

IPS BLOWS UN DIPLOMATS' COOL

UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK CITY, Oct. 3 (IPS)--A cold blast of reality from New Solidarity International Press Service correspondents has blown the cool of the United Nations. Multilingual diplomats are suddenly losing their mastery of the English language, experienced politicians are tumbling into public confusion, and hardened reporters covering the UN beat are tittering like embarrassed schoolgirls.

These phenomena occurred at a series of UN press conferences last week when IPS reporters interrupted the droning ritual of "Ask me no questions, I'll tell you no lies" with some hard questions about the real world.

One of IPS's most prominent targets was West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, in town to subject the UN General Assembly to a sabre-rattling speech about the "indivisible German nation." At Genscher's Sept. 25 press conference an IPS correspondent stated, "You have been slated for Watergating on the basis of your identification with the policy of Ostpolitik (referring to a recent series of vituperative attacks on both detente and Genscher in the West German press). Are you prepared to adopt the only policy capable of saving detente and yourself--vast expansion of East-West trade? Or will you continue to do just the opposite--cave in to austerity belt-tightening and the anti-Soviet 'Maoism' of fascist Franz Josef Strauss? My question is: In which direction is your foreign policy going--Ostpolitik or Maoism?"

While other reporters present squirmed uncomfortably at such unwelcome candor, Genscher's face twisted into a dumbfounded smile. After a long silence he finally mustered himself to reply that he would continue to emphasize "the continuity in our foreign policy--strong alliances with freedom, detente--clearly and unequivocally. Our foreign policy cannot be characterized as Maoist!" After the press conference Genscher eagerly took a copy of New Solidarity; upon seeing an article on Strauss and Mao he gurgled happily.

"It's Greek to Me"

The reaction of Greek Foreign Minister George Mavros was more extreme. In the midst of tear-jerking histrionics about the "Turkish invasion of Cyprus," Mavros suddenly was confronted by the following question from IPS: "In view of widespread revelations that the American CIA has been manipulating Greek politics since the postwar period, how can we believe that such influence has suddenly vanished? In particular, how do you account for the sudden so-called anti-American turn by the Karamanlis regime--a regime composed of dozens of longtime CIA/NATO collaborators, including Premier Karamanlis himself?"

Mavros sat stunned for a full minute. Then, he conferred in whispers with his aides while the assembled press giggled nervously. At last Mavros, whose command of English is known to be excellent, complained that he could not understand the meaning of the question. "We established democratic rule," he whined. "There are no concentration camps, no political prisoners; the press is free. Why are you asking me these questions? None of the Communist newspapers in Athens have asked these questions, and they are free to print anything they want..."

When Mavros said "there are no political prisoners," a couple seated behind the IPS reporter hissed, "Not even Communists!" IPS later learned that they were Mavros' son and daughter-in-law.

"Only Following Orders"

Mario Soares, Socialist Party member and Foreign Minister of Portugal, also experienced sudden difficulty in comprehending plain-spoken English at his press conference. An IPS reporter asked how Soares, a socialist, could participate in a government then headed by former Nazi collaborator General Spínola, and further inquired how Soares reconciled socialism with the strike-breaking and corporatist policies that he is personally forcing on the Portuguese working class. Soares paused for a long moment, then announced that he did not understand the question.

When the IPS reporter began to expand on the details of Spínola's unsavory past, Soares nervously broke in, "Oh, oh, I get your question." His answer: "You can't hold a man's past against him... Anyway, Spínola was not really a fascist; at that time he was a military man, and as a soldier was only following orders." With this sickening display, Soares brought the press conference to an abrupt close.

While "progressive democrats" Soares and Mavros embraced for the press photographers, Soares' aides rushed to the IPS correspondents for more information. "Where did you get your information about Spínola?" asked one. Another grabbed for New Solidarity and asked anxiously, "What do you think will happen in Portugal? Will it be another Chile?"

INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS

DAVID ROCKEFELLER ORGANIZING FOR FASCIST TRILATERAL COMMISSION

Oct. 4 (IPS)--IPS has just received confirmation (from David Rockefeller himself) that Leonard Woodcock's membership on David's own supranational planning body, the Trilateral Commission, marks him as a leading fascist organizer, almost one of the family. The proof comes from the transcript of David Rockefeller's Sept. 17 speech to Canadian bankers on "Why Foreign Banks Want to Settle in Canada." David wound up his presentation of capitalist tasks and perspectives as follows:

"In advocating active collaboration with the aim of resolving these serious problems, the Trilateral Commission took a great step forward. Made up of leaders from the industrial, university, and political world in North America, Western Europe, and Japan, the Commission, under the skillful direction of Professor Zbigniew Brzezinski, has begun to actively look into what measures to take in view of the elaboration of general ideologies and strategies. I have confidence that the Commission, by putting together organisms which will execute its concepts and strategies, will play a primary role in eliminating the traditional obstacles to multinational collaboration."

IPS wonders why Woodcock and his friends on the Trilateral Commission--I.W. Abel of the U.S. Steelworkers union and West German union bureaucrats Eugen Ioderer and Hans Vetter--bashfully play down the importance of the Tri-