



NEW SOLIDARITY International Press Service

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NEW SOLIDARITY INTERNATIONAL PRESS SERVICE (IPS)

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COMBINED ISSUE

I. PRIORITIES

KISSINGER REFUSES TO RULE OUT INVASION OF CUBA

March 24 (IPS)--U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger refused to rule out a U.S. invasion of Cuba if that country uses its military power to support black liberation movements in Southern Africa. In an interview in Dallas reported in today's New York Times, Kissinger said he did not want to discuss "any specific measures... You should not draw any conclusion for or against."

MILITARY ANALYSTS FEAR U.S. MILITARY OPTIONS AGAINST CUBA INVITE CONFRONTATION WITH SOVIETS

March 24 (IPS)--New York Times reporter Drew Middleton today reports that "qualified military sources in Washington" are warning that any of the military options under consideration by the Administration in reaction to Cuban moves in Africa would involve serious risk of confrontation with the Soviet Union. These sources, Middleton says, warn that "the Soviet Union and Cuba are now so closely linked politically, economically, and militarily, that any action by the United States could lead sooner or later to a Soviet-American confrontation." They have also noted that a naval blockade of Cuba "would be far more difficult to enforce and even more risky than that imposed by the Kennedy Administration."

These same sources, Middleton reports, are equally concerned over the effects upon the Third World and upon Europe if they see that Kissinger's warnings "are only words unlikely to be supported by deeds."

PENTAGON REFUSES COMMENT ON KISSINGER MILITARY THREATS

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 24 (IPS)--A Pentagon spokesman said today that the Department of Defense had no comment on the threatening remarks of Secretary of State Henry Kissinger in his March 22 Dallas speech because "that is a State Department affair." When asked if the military policies presented by Kissinger had anything to do with the Pentagon, the spokesman repeated "we have nothing to do with State Department affairs."

REPORTERS CONFIRM KISSINGER CONTINGENCY PLANS
FOR MILITARY MOVES AGAINST CUBA

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 24 (IPS)--Two leading diplomatic correspondents Henry Trehwitt of the Baltimore Sun and Jeremiah O'Leary of the Washington Star affirmed O'Leary's charge that the U.S. has drawn up contingency plans for military action against Cuba in interviews today. O'Leary originally stated in the March 22 Washington Star that the U.S. has a four-part contingency plan for direct military intervention against Cuba should Cuba conduct further military operations in support of liberation movements in Africa.

Both Trehwitt and O'Leary expressed alarm at these findings, although Trehwitt cautioned that the policy -- which originated with Secretary of State Henry Kissinger -- has no backing in Washington. Trehwitt said he believes that the policy is more bluff than reality, and is geared to fuel the rightward shift of the Ford electoral campaign.

O'Leary said that he has informed Senator Dick Clark (D-Iowa), chairman of the Subcommittee on Africa, of his findings, and that Clark is proceeding to investigate recent public threats by Kissinger against Cuba, as well as the military contingency plans.

CALLAGHAN TO SOVIETS: "RHODESIA IS BRITISH TERRITORY"

March 24 (IPS)--British Foreign Secretary James Callaghan has told Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko that "Soviet or Cuban foreign intervention in Rhodesia, even indirect, would be construed as an attack against Britain itself," according to an unconfirmed report in today's Washington Post. The Post attributed the remarks to "sources in London."

"Mr. Callaghan left Mr. Gromyko in no doubt that Britain supports American resistance to any new Cuban ventures, "says the Baltimore Sun today, also quoting "sources."

An official at the British Information Services in New York said today that these remarks "may be taken as reflecting unattributable briefings by the British Foreign Office."

SOVIETS WILL NOT BE PROVOKED, SAYS LONDON TIMES

March 24 (IPS)--London Times Op-Ed writer Edmund Stevens yesterday applauded the new U.S. "tough-line" on detente and assured his readers that the Soviets would not be goaded into retaliation against the recent U.S. position since "they are still as eager as ever for access to American technology and relations with American business firms..."

Stevens contends that after their "narrow" victory in Angola, Soviet policy experts may now "feel they may have underestimated American reaction. Now that Angola is a closed chapter, the Kremlin is unlikely to push its luck any farther in that direction. It will probably urge restraint on its Cuban understudies..."

KENNEDY ATTACKS KISSINGER

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 24 (IPS)--In a major foreign policy speech to the Senate yesterday, Senator Edward Kennedy (D-Mass) attacked Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's recent threats against Cuban and Soviet "expansionism" in Africa. Congress was right to prohibit U.S. intervention in Africa, Kennedy declared. "A danger lies in a distorted view of our interests," the Senator continued, defining those interests to be strictly limited to Europe, Japan and Israel. Rejecting Kissinger's mootings of regional confrontations, Kennedy recommended the U.S. return to the policy of the John Kennedy Administration: support of national liberation movements in the Third World.

The same day Rep. Charles Rangel (D-NY) announced he was "especially appalled" at Kissinger's consideration of a naval blockade, air strike or invasion of Cuba, "Such overreaction could not help but have disastrous repercussions throughout the world," Rangel charged, according to the Daily World.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AFRICA SAYS THREAT OF SOVIET-CUBAN "INTERVENTION" IN RHODESIA IS "NOT REAL"

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 24 (IPS)--Assistant U.S. Secretary of State for Africa William Schaufele said that the threat of Soviet or Cuban "intervention" in Rhodesia was "not real," according to a source close to the State Department who spoke with him on Monday, March 22. "This tends to indicate that a situation is being contrived," the source said. Having spoken to congressional and State Department representatives over the past week, the source added, "No one I spoke to in Washington was very comfortable with the Kissinger policy -- of course I didn't have much contact with the real right-wing."

ATLANTICISTS LINKED PRESS DENOUNCES KISSINGER

March 24 (IPS)--New York Times columnist James Reston today attacked U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's hardline anti-Soviet speech delivered in Dallas, Texas March 22, and declared that if "the U.S. has finally decided to draw the line against Soviet and Cuban military intervention...then the American people, who would have to carry out the warnings, have a right to know what the Secretary has in mind." Describing Kissinger as "frustrated" and his warnings as "vague," Reston asked: "What do these stern statements mean?" While bemoaning "the Communist policy of intervening in these 'wars of liberation'," Reston asserts that "the problem now" is that Kissinger is trying to "ram his policy down the throats of an unwilling congress or public."

In similar commentary on the Dallas speech, Washington Post columnist David Broder refers sarcastically to Kissinger as "a shining star" while describing George Kennan's defense of detente as "more intelligent" than Administration policy. Chalmers Robert, another Post columnist, writes that the Secretary's "demand for more of the same old involvement everywhere" in the world "goes too far."

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SOVIET SCIENCE AHEAD, WRITES RED STAR, DISPLAYING MISSILES

March 24 (IPS)--The Soviet military daily Red Star March 21 featured unusual front-page photographs of a Soviet strategic missile installation and troops on duty at missile controls, under the caption "constant combat readiness." The pictures continue emphatic warnings from Soviet Generals Yepishev and Grechko that NATO arms buildup policies are headed for war.

An editorial run next to these pictures discussed the important contribution of Soviet science and technological advances to the entire Soviet economy as well as defense requirements. "The international authority of Soviet science is high," wrote Red Star, "It holds the advance positions in solving the problems of thermo-nuclear fusion, atomic energy, laser technology... and several other important areas."

PERONIST GOVERNMENT REPLACED BY MILITARY JUNTA

March 24 (IPS)--Early this morning the official Argentine government of President Isabel Peron was replaced by a military junta formed by the three armed forces commanders and headed by right-wing army chief general Jorge R. Videla. An official Armed Forces declaration on the coup said that "In the face of a tremendous 'power vacuum' capable of leading the nation to desintegration and anarchy, the national government had shown its lack of capacity to govern..." The military document strongly stressed "the Peronist government's lack of strategy to confront the constant increase of all extremisms."

Simultaneously all municipalities were ordered to hand over power to military authorities by midnight yesterday, culminating this morning with the resignation of Victorio Calabro, the governor of Buenos Aires, the most important state in Argentina, Isabel Peron was arrested and is reported being held pending military investigation of corruption charges.

According to press sources, the military junta plans to arrest all top labor leaders and factory leaders and take direct control of the powerful General confederation of Labor (CGT), many of whose top leaders have already fled to Uruguay.

Last night's march of troops into the city of La Plata, capital of the State of Buenos Aires, was strongly resisted by the left-wing guerrillas. Ten guerrillas were reported killed by the security forces.

LULL ON INTERNATIONAL CURRENCY MARKETS
CAUSED BY U.S. FOREIGN POLICY THREATS

NEW YORK, March 24 (IPS)--Foreign exchange traders and money market analysts here explained today's lull in trading on the international currency markets as being the result of the recent sharp turn in U.S. foreign policy towards a confrontationalist posture vis-a-vis the Soviet Union and the Third World.

The foreign exchange trading chief at one of New York's biggest banks asserted: "Since Monday there's very little change in foreign exchange positions other than some movement out of Deutsche-marks as some folks get convinced that the West Germans will not officially upvalue their currency. ...As long as the United States shows that it is strong to its allies, we will live without a dollar crisis, I assure you." Asked if he were referring to Kissinger's sabre-rattling performance during a Dallas, Texas speech two days ago and today's Wall Street-directed military coup in Argentina, he responded: "I wouldn't go as far as all that, but you have to show you're strong every now and then."

STATE DEPT. SAYS EUROPEAN MONETARY CRISIS WILL
PUSH SAFETY NET THROUGH CONGRESS

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 24 (IPS)—the State Department is betting that a European monetary crisis and accompanying austerity, mass strike, and political upheavals will push Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's "safety net" proposal through congress, a spokesman for Undersecretary of State Charles Robinson said today. The spokesman indicated that the "safety net," the 25 billion dollar "Big MAC" fund which, the Western capitalist nations would put together to ensure the international banks receive weaker Western nations' debt payments on time, is the only U.S. fiscal policy for the crisis.

"Germany is not willing to extend loans to Europe to the extent she is being asked," said the spokesman. "We are terribly concerned about the Italian crisis and the situation in France and Europe generally, and we've sent our plan to Congress and the Fed (Federal Reserve) and are waiting for an answer. Funds need to be put together on a multinational basis to solve the crisis, and so they would be realized (lent) through the International Monetary Fund."

When it was pointed out that the safety net plan — which would bail out the banks at U.S. taxpayers' expense — is currently extremely unpopular in Congress, the spokesman laughed, "With a monetary crisis in Europe, the chances of getting it through are a lot better because you're focusing public attention on something which at this point to Congress is not a very sexy idea," she said.

BANK ANALYST: BANKS PROFITS COME FROM CURRENCY SPECULATION

NEW YORK, March 24 (IPS)—Warren Marcus, the chief banking analyst of the New York brokerage firm of Salomon Bros., revealed today that most of today's bank profits are based on the international currency crisis. "The current currency crisis has created exactly the kind of environment in which the sophisticated lenders can demand higher interest rates," Marcus observed. The bank analyst conceded, however, that if the crisis turns into a full-scale collapse, then "that's another story" the banks' profits would turn into losses and they would be in "are in real trouble." Bankers, Marcus noted, do not like to think about this latter prospect, since "it interferes with sound bank lending practices."

NO POLITICAL OPPOSITION IN EUROPE, CLAIMS ATLANTICIST

march 24 (IPS)--No resistance to U.S. hegemony over Western Europe exists in the Federal Republic of Germany, a prominent Atlanticist expert on West Germany said today, but only "differences of opinion on the currency level." According to a Johns Hopkins researcher, the expert, Richard Loewenthal, addressed a gathering of the Council on Foreign Relations yesterday on the subject of "Soviet strategy and Western European Communism." Professor Loewenthal, a leading advisor of West German Social Democratic Party Chairman Willy Brandt, declined comment on the substance of his speech.

DER SPIEGEL: KILL THE "SNAKE" OR FACE STRIKES

March 24 (IPS)--A call for upvaluation of the deutschemark appears in the latest issue of Der Spiegel, the West German weekly magazine. An article headlines "Snakebite Persists" contends that the last revaluation of the mark did not injure competitive pricing of West German exports, since severe inflation drove up prices among major trading partners.

The pro-Atlanticist Spiegel warns that further West German central bank currency intake in support of the European "snake" could cause enough inflation to unleash wildcat strikes and high wage demands by West German workers. Der Spiegel advocates the dissolution of the snake or the readjustment of parities. Either move would officially upvalue the mark.

STATE OFFICIAL WARNS THAT HARDLINE ON ITALY
COULD PROVOKE DEBT MORATORIUM

March 24 (IPS)--A high State Department official warned today in a background interview that Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's "hardline" on keeping the Italian Communist Party (PCI) out of the Italian government could provoke a debt moratorium in Italy. The official noted that the United States has very little "maneuvering room" in the Italian situation because of the tenuous financial circumstances of the country. "If we get tough on the PCI question it might imperil the financial situation -- the Italians could threaten moratorium," he said.

The official, who claimed to be having a hard time winning the top officialdom in the State Department to his position, added that the Italian trade unions would only accept an austerity program if the PCI were brought into the government, "but the PCI itself is wary -- they know the lessons of Chile, and they fear civil war."

FORMER FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER JOBERT
CALLS GISCARD'S FOREIGN POLICY A "CEMETERY"

March 24 (IPS)--Former French Foreign Minister and Gaullist leader Michel Jobert yesterday publically compared the foreign policy of French President Giscard d'Estaing's government to

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"an abandoned cemetery where iris and violets sometimes come back in the spring." Reported in today's Le Monde, Jobert also warned against "a tendency to take refuge behind chimeras" rather than deal with current realities.

Jobert's statements were made at a special press conference with foreign press representatives in Paris -- the first such conference on foreign policy since Jobert resigned two years ago.

GAULLIST YOUTH LEADER CALLS FOR GAULLIST INTERNATIONAL

PARIS, March 24 (IPS)--A leading member of the official Gaullist youth movement, the UJP, said today that "the Third World cannot survive without some kind of Gaullist policy." He also proposed the creation of a "Gaullist international."

WALL STREET BANKER EXPRESSES CONCERN ON GAULLISTS

March 24 (IPS)--A leading executive of Kuhn Loeb and co., the Wall Street investment bank, said yesterday that "there are a lot of pressures on NATO, but also a lot of reasons for preserving it," commenting on French Gaullist leader Michel Debre's call for an anti-Atlanticist, anti-austerity emergency government in France. Speaking to a French correspondent, the executive claimed that "things have been going in the direction of a strengthening of NATO and the Atlanticist forces in the past six months," but admitted that "the Gaullists as a whole are reluctant to go for (French President) Giscard's policy." He also conceded that the Gaullists represent "a threat in that they are opposing the European Parliament issue" (i.e. the Tindemans Plan for a NATO-controlled integrated Europe--ed.).

INVESTMENT BANKERS SAYS GAULLISTS POSE NO THREAT

NEW YORK, March 24 (IPS)--A leading economist for Brown Brothers Harriman told a journalist today that recent statements by French Gaullist leader and former Foreign Minister Michel Debre attacking NATO and calling for a new world economic order pose no serious threat to the Atlantic Alliance. "The Gaullists are making a lot of noise but they have no viable alternative....," the banking source said, "France has always been lukewarm to the Atlantic Alliance, and not a member of NATO. Giscard's efforts to get closer to NATO will just be forgotten." The source termed Debre's economic proposals "irrelevant."

WEST GERMAN PRESS RESPONDS TO GAULLIST ANTI-ATLANTICIST DRIVE

March 24 (IPS)--In an editorial comment on the recent call by French Gaullist leader Michel Debre for a government of "public safety", the West German daily Frankfurter Rundschau said today, "The Italian Communist Party and the Gaullists like to describe in the darkest colors the danger of a Europe controlled by West Germany and 'Atlanticists'."

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According to the Rundschau, there is a basic difference between a crisis in a Gaullist government and the present crisis of French President Giscard d'Estaing's government. The Gaullists have never lost their base of support, as has Giscard, the paper notes.

US CALL ISRAELI WEST BANK SETTLEMENTS ILLEGAL IN UN DEBATE

March 24 (IPS)--The United States Ambassador to the United Nations, William Scranton, yesterday strongly denounced Israeli settlements on the occupied West Bank territory, describing them as "illegal and as a violation of Israel's treaty obligations," today's New York Post reports. Scranton who spoke during a UN Security Council debate on the recent unrest in the West Bank, said the presence of Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories "is seen by my government as an obstacle to the success of the negotiations for a just and final peace between Israel and its neighbors." One Yugoslav diplomat called the speech which marked a sharp shift in U.S. policy as the "most significant American policy statement on the Middle East in five years," the Post reports.

The Post also quotes a "personal comment" made by Scranton during the debate that he would "greatly appreciate informal discussions with any one and preferably all of you" on the Mideast problem. This was "universally regarded as an overture to unofficial contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organization," which is participating in the UN debate.

Scranton reported that his remarks on the West Bank were "dictated to him" by the State Department, the Post states.

The Israeli ambassador Chaim Herzog refused comment on the U.S. ambassador's statements and reported only that his government will evaluate them "very seriously."

WASHINGTON POST FEATURE BLAMES ISRAEL FOR WEST BANK UNREST

March 24 (IPS)--Today's Washington Post runs a lengthy feature article that portrays the Israeli occupation as being responsible for the unrest and tensions in the West Bank territories. The Post quotes one Arab West Bank resident as saying, "We want to get rid of the occupation. All our demands will be met when the occupation ends."

The article is laid out next to the jump of a front-page article on U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations William Scranton's speech yesterday, during which he called Israeli settlements on the West Bank "illegal."

ISRAELI PAPER ATTACKS GOVERNMENT WEST BANK OCCUPATION POLICY

March 24 (IPS)--"It will be difficult to restore the normal relations between the military rule (of Israel) and the Arabs of the (West Bank) territories that prevailed until a few weeks ago," the Israeli newspaper Ha'aretz wrote March 22.

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Ha'aretz insists that Israelis should not "delude" themselves, since the "Arabs do not want" the occupation to continue, and "even if Israel can deny accusations of harshness, she will find herself in a position of self-defense so long as she maintains that the problem of the West Bank is the least urgent of the political issues today."

PFLP ESCALATE ORGANIZING AGAINST SAIQA;
CALLS FOR ITS EXPULSION FROM THE PLO

March 24 (IPS)--Geroge Habash, leader of the leftist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine demanded that the Syrian controlled as-Saiqa guerrilla organization be expelled from the umbrella Palestine Liberation Organization, according to today's Washington Post. Habash also urged Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat to end "political and military unity" with Syria, an allusion to the loose alliance between the plo leadership and Syrian President Hafez Assad. According to today's New York Times, the PFLP has also pamphlet circulated in Western Beirut accused as-Saiqa and the Syrian government of siding with the fascist Falange party in Lebanon.

SUPREME COURT AGAIN CURBS CITIZENS RIGHTS
AGAINST POLICE-STATE METHODS

WASHINGTON, March 24 (IPS)--The U.S. Supreme Court has eliminated yet another area of the rights of citizens to seek redress against police-state methods in a decision issued yesterday. The Court held that citizens may not use the Federal Courts to sue a state or local official, such as a police officer, who defames or libels someone, according to today's New York Times.

The ruling specifies that police can publicly identify an individual as a criminal, and that that person cannot use the Federal civil rights laws to sue the police for damage to his reputation. This decision, following other recent decisions giving prosecutors immunity from civil suits and denying the liability of police officials for the actions of their subordinates, is fast replicating in the U.S. the legal-judicial system of Nazi-Germany, when Nazi officials had a free hand to publicly slander and attack citizens who themselves had no rights of redress.

The new decision was attacked sharply by three judges who wrote in their dissent: "the potential of today's decision is FRIGHTENING FOR A FREE PEOPLE". THE DISSENT ACCUSED THE COURT'S majority of allowing "arbitrary and capricious official conduct branding an individual as a criminal" without due process.