

Soviets Offer Trade at Helsinki Summit

Aug.2 (IPS) — Representatives from the socialist countries at the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) summit meeting, which ended yesterday in Helsinki, made a solid offer to the West: East-West trade - orders for collapsing capitalist industry. Soviet General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev led off with a call for more "concrete forms of cooperation in trade and economics, in science and technology" and in cultural relations.

East bloc leaders Husak of Czechoslovakia, Gierek of Poland, and Kadar of Hungary each came to the podium to emphasize the need for "extension of economic cooperation internationally in the future," the "inexhaustible new possibilities" for expansion of trade — while terrified capitalists in the audience sweated to figure out a way to wrest control of the situation from the Communists. President Tito of Yugoslavia, a leader of the non-aligned group of nations, sharpened the capitalist predicament by seconding the call for economic development, adding a note of even greater urgency. "Development problems are becoming so pressing," he said, "that they require international involvement... Without balanced economic development... there can be no general stability.... There will unavoidably be a new wave of tension and destruction in the world." Tito added that European cooperation must be broadened to include the Third World: "Europe cannot find any solution for its vital interests if it isolates itself."

Running Inference

The Rockefeller-allied leaders of the West — whose grip over their bourgeois and working-class constituencies is

slipping fast — did their best to downplay the Helsinki summit. President Ford stated lamely in his speech that "peace is not a piece of paper" and that he had come to Helsinki "because the leaders of 34 other governments are here." Bourgeois press coverage of the summit was typified by an article by agent Michel Tatu in yesterday's French daily *Le Monde* which informed its readers that the most interesting event at the conference was the intervention by the delegation from the postage-stamp country of San Marino.

French President Giscard D'Estaing, whose speech was described by the French Communist Party newspaper *L'Humanité* as "bristling with reservations," alleged that the Helsinki agreement is not binding and that he did not want to "imply recognition of a situation that France did not create." He then launched into an attack on the "superpowers" whose existence makes it necessary for France to maintain an "independent defense" — i.e., nuclear armaments.

Ford and West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt tried to draw into the battle the old arsenal of psywar bludgeons which somehow no longer seem to work. Ford raised the tattered battlecry of "liberalization" and "humanization" of Soviet society, "new behavior patterns" which are a prerequisite for detente. He warned the Soviets no to "manipulate" the capitalist crisis "for unilateral advantages that could lead us again to the brink of war." Schmidt hammered away at the "Berlin question" and mooted the "reunification" of Germany — the swallowing up of the socialist German Democratic Republic.

The failure of these techniques has

taken its toll on the mental health of Rocky's allies. The West German newspaper *Die Welt* reported July 31 that Schmidt, while walking through a park in Helsinki, saw a duck swimming in a pond and threw a cigarette at it. The duck flew off, says *Die Welt*, "like a disappointed voter."

The Rapallo Faction

International bourgeois press coverage of the summit has reflected a schizophrenic hovering between rabid anti-Communism and a frightened recognition that without East-West trade the world economy will utterly collapse. The Italian financial paper *Il Sole 24 Ore*, whose editorial board is split down the middle on this question, ran a commentary July 31 which shrieked about the Red Menace, warning wayward capitalists that "there is something more here than just the increase in trade." British and West German financial papers continue to favorably cite statistics of trade volume increases with the East, and yesterday's *London Financial Times* singled out the pro-trade sections of Brezhnev's CSCE speech, adding that the East bloc "has a genuine interest in commercial exchanges, which makes it less likely that ideology or politics will intervene."

With many Italian industrialists looking towards the East, even *L'Unita*, the newspaper of the agent-dominated Italian Communist Party today tailed along, in an article which discusses Brezhnev's reference to "concretizing" detente — a notion which, the article correctly states, "implies something more precise, a process of numerous negotiations between countries, a treaty for the reduction of arms and the expansion of commerce."