

was massing troops along the Laotian-China border within striking distance of strategic points in Vietnam and Laos.

Charges that the Chinese are "sending spy teams into Phon Saly and Luang provinces and that during the past two weeks many companies of Chinese troops have crossed the border" were leveled at the Chinese by a Laotian government spokesman. The government has also called on the Chinese to withdraw over 1000 Chinese construction workers building roads through northern Laos because they had been "engaging in espionage activities." The government called for China to "immediately withdraw all armed forces that have infiltrated into Laos."

Brezhnev calls for 'collective resistance' to China

While China's touted withdrawal from Vietnam has given most of the U.S. press the excuse to put Indochina on the back pages, the threat of that conflict spreading into global nuclear war is still on the front burner. Here are a few of the Soviet warnings issued during the past week:

March 11 — Soviet President Brezhnev, in a speech to visiting Polish President Gierak, called for "collective resistance" against China. "Otherwise, mankind could not avoid a catastrophe," he continued. "We will do everything necessary" to help Vietnam and "to avert new provocations threatening world peace," the Soviet President concluded.

March 11 — Soviet Prime Minister Kosygin on television in India: "Peking has announced the withdrawal from Vietnam. But they are consolidating their positions on Vietnamese soil and are continuing their occupation. The efforts of all people and countries must be directed to putting an end to China's aggression."

March 13 — Soviet Central Committee member N. Inozemtsev has explicitly stated that the USSR will intervene militarily in Vietnam if China continues its invasion.

Bank takeover probe 'worries' Britain

The congressional probe of attempts by the Hongkong and Shanghai and other British banks to snap up \$23 billion in U.S. banking assets (see ECONOMICS) has begun to draw British howls of pain. Notably, the London *Guardian* hit an accurate note March 14 when it complained that the holdup of a decision on the takeovers by the New York State and federal authorities is "cramping the maneuvering ability of the British banks" internationally.

"British Takeovers Worry American Bank Officials," ran the headline in the *Daily Telegraph* the same day, repeating warnings in the *New York Times* of March 12 that the U.S. banking community is now "organizing a defense effort" against the takeovers.

In Washington March 12, a private Capitol Hill meeting of federal officials heard New York State Banking Superintendent Muriel Siebert present her objections to the British takeovers on the grounds that through them, the British government will control U.S. monetary policy. At the meeting were top Fed and Treasury officials and House Banking Committee chairman Henry Reuss (D-Wisc), who tried to urge the Federal Reserve to act on the current applications before the Siebert-instigated congressional review could proceed. Mrs. Siebert objected violently; the Fed refused to comment.

Peanutgate: familiar cast

The spectrum of righteous judges who have suddenly taken an interest in irregularities of the Carter family peanut business has an eerie

familiarity to those who watched the "Watergate" destruction of Richard Nixon five years ago.

The *Washington Post* — remember Woodward and Bernstein? — got in on the act this week by finding a former Carter warehouseman to allege that the Carters had less-than-legal financial dealings with the bank of former federal budget director Bert Lance. In Congress, none other than Sen. Howard Baker (R-Tenn) and Rep. Peter Rodino (D-NJ) of Watergate fame are now leading the clamor for a "special prosecutor."

But the clincher is the resurfacing of Alexander Haig, the lame-duck NATO commander. Haig used the 1974 Watergate debacle to temporarily seize control of the White House together with Henry A. Kissinger, in flagrant defiance of the Constitution. Now Nixon's old speechwriter columnist William Safire, who has pushed "Cartergate" since Jimmy took office, is backing Haig's high-profile candidacy for the Republican nomination to presidential candidacy, and has joined calls for a special prosecutor.

ERRATA

In the Asia section of the March 13 issue of the *Executive Intelligence Review*, headlines were reversed for two features. The article beginning on page 41 should have been headlined "The war in Indochina: withdrawal or *Sitzkrieg*?" The article on page 43 should have been titled, "China's economy: More signs of trouble."

The chart depicting French aid to the developing sector from 1974-1976 on p. 16 was improperly aligned, and the identification for the "Total" category was omitted. For example, in 1974, the amount of aid from the public sector was 916.3 million francs, aid from the private sector was 7,497.6 and the total was 16,188.7.

The key was omitted from the World Trade Review on page 56, the correct key appears in this issue.