement on the Middle East was issued last year.

• In Paris, several important Arab diplomats and officials consulted with the Giscard government. Most important were Defense Minister Sultan of Saudi Arabia and Foreign Minister Faruq Kaddoumi of the PLO. Reportedly, Sultan pledged that Saudi Arabia would establish much closer relations with the French in view of the American support for Camp David.

Saudi Arabia and the USSR

The major Arab power backing the Geneva conference, of course, is Saudi Arabia. At the Baghdad conference, the Saudis threw their full support to the pan-Arab strategy, including the offer of a huge multi-billion dollar fund to Egypt, in opposition to Camp David.

According to highly informed American sources, Saudi Arabia this week enforced its opposition to Camp David by quietly suspending payment of subsidies to Sadat's regime — a move that reportedly terrified Sadat. "The Arabs *thought* they had made it clear that they intended to cut off payments to Egypt immediately after Camp David," said the source. "Apparently, the message did not get through. But in the past few days, it did."

Reacting, Radio Cairo — not exactly a hotbed of radical ideologues — called for a "revolution" against the leadership of Saudi Arabia. "The day is not far off when their people will rise to bring these rulers down," said Radio Cairo.

The Saudis are enraged in particular by the anti-Islamic "Egyptianization" course pursued by Sadat, who is seeking to restore the heritage of Ptolemaic-Pharaonic Egypt, when the priesthood of the Isis cult controlled the country. Paul-Marie de la Gorce, writing in *Le Figaro*, reported that a significant faction of Saudi princes is considering a move toward establishing ties with the Soviet Union, their ally in support of Geneva.

— Robert Dreyfuss

A settlement in the Western Sahara

Algerian President Houari Boumediene's first political act upon leaving the Soviet Union after a several-week stay was to dispatch a warm message to President Giscard of France. Flying over French airspace en route to Algeria Nov. 14, Boumediene stressed Algeria's willingness to "put Franco-Algerian relations on a more healthy and durable basis, while broadening and consolidating cooperation ties." This, he said, hinges upon a settlement, with French participation, of the Western Sahara problem, and added:

"In these times of defiance and tension, France can do much to the extent that it so decides. The powerful ties that it has been able to forge with all the countries of the Maghreb could assign France a choice role . . . giving to cooperation between your great country and the new Maghreb entity an unprecedented impulse. . . . I can assure you that you will always find in myself, in Algeria, and its leaders, attentive, imaginative interlocutors, committed to writing with you, as with all partners of the western basin of the Mediterranean, a new page in history."

At the same time, the semi-official Algerian daily *El Moudjahid* issued an extremely positive commentary on France, with particular reference to France's pivotal role in bringing about a rapprochement between Zaire and Angola following this summer's Belgian-British attempt to foment civil war in the region. To the reader aware of Algeria's acerbic cries against French "neo-imperialism" last summer, this shift will indeed appear dramatic.

Getting down to the nuts and bolts of settling the Western Sahara conflict and integrating the region into the EMS, the new Mauritanian leader Colonel Salek made his first visit to France Nov. 8 accompanied by the head of the Mauritanian central bank, and attended talks with Giscard and the French ministers for foreign affairs, defense, industry and cooperation.

Also in France between Nov. 9 and 16 was Chad's President Malloum accompanied by four ministers, for talks centering around African security and the financing of development projects.

Development to cool the African Horn

French President Giscard and Soviet President Brezhnev have joined forces to settle the conflict in the strategic Horn of Africa region, where Somalia is

making territorial claims on neighboring Ethiopia and Kenya. France maintains a strong position in the region with the presence of a military contingent in the new country of Djibouti. Giscard recently put forth a proposal for an all-parties conference to settle continued guerrilla warfare and end the potential flashpoint for regional war, and plan a concerted effort for the development of the area. This same proposal was discussed two weeks ago when Soviet Foreign Affairs Minister Andrei Gromyko went to Paris for talks with Giscard and Foreign Minister de Giringaud.

Further headway was made towards an all-party conference this week when Giscard and Brezhnev held simultaneous talks with Ethiopian and Kenyan leaders. Brezhnev is reported to have urged visiting Ethiopian chief of state Mengistu to accept the conference-table approach proposed by Giscard. Earlier, a high-level Ethiopian delegation was in Paris Nov. 4, led by Colonel Berhanu Bayeh, where Giscard's proposal was reportedly discussed.

Giscard also held talks with Kenya's President Daniel Arap Moi and, according to *Le Figaro* Nov. 13, extended the conference proposal to include an economic development solution for wiping out starvation and epidemics in the region. Arap Moi was accompanied by his Ministers for Industry, Finance, and Defense, who met with their French counterparts.

On Nov. 14, Giscard met with Ivory Coast President Houphouet-Boigny, who is leading an Organization for African Unity (OAU) committee which has been set up to intervene in the Western Sahara conflict. Houphouet-Boigny just returned from a conference in Mali of the Economic Community of the West African States (ECOWAS), which established a Fund for Solidarity and Investment including the Ivory Coast, Upper Volta, Senegal, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger — all countries with close French ties.

Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals

The strengthening of East-West entente and cooperation took a giant step forward this week with the agreement between Bonn and East Germany on transportation and, at the same time, Hungarian leader Janos Kadar's groundbreaking trip to France.

Kadar's talks with Giscard, the first between French and Hungarian heads of state in the postwar era, were highlighted by Kadar's declaration that "we consider Europe to be an entity from the Atlantic to the Urals, and we are a force in making it so."

In a private conversation, nongovernment sources close to Moscow told the Paris correspondent of this review that the European Monetary System was the topic of extensive discussion between Ministers from

the two countries, and that the EMS is considered "the embryo of a new world economic system."

In addition, Giscard reiterated his proposal, already made to the Soviets, for a conventional disarmament conference to include all nations that signed the Helsinki accords for peace and cooperation in Europe.

The ten-year agreement signed this week between the West and East German governments on improving transportation between Berlin and West Germany thus takes on broader significance. It is an urgently needed sign of lasting improvement of relations between the two Germanies, stabilizing the issue of West Berlin, a sore spot in East-West relations since the end of World War II and often used to manipulate Cold War crises. The agreement calls for the construction of a new highway linking Hamburg and West Berlin, and for the improvement of East German waterways through which most of West Berlin's commercial traffic passes. The financing will come principally from West Germany. This ten-year accord "and the special trade conditions" already granted East Germany, howled the *London Times* Nov. 15, "make East Germany an unofficial member of the European Community."

Germany, Japan firm Euro-Asian ties

West Germany, whose Chancellor Helmut Schmidt has worked in close partnership with Giscard in formulating the Grand Design growth policies of the EMS, currently holds the Presidency of the Council of the European Community, a role which France takes over on Jan. 1 — "D-Day" for the EMS. This week, West German Foreign Affairs Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher welcomed the five foreign ministers of the ASEAN organization (Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, and the Philippines) to Brussels, with the following remarks on the roles of the EC, ASEAN, and the new EMS:

"I am particularly pleased that this first ministerial meeting between ASEAN and the Community takes place at a time when the Federal Republic of Germany holds the presidency of the summit. . . . Both have set themselves the aim of furthering the economic and social well-being of their member states. Both are, in their respective regions, major and recognized factors of stability and peace. With this conference we are adding to the regional an inter-regional dimension. This first meeting at ministerial level is a testimony to the will of both to join each other as partners in the work of building one world whose main characteristics are interdependence and cooperation.

"ASEAN and the Community have many basic convictions and many interests in common. Both view regional integration as an effective