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## LABOR PERISCOPE

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### AFL-CIO leaders upset by Carter China policy

Sources close to the AFL-CIO Executive Board, now meeting in Florida, report that several top leaders are worried that the Carter Administration's China policy will lead to global war. Some leaders of the steelworkers, longshore and building trades are dubious of Carter Administration officials' private assurances that "everything is under control."

Chinese Vice Premier Teng "made an ass out of all of Carter's people," said one AFL-CIO leader. The Chinese "want the U.S. and Russia to destroy each other ... that's their game," said another. The whole Federation is upset with the abandonment of Taiwan in favor of the PRC.

Senile AFL-CIO President George Meany and Secretary Treasurer Lane Kirkland however, have reportedly bought the briefing line coming from Washington that the Chinese invasion of Vietnam is "punitive and limited." They are expected to back Carter's denunciation of "Vietnamese and Chinese aggression," call for the pullout of Vietnamese from Cambodia, and Chinese from Vietnam. More sensible leaders fear a "wider war" and "hope" that Carter and National Security advisor Brzezinski haven't already committed the U.S. to back China against the USSR.

Some leaders say they will back a resolution condemning Chinese aggression and say that the U.S. should not back China — even if the Soviets are forced to support Vietnam.

Teamster President Frank Fitzsimmons is reportedly very worried about the course of developments in Indochina. He is said to have warned a meeting of the Teamsters Central Conference that the Chinese invasion of Vietnam could "lead to World War III."

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**PROD falling apart:** PROD, Inc., the Kennedy-machine controlled "dissident" grouplet in the Teamsters, is falling apart. PROD national leaders are trying to hush up the news that the group has split into two, with a new "PROD" holding an organizational meeting in St. Louis last week. Many less committed members have left the group totally.

PROD fell apart, sources report, because the group couldn't dispute charges by the U.S. Labor Party, which were circulated by Teamster leaders, that PROD was part of an anti-Teamster conspiracy. "Truth squads" organized by both the Teamsters and the USLP destroyed PROD morale and produced devastating defeats in recent local elections.

A faction of the PROD executive board demanded that key PROD controllers Arthur Fox, a member of Ralph Nader's legal network, and Steve Early, a veteran of Joseph Rauh-directed insurgencies in the mineworkers and steelworkers unions, refute the Labor Party charges or step down. They refused, and PROD split.

The new group attacks Early and Fox and spurns foundation money. It stays committed to PROD's anti-teamster tactics. Early and Fox keep the national staff, keep control over the newspaper "Dispatch," and move toward a merger-alliance with the more radical, Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU) around the upcoming master freight contract.

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**Not so strange bedfellows:** Separate contract negotiations began last week between Cesar Chavez's United Farmworkers and the Imperial Valley-based lettuce grower, Sun Harvest Inc., in what UFW organizers hailed as their first "major break" in the four week old lettuce strike.

Sun Harvest is a wholly owned subsidiary of the United Brands Corp., and it seems that Chavez and United Brands share a great number of common concerns and friends. United Brands is headed by the Detroit-based Max Fisher, a top man in the same Anti-Defamation League, Zionist lobby circles who regularly pump money into Chavez's UFW.

Chavez's cohorts in California recently filed suit in State Court to block funding of research and development of new machinery that would do away with much back-breaking stoop labor. Chavez says he wants to protect the "right" of his workers to their stoop labor jobs.

United Brands shares his "concern": they are among the most vigorous supporters of labor-intensive, 'appropriate' agricultural technologies for the developing sector of the kind advocated by the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass).

United Brands was one of the first outfits to recognize the anti-technology UFW several years back. It seems they still think Chavez a loyal field hand.