

# National News

## U.S. ready for Persian Gulf action?

An unidentified U.S. military official said Nov. 15 that the United States would intervene militarily to keep the Straits of Hormuz open if other nations refused to help. "If the U.S. is unable to get the cooperation, I expect we will act unilaterally," the official said.

The official was apparently traveling with U.S. Admiral Robert Long, commander of U.S. military forces in the Pacific and Indian Oceans. He made his remarks during a press conference held in New Delhi, India, covered in the Nov. 16 *Miami Herald*.

Noting that the U.S. currently has some 32 warships in the Persian Gulf area, along with 28 French vessels and 29 Soviet vessels, the anonymous official claimed that U.S. forces in the area are adequate to handle any Persian Gulf contingency. He added, nevertheless, that "It is frustrating to some of us that here is the U.S. protecting not only our vital interests, but those of the others in the free world, and our forces are spread so thin," he said.

The official discounted the idea that Iran might try to close the straits, and asserted that the real threat is from the Soviets.

## Private summit held by CFR

The Chicago Council on Foreign Relations held its third annual Atlantic Conference on Nov. 14-15 in Portugal. The subject was "Europe in World Affairs." Among others, participants were Zbigniew Brzezinski; Aspen Institute chief Joseph Slater; a leading member of the Carnegie Foundation; the program director of the New York Council on Foreign Relations; and Charles Percy, Republican senator from Illinois.

Thierry de Montbrial, a French member of the Trilateral Commission and

critic of Carter administration policy, was also present, along with Fiat's Giovanni Agnelli and Theo Sommer, editor of the German weekly *Die Zeit* and an adviser to Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. Informal discussion centered on what the Reagan administration foreign policy will be. The CFR expects to shape the Foreign Relations Committee, since Percy is about to head it up.

Also attending the Portugal session was liberal Republican Charles Mathias of Maryland, who may seek a seat on the Foreign Relations Committee when the new Congress convenes in January.

## Italian implicates Kissinger in Moro murder

Rodolfo Brancoli, the Washington, D.C. correspondent for the Rome daily *La Repubblica*, has written a book, currently serialized in the paper, in which he implicates both Henry Kissinger and U.S. ambassador to Italy Richard Gardner in the 1978 kidnap-murder of Italian Christian Democratic leader Aldo Moro by the terrorist Red Brigades.

Brancoli's information confirms in part the analysis of the document "Who Killed Aldo Moro?" published by the European Labor Party in Italy.

The ELP document charges that Moro, author of the "historic compromise" doctrine of forming a stable government coalition of the Christian Democrats and the Italian Communist Party, Italy's two largest parties, was killed to ensure that Italy did not become a strong economic and political partner in the then-emerging European Monetary System, which was strongly opposed by both Kissinger and Gardner.

## Percy makes foreign policy recommendations

Illinois Republican Sen. Charles Percy, the incoming chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, presented foreign policy recommendations in a

press conference Nov. 19 following his return from a meeting in Portugal sponsored by the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations.

Percy said that Japan and Western Europe must be persuaded to increase their defense spending for such goals as protecting the Persian Gulf. In addition, Percy said that President-elect Reagan should not lift the grain embargo against the Soviet Union, but should be free to use the embargo as a bargaining chip with the Soviets over Afghanistan.

Percy met with several Reagan foreign policy advisers on his return, including Richard Allen, to discuss his upcoming trip to Moscow.

Allen, meanwhile, stated on ABC-TV Nov. 20 that he favored the Camp David approach to Mideast peace negotiations. Reagan himself has never indicated that he favors this approach. In his Nov. 6 press conference, the President-elect avoided committing himself to Camp David when asked about it by reporters.

## NDPC issues call to replace Volcker policy

The National Democratic Policy Committee has issued a resolution to both Democratic and Republican leaders nationwide, summarizing how the Federal Reserve chairman's policies have slashed U.S. basic industrial output, farm income, and homebuilding.

Therefore, states the call, American constituencies must "mobilize their political, financial, and institutional resources for the purpose of ending inflationary monetization of the national debt, and instead mandating the Federal Reserve to discount credit for productive investment and tangible production; ensuring stable, low interest rates; enforcing orderly marketing for agriculture, including 90 percent parity and debt relief where necessary, as well as world export price negotiations; upholding federal commitments to infrastructural and scientific development; ensuring tax abatement for producers and their creditors, with tax penalties on speculators;

and elimination of unscientific rulings and regulations hampering business and energy production.

Development of water resources, highways, ports, mass transit, energy, and the upgrading of labor skills are specified as priorities for government action.

## New test of satellite crop monitoring

Beginning in 1981, Landsat satellites will be used to monitor wheat, barley, rice, corn, and soybean crops in the United States and several other countries. The satellite monitoring project, called Agristars (Agriculture and Resource Inventory Surveys Through Aerospace Remote Sensing), is part of an ongoing effort to perfect remote sensing technologies to provide accurate and timely information as to crop conditions, soil and water conditions, and other information critical to agriculture.

Agristars is a five-year, \$300 million program launched in 1980 that involves experts from the USDA, the National Aeronautics and Space Agency (NASA), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. These agencies collaborated previously in the Large Area Crop Inventory Experiment, begun in 1974, which demonstrated the feasibility of using remote sensing techniques to improve crop production estimates.

## Kirkland heads for Europe

AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland began two weeks of meetings with European trade-union and political leaders on Nov. 18. Kirkland will attend a meeting of the trade-union advisory committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in Brussels. An AFL-CIO spokesman reported that he will spend much of his time on briefings about his views of the incoming Reagan administration. The AFL-CIO leader

will in turn be told what "his political friends think he should do under the circumstances," an AFL-CIO source said.

"Lane is looking for input from Europe," said the spokesman, who would not specify whom Kirkland will meet. The AFL-CIO president is a member of the Executive Committee of the Social Democrats U.S.A.—the American wing of the international Social Democracy—whose leaders are now meeting in Madrid.

Kirkland is also a member of David Rockefeller's Trilateral Commission and regularly meets with its members on his trips to Europe.

## GOP governors debate Volcker tenure

The question of whether to retain Paul Volcker as chairman of the Federal Reserve was the subject of public debate at the recent Republican governors' conference in Philadelphia.

During the Nov. 18 panel on taxation and budget policy, one governor asked the panel: "The interest rate question is key in determining whether we get industrial production going. Have either of you [panelists] looked at the most ominous thing that faces the nation," referring to the Federal Reserve's policy?

The panel leader, a Republican senator, replied: "It is clear that Keynesian economics has been discredited. . . . We need a productively oriented policy over the next five years. The question is, will we be able to do the job with the Federal Reserve thinking that high-interest rates must be maintained?"

The governor then asked, "Is there any way we can replace Paul Volcker?"

Commenting on the exchange, Gov. Bill Clements of Texas, a Republican close to President-elect Reagan, said that while he had not heard of Volcker's leaving, "if it's true, it's very good news." At a later press conference, another Republican governor commented that he thought that "President-elect Reagan would want a Federal Reserve chairman of his own."

# Briefly

● **THE ASSOCIATED Builders and Contractors (ABC)**, the open-shop contractors' association, has decided to support legislation creating a subminimum wage for youth. A spokesman for ABC says that if the subminimum wage is passed, it will save open-shop (non-union) contractors "millions of dollars . . . we'll be able to put kids to work for dirt cheap."

● **JOHN TOWER**, the Texas senator mentioned prominently for the post of defense secretary, and former NATO commander Alexander Haig are two "friends of Great Britain," according to the Nov. 19 *Daily Telegraph* of London. Titled "Reagan may appoint Anglophiles," the article points to Tower's congressional record as a firm friend of Britain, foe of the U.S.S.R., and graduate of the London School of Economics, and says Haig "also wants firmer ties with Whitehall."

● **T. MILTON STREET**, a newly elected state senator from Philadelphia, switched his party affiliation to Republican on Nov. 18, assuring the GOP control of the senate in the next session. Street, who represents a ghetto district 90 percent Democratic in registration, told the press that "the Democrats have become insensitive to the needs of blacks and the needs of the poor."

● **UAW LOCAL 544**, headed by John McCarrell, has proposed that auto workers picket the Federal Reserve Bank in Washington to demand the resignation of board chairman Paul Volcker. UAW President Doug Fraser, while not endorsing the proposal, commented, according to the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*: "If Volcker's policies remain the same as in the past, we'd be better off if he resigned. His policies are a disaster to the auto industry."