

SCHMIDT: WEST GERMANY CAN GET OVER THE HUMP WITH STRAUSS?

WIESBADEN, West Germany, Jan. 2 (IPS)--West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt today gave his New Year's message to the West German working class: accept austerity for as long as my fascism-with-a-democratic-face government lasts, or submit to West German strongman Franz-Josef Strauss, a fascist without a mask.

To make the alternative clear, Schmidt reminded the West German population of the ordeal of their past year: "It was a difficult year. The Guillaume spy affair brought a change in governments. The terrorists of the Baader-Meinhof gang have caused unrest. World inflation and the oil crisis have caused the greatest economic difficulties in all the industrial nations." The CIA rigged the "Guillaume affair" and brainwashed the Baader-Meinhof countergang. Rocky engineered the Oil Hoax--and pulls Schmidt's strings.

But in spite of 1974, Schmidt promised: "The re-establishment of a high level of employment will be a high priority for the government...although unemployment will rise in the coming weeks." But West Germany can "get over the hump" if "citizens do not make excessive demands on the finances of the state, if businesses maintain their prices, and if workers maintain their wage demands at a reasonable level."

Meanwhile Helmut Schmidt, praised by Die Zeit, newspaper of Trilateral Commission member Theo Sommer, as a "model democrat," is preparing to hand the working class over to Franz-Josef Strauss. Die Zeit reports that Schmidt fully expects Strauss to be the Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union candidate for Chancellor in the upcoming elections. Previously, Schmidt has said he "hoped that the conditions of the German people would never get so bad that they would want Strauss as Chancellor."

BREZHNEV CANCELS TRIP TO EGYPT, STUNS BOURGEOIS PRESS

Jan. 2 (IPS)--In an attempt to explain away Soviet party chief Leonid Brezhnev's sudden cancellation of his trip to Egypt, the New York Times blurted out in a front-page story yesterday that Brezhnev had suddenly taken ill--with a cold--and is recuperating in a sanitorium outside Moscow. Such obviously fabricated details confirm that Rockefeller has been thrown into a tailspin by the Soviets' refusal to capitulate to negotiating with Rockefeller stooge, Egyptian President Sadat.

With no one clear "explanation" for the cancelled trip yet issued by the stymied Rockefeller cabal, the CIA press is issuing

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comically conflicting interpretations. Reporting from Moscow, the New York Times babbled that Egyptian Foreign Minister Fahmi, visiting Brezhnev in the Soviet Union at the time of the cancellation, boarded the plane to return to Cairo "offering no clues" as to why Brezhnev changed his plans. The same day, in an article datelined Cairo, the Times stated that Fahmi attributed Brezhnev's cancellation to "ill health." This line, leaked the Washington Post, is receiving "little credence" in Washington, while the Financial Times mused, "The whole affair is something of a mystery."

What is so confusing to the press is that the "predictable Soviets"--what one U.S.-based think-tank agent calls the Kremlin policy-makers--have moved in a totally unpredictable manner. A flurry of interpretations is being offered in a desperate attempt to gloss over the actual implications of the Brezhnev cancellation. One such insight is that the Soviets prefer to give up their interests in the Middle East rather than put detente at stake. Instead of risking a Middle East confrontation, the Washington Post and Die Welt wishfully write, the Soviet Union would rather give U.S. Secretary of State Kissinger free reign to negotiate an Arab-Israeli solution, thereby giving credit to the Soviets for preventing the outbreak of a fifth Middle East war.

The irony is that the Soviets, via Brezhnev's cancellation, may indeed obstruct another war--due not to their "opening the way" for Kissinger but to their resisting working with him and his cronies, namely Sadat.

The only note of truth making its way down the CIA press conduits is that if Kissinger fails to negotiate a peace settlement--which is quite likely considering the Soviets' hardening position--Sadat will be in trouble, and, as the Daily Telegraph neatly puts it, "the whole Egyptian regime could be in jeopardy."

UAW ORGANIZES MOCK SOUPLINE
TO BUILD SUPPORT FOR ITS FASCIST POLICIES

FLINT, Mich., Jan. 2 (IPS)--United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 659 held an anti-Depression rally here last week, Leonard Woodcock-style. Billed by the union leadership as a device to dramatize the plight of laid-off auto workers, the rally was a rerun of a Depression scene, complete with soup lines and apple sellers. It was actually aimed at marshalling the rage of the union membership against soaring layoffs, speedup, and the imminent loss of SUB benefits--in support of the UAW's social fascist solutions to the current economic collapse.

Local 659's misleadership was already notorious. The Local cooperates with the Buick Flint plant management in brainwashing workers through an in-plant alcoholism program.