

JAN. 1. (IPS)--YESTERDAY'S DAILY TELEGRAPH OF LONDON HAS REPORTED THAT THE UNITED STATES' 7TH FLEET IS CONDUCTING JOINT NAVAL OPERATIONS WITH THE IRANIAN NAVY. WHILE IRANIAN OFFICIALS HAVE INSISTED ON INTERVIEWS WITH IPS THAT THESE ARE "NORMAL" CENTO DEPLOYMENTS, THE OBVIOUS SIGNIFICANCE IS TO HEAT UP A MIDDLE EAST WAR SCARE AGAINST THE SOVIETS TO DEFLECT FROM THE CURRENT COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE IN VIETNAM.

U.S. TO SUPPLY LEBANON WITH ARMS

JAN. 17 (IPS)--IN WHAT MAY BE REGARDED AS A DEVELOPING PINNERS MOVEMENT AGAINST IRAQ, THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT TODAY ANNOUNCED A DEAL WITH THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT TO SUPPLY "HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED ANTI-TANK MISSILES TO LEBANON" TO "COUNTER ISRAELI RAIDS", ACCORDING TO REPORTER JIM HOGGLAND OF THE WASHINGTON POST. THE US ALSO INTENDS TO PROVIDE JORDAN WITH HAWK ANTI-AIRCRAFT MISSILES. FOLLOWING THE RECENT VISIT TO SYRIA OF FANATIC ANTI-COMMUNIST KING FAISAL OF SAUDI ARABIA AND THE INCREASING MILITARY COOPERATION BETWEEN SYRIA AND LEBANON, THE POSSIBILITY OF THE DEALS REPRESENTING A FLANKING ACTION POSTURE AGAINST IRAQ CANNOT BE IGNORED.

JAN. 17 (IPS) --UNITA', DAILY OF THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY, REPORTED TODAY THAT THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO CONVOKE AN URGENT MEETING OF THE DEFENSE COUNCIL OF THE ARAB LEAGUE IN RESPONSE TO ISRAELI MILITARY OPERATIONS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. ACCORDING TO UNITA', "THE OUTRIGHT OFFENSIVE IN PROGRESS IN THE ARKOUR AREA IS TAKING ON INCREASINGLY THE CHARACTER OF A LIMITED WAR AND MAY BE AIMING AT THE OCCUPATION OF SOUTHERN LEBANON."

JAN. 17. (IPS)--IZVESTIA JAN. 14 REPORTS IN ITS LEAD INTERNATIONAL ITEM ISRAELI ATTACKS ON LEBANON, AND THE VISIT OF ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON TO THE UNITED STATES IN SEARCH OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT. THE VISIT OF THE SHAH OF IRAN TO EGYPT IS BEING COVERED FACTUALLY, WITH NO EDITORIAL COMMENT TO DATE. AN ARTICLE IN PRAVDA REPORTS THAT AN EGYPTIAN DAILY PAPER, ROZ AL-YOUSEF, HAS DENOUNCED THE STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH TO NEGOTIATIONS (ASSOCIATED WITH KISSINGER) IN FAVOR OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE.

IV. INDOCHINA

JAN. 17. (IPS)--IN AN OP ED ARTICLE IN TODAY'S WASHINGTON POST, TAD SZULC CALLS US AIR SURVEILLANCE OF NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAM A "DANGEROUS 'DEJA VU' " OF THE 1968 "PROTECTIVE REACTION STRIKES" WHICH LED TO LARGE-SCALE ATTACKS ON NORTH VIETNAM. THE POST QUOTES "SENIOR OFFICIALS" IN WASHINGTON AS SAYING THEY ARE PREPARED TO "PULL OUT THE STOPS" TO AID SAIGON WITHOUT BREAKING THE LAW.

JAN. 17. (IPS)--IN AN EDITORIAL BY THE NATO-ALLIED JOURNALIST, ROY CYCON, TODAY'S DIE WELT PROPOSES, "PERHAPS IT IS NOT SUCH A BAD THING, IF WITHIN A LENGTHY PROCESS, THE ADJUSTMENT OF THE SOUTH TO

THE NORTH WOULD PROVIDE THE MANY ANTI-COMMUNISTS THE POSSIBILITY OF EMIGRATING OUT OF VIETNAM"...IF AMERICA IS NOT PREPARED TO TAKE SERIOUSLY ITS MORAL OBLIGATIONS, THEN AT LEAST THIS MUCH SHOULD HAPPEN."

JAN. 17 (IPS)--THE BALTIMORE SUN HAS PRINTED AN ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORTS THE NORTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT HAS CHARGED THE FORD ADMINISTRATION WITH "DISTORTING FACTS" ABOUT U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN VIETNAM. THE AP RELEASE ALSO NOTES THAT THE KREMLIN HAS CHARGED THAT THE U.S. HAS VIOLATED THE CEASE-FIRE BY SHIPPING UNAUTHORIZED ARMS TO SOUTH VIETNAM.

V. WESTERN EUROPE

KIEP PUSHES CDU TO GOVERN

JAN. 17 (IPS)--IN TODAY'S COVERAGE OF THE VISIT OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC UNION (CDU) TREASURER WALTER LEISLER KIEP TO THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (DDR), THE FRANKFURTER RUNDschau REPORTED THAT KIEP "NOTED A STRONG INTEREST IN THE CDU AS A POSSIBLE GOVERNING PARTY." "AT THE SAME TIME, WE HAVE TO EXPECT A STRONGER IDEOLOGICAL FIGHT AND A SHARPER DELINEATION THROUGH THE DDR..." THE FRANKFURTER RUNDschau ALSO REPORTS THAT CDU CHAIRMAN HELM KOHL WAS NOT INFORMED OF KIEP'S INTENTION TO MEET WITH OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES, NOR WITH THE DDR'S OWN CDU PARTY, AND THAT HE REJECTS ANY FUTURE CONTACT BETWEEN THE TWO CDU PARTIES.

DC'S FANFANI TURNS RIGHT

JAN. 17 (IPS)--TODAY'S UNITA', DAILY OF THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY, REPORTED A SPEECH BY AMINTORE FANFANI, LEADER OF THE ITALIAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY, WHO HAS RECOMMENDED A POLICY OF PREVENTIVE POLICE DETENTION AND OTHER STRONG MEASURES TO COMBAT CRIMINALITY AND DEFEND PUBLIC ORDER AND STATE SECURITY. UNITA PRESENTED THE SPEECH AS A MAJOR RIGHT WING TURN BY FANFANI WHICH HAS DRAWN THE CRITICISM OF THE OSTENSIBLY LEFT WING FORZE NUOVE AND BASE FACTIONS OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRACY.

VI. FINANCIAL NEWS ROUNDUP

JAN. 17 (IPS)-- IN A WALL STREET JOURNAL FEATURE TODAY DATED IN WASHINGTON, TREASURY SECRETARY SIMON WAS QUOTED AS TELLING REPORTERS "THE SIZE OF THE DEFICIT HORRIFIES ME". HE ALSO PREDICTED THAT GOVERNMENT AT ALL LEVELS WILL ABSORB AN ESTIMATED 80% OF ALL FUNDS RAISED IN COUNTRY'S BOND MARKET, THUS PLACING SEVERE STRAINS ON THE LIQUIDITY OF AMERICAN INDUSTRY. SIMON SHIFTED THE BLAME ON THE PROJECTED BUDGET DEFICITS FROM FORD'S PROPOSED TAX CUTS TO THE CURRENT RECESSION ITSELF AND EMPHASIZED AS A SOLUTION THAT "WE HAVE TO GET THIS CRAZY GOVERNMENT SPENDING UNDER CONTROL AND WE'VE GOT TO START RIGHT NOW."