

Realizing the life and death urgency of the situation, the response of the working class was swift and decisive. Yesterday morning, the Mexican Consulate in Chicago, deluged by calls from Labor Party members and others, took its phone off the hook by 11 a.m. Mexican Embassy officials in Washington, D.C. reacted hysterically to the call of a Labor Party member from Charlotte, N.C. demanding, "How did you get this information? How? What is this all about? We've gotten ten phone calls in the last hour." At a Seattle demonstration at the steps of the Mexican consulate, a consulate official calmly denied any knowledge of the matter, only to flip into a hysterical fit when a Labor Party member denounced Echeverria as a CIA agent and demanded to be told where De Hoyos was being held; the official called the police.

In Akron, Ohio, various union representatives sent telegrams to the Embassy and to the Mexican government demanding De Hoyos' release. In Flint, Mich., workers circulated petitions at Buick GMAD and A.C. Sparkplug. Throughout the Midwest, six radio stations covered the kidnapping with news bulletins, while calls from indignant workers forced the Associated Press to issue a dispatch on the case.

As of the time of his release, more than 1,000 workers had signed petitions calling for De Hoyos' release, while more than 16,000 leaflets about the incident were distributed in North America within a 24-hour period.

In Europe, Echeverria's cover image as a showcase Third World "liberal" was dealt a severe blow. Press releases on the kidnapping were distributed to all major outlets. Mexican embassies and consulates in major cities were contacted. In Cologne, a nervous official of the Mexican consulate stated his intention to communicate the demand for De Hoyos' immediate release to his government. In Brussels, organizers spoke directly with the Mexican Ambassador. Le Peuple, the newspaper of the Belgian Socialist Party, demanded that the press release on the kidnapping be telexed to them immediately. In Gent, the editorial staff of Links, the paper of the Flemish Young Socialists, is discussing the kidnapping.

#### NEW ARMS PUSH ENSURES INFLATION

Dec. 14 (IPS)--On the heels of the Vladivostok arms limitation agreement recently completed with the Soviet Union, Rockefeller's Secretary of Defense James Rodney Schlesinger has announced plans to greatly increase arms spending and production. The planned 75 per cent increase in the United States armaments budget, revealed in a series of major meetings and policy statements over the last two weeks, involved a massive diversion of labor and productive capacity away from necessary useful production into the weapons

sinkhole. The immediate effect of this policy will be the potentially explosive aggravation of current worldwide double-digit inflation.

The magnitude of the expenditures implied by Schlesinger's plans for strategic weapons alone--as outlined in his report on the Vladivostok agreement--is colossal. The plans dictate an increase in total arms purchases from the present level of \$16 billion to \$27 billion a year--a jump of 70 per cent. But this is just the beginning. This week at the Brussels NATO meeting, Schlesinger turned his attention to tactical weapons, outlining vastly increased expenditures in this area as well. These new increases in arms procurement come on top of already burgeoning sales of weapons from Europe and the United States to the Mideast.

### "New Goals"

Schlesinger fielded the arms race program in a speech billed as an explanation of the Vladivostok agreement. The munitions manifesto was contained in two interconnected points he made about that agreement. In the first place, Schlesinger rattled, since the agreement set mutual force limits on bombers and ICBM's that are far in excess of either country's spending plans, these limits must now be considered goals to achieve within the period of the agreement--within the next ten years.

Second, Schlesinger stated, the agreement would allow the Soviet Union to achieve such a huge level of megatonnage delivery capacity that they would be able to knock out U.S. land-based missiles in a single strike. Therefore, he argued, the Pentagon has prepared plans to totally replace all existing land-based ICBM's with the new Trident nuclear submarines and the new B-1 bombers.

### How It Adds Up

The Vladivostok agreement allows a total of 1,320 nuclear delivery vehicles with multiple warheads, and a total of 1,070 other delivery vehicles. Since Schlesinger stated that only 10 of the existing 40 Polaris nuclear submarines (with 240 missiles) would be maintained, and that the existing B-52's are also to be scrapped, the remaining quota of 830 non-MIRVed delivery vehicles would have to be taken up by the B-1 bombers. The entire MIRV quota would be taken up by the Trident subs--at 24 missiles per sub, a total of 55 Trident submarines would have to be built.

Prior to Schlesinger's Vladivostok speech, Department of Defense plans called for only 240 B-1 bombers and 10 Trident subs.

To complete the present plan in 10 years would involve building five or six submarines each year--at a cost of \$1 billion each--and 80 to 90 bombers--at a cost of \$70 million each. The total bill for this amounts to more than \$11 billion a year!

## Tactical Weapons

After berating the European defense ministers assembled at the Brussels NATO meeting this week, Schlesinger dictated to them the main points of the communique which the meeting published yesterday. Point one: The Warsaw Pact nations are increasing their armaments; therefore NATO must also increase theirs. Point two: The basis of negotiations with the Soviet bloc countries on force levels in Europe is to be the same as at Vladivostok--the setting of a common ceiling on forces.

To implement point one, the NATO ministers announced plans to increase their forces by 1,600 new tanks, 1,200 to 1,400 tank artillery pieces and 250 fighter planes--a total of about \$2.5 billion in hardware. The implications of the second point are even greater. Since the Warsaw Pact countries hold an immense numerical superiority over the NATO forces in Europe--including a 9,000 tank edge--any attempt to raise NATO strength to anywhere near these levels will involve billions of dollars.

### Chrysler and GM Set The Pace

Simultaneous with these decisions, Chrysler and General Motors were taking action to implement them. In announcements on Thursday and Friday, Chrysler, at present the only manufacturer of the M-60 tank, announced plans to double tank production in the coming year. At the same time GM announced that they would begin production of tanks in the immediate future. Together, the announcements mean that tank production will rise next year to at least 180 tanks a month--triple the present level and four-and-one-half times the level of only six months ago.

### Mideast Orders

Already soaring weapons orders from the Middle East will feed this development. Thus far, between \$7 and \$8 billion of weapons are scheduled for delivery to the region from the U.S. in 1975, and at least \$2.5 billion from European arms makers. Together, the major customers--Iran, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Israel--have purchased or are bargaining for 900 fighters (more than a year's present production for the U.S.) and more than 2,100 tanks--equivalent to a quarter of the entire existing U.S. armored force.

Not content with such piddling weaponry, the Shah of Iran is meeting with Premier Chirac of France Dec. 21 to negotiate the purchase of five or six nuclear submarines!

These tremendous purchases, combined with planned expansion of the NATO armies, far outstrip current production capacities and imply large-scale investment in new armaments factories. The very high technology capital goods, machine tools, and skilled labor which should be going into the development of fusion power will be funnelled down a widened armaments drain, fueling ever-more-accelerated inflation.