



PORTUGAL

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"LEFT" COUP IN PORTUGAL LAUNCHED BY NSC AS PRETEXT FOR DRIVE TO RIGHT

Nov. 28 (IPS)-- The abortive "left wing" coup launched last Monday in Portugal was a set-up by the Rockefeller-controlled U.S. National Security Council (NSC).

The paratroop units who seized the four bases were the same troops used to launch an unsuccessful Cia-ordered coup last Mar. 11. Only days before, the officers of the paratroop units had been slated to lead the government's right wing shock troops the AMI.

In this weeks "left" coup, the paratroopers yielded the 4 bases they had seized to a government unit, the notorious right wing Amadora Commandos, without a fight.

The individual widely identified as having been the leader of the coup, Gen. Otelo Saraiva de Carvalho, has not even been arrested as of this writing, although 51 other officers reportedly have been.

The maoist Carvalho's role in this staged affair was clearly indicated by the comments of one of the arrested soldiers as reported yesterday on French radio: "Otelo de Carvalho who prepared the plan... we were waiting for him to take over command of the operations...but he was not there on the night of (Nov. 25-26th... we called all over for him... Otelo was with the President of the Republic (Costa Gomes)."

Carvalho and the other "left" general heavily implicated in the aborted "coup", Army Chief of Staff Gen. Carlos Fabiao (Fabiao is reported to have suddenly resigned his command), were both top proteges of the exiled pro-fascist general, Antonio de Spinoia, who has been directly connected to at least two prior right-wing coup attempts.

The abortive "left" coup-- which effectively collapsed within 24 hours -- was a pre-planned operation to provide a pretext for a right-wing assault against working class organizations in Portugal. A state of siege continues to exist in Portugal, with the result that habeas corpus has been suspended and right-wing security forces are empowered to enter houses and arrest individuals without a search warrant.

The government has announced that it will be installing new directors for eight newspapers, including Diario de Noticias and O Seculo, two Lisbon daily papers which had expressed viewpoints close to the Portuguese Communist Party (PCP). The weekly PCP paper Avante was prevented from being distributed in the streets of Lisbon yesterday, according to today's edition of the East German newspaper Neues Deutschland.

NSC COORDINATION

There is a preponderance of evidence indicating that the coup was pre-planned operation of the Rockefeller-family-controlled National Security Council. Vice President Nelson Rockefeller personally was in nearby Madrid for three days both preceding and immediately following the launching of the Monday night "coup" ostensibly for the funeral of fascist Spanish dictator Francisco Franco's and the later coronation of Spain's re-installed King, Juan Carlos. According to the French daily, Le Figaro, Rockefeller convened an unofficial summit of other agents in attendance at the funeral. Included among those present was Portuguese Foreign Minister and NATO operative Melo Antunes, who was given marching orders for the coup.

The paratroopers who launched the "left" coup had until recently been well known for their loyalty to the exiled Portuguese General, Antonio de Spínola, a long-time protege of the Rockefeller family's "Bilderberg group." At the time of the coup, Spínola himself was in an unusual trip to the U.S. under the auspices of the New York-based Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) headed by David Rockefeller. Efforts by the U.S. Labor Party to prevent Spínola from entering the U.S.-- on the basis of his well-known affiliations to Nazi Germany during World War II -- were rejected by U.S. government officials who stated that Spínola's visit had been coordinated "at the top levels of the U.S. State Department".

COMMUNIST PRESS EXPOSES "LEFT" COUP AS FAKE

Shortly after the paratroopers seized the four air bases, the PCP issued a communique call for its cadre and supporters remain at their regular work places and other designated posts but at the "fullest state of vigilance." Disassociating itself from the paratroopers' action, the PCP Political Committee warned workers and their allies against becoming fooled by the set-up saying that "the forces of the left would be committing a grave error if they overestimated their own forces and tried some desperate act."

The PCP has continued to call for a political solution to the governmental crisis in Portugal, which takes its basis in the hatred of the majority of the country's working and farming population for the present NSC-controlled government's pro-austerity policies and attempts to liquidate the country's agrarian revolution.

NATO FORCES ASSEMBLED OFFSHORE DURING COUP

At the peak of "coup" activity in Portugal U.S. naval task force of sixteen warships, headed by the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Independence was marshalling in the Portuguese Azores, according

to a report broadcast Nov.15 by the New York radio station WLIB. Ninety F-4 Phantom jet fighter planes armed with napalm, fragmentation bombs, etc., were aboard this fleet, the station reported. Also reported was the fact that the fleet was on the coded alert status which immediately precedes an actual war alert.

In a related move, elements of the Sixth Fleet were conceded to be steaming toward Portugal by a well-placed source in the West German Foreign Ministry. Pentagon and NATO officials contacted by IPS refused to deny either the Sixth Fleet movement or the report of a naval mustering in the Azores.

PRESS REACTIONS

The prestigious French bourgeois daily, Le Monde, on Nov.26 was noticeably skeptical that a genuine left coup had been involved. In an article titled "Unthoughtful uprising or manipulation?" the paper notes that military units in which the PCP has strong influence refused to budge during the paratrooper coup. Le Monde asks "Was this a manipulation? By whom? By the PCP? This is unlikely. Its reasonable behavior in issuing a communique calling for calm-- adhered to by (the PCP-linked trade union confederation) Intersindical-- diminishes the likelihood of this hypothesis."

The French CP newspaper L'Humanite, is scathingly ironic in its Nov.27 edition: "Curious insurrection! No liaison, no coordination, no plan of action... Motion and proclamations and then an orderly retreat...A set-up should not be ruled out of consideration.

According to well-informed sources, the (government) decree proclaiming the state of siege which was instituted yesterday (Nov.26) actually was dated Nov.21" (before any "coup" was even to have been suspected.) The PCF is closely alligned with the PCP.

ROCKEFELLER-LINKED PERSONNAGES AND PRESS BLAME COUP ON COMMUNISTS

In the face of overwhelming evidence to the contrary, newspapers, press agencies, radio and television outlets, and politicians aligned with the Rockefeller family prominently featured reports beginning on Monday that the paratroopers' action signalled the launching of Communist coup d'etat. CIA agent Mario Soares, head of the Portuguese Socialist Party (PSP) had been setting the stage for the NSC provocation for several weeks by repeatedly announcing that the PCP was about to launch a coup d'etat and compared this to Prague in 1948.

The Rockefeller family's leading house organ, the New York Times, also featured the line that the Communists had launched the "coup." In an Nov.27 editorial ("Close Call in Lisbon"), the Times writes that "The Communist threat to Portugal is far

from over...the U.S. must press home to the Soviet Union at every opportunity the clear and present danger to detente in Moscow's encouragement of crude Marxist power grabs in Portugal as well as Angola."

Ironically, but hardly atypically, the Times' editors' lying was inadvertently contradicted by a detail in the Page one news article the same day by the Times' stringer in Portugal, Marvine Howe. The article played up a newly emerging CIA line on the "coup"-- that the PCP let down its ultra-left followers by not participating!"

The PCP and the 2.3 million member Intersindical have emerged from this weeks developments unscathed. The NSC has won a number of fixed positions shifting the balance of power to the right in the short term but at the cost of vastly increasing the hegemony of the PCP over the country's farmers and workers.

This is grudgingly conceded by the aforementioned Marvine Howe, who notes the anger of many Portuguese at General Saraiva de Carvalho and his followers, for so blithely risking the gains to date of the Portuguese revolution.