



# NEW SOLIDARITY International Press Service

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NEW SOLIDARITY INTERNATIONAL PRESS SERVICE  
LATE EVENING NEWS ROUND-UP  
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## I. PRIORITIES

### REPORT SYRIANS AGREE TO WITHDRAW TROOPS FROM LEBANON

April 17 (IPS)--Under the terms of the latest agreement between Yasir Arafat, the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization, and Syrian President Hafez Assad, Assad has agreed to withdraw Syrian troops from Lebanon, according to Washington Post correspondent Joseph Fitchet today. Stating that the agreement "was viewed as a face-saving compromise" for the Syrians, Fitchet states that "secret Syrian political concessions to the Palestinians were reported by Beirut sources to have been the key sales point in a position that publicly resembled the old Syrian cease-fire plan which collapsed in January."

According to Palestinian sources quoted by Fitchet, while the proposed agreement includes withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon, Arafat and Assad have agreed to keep some forces in Lebanon to oversee the cease fire.

### DEMONSTRATIONS BREAK OUT IN WEST BANK TO PROTEST MARCH BY ISRAELI RIGHT WINGERS

April 17 (IPS)--According to reports by New York's WINS radio today, Arab demonstrations in the Israeli occupied West Bank have broken out, protesting tomorrow's scheduled march in the area by Israel's right wing religious Likud party. The demonstrations are also protesting the killing of children in the area by security forces that took place several weeks ago. Israeli authorities have ordered military units to move into the West Bank to quell the demonstrations, WINS reports.

### SOVIETS GIVE STRONG BACKING TO LEBANESE LEFTISTS

April 17 (IPS)--In an April 2 letter addressed to Yasir Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the Soviet Union has asserted its support for the Palestinian movement in the plots

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being prepared against it, according to the Iraqi daily Al-Jumburiya of April 3. The letter also warned against any Israeli attack aimed at the south of Lebanon and at attempting to fight the Palestinian forces defending this region. It further expressed the disapproval of the Soviet Union toward any foreign intervention in Lebanon, and Soviet readiness to use its veto in the United Nations Security Council if the Lebanese issue was discussed and decisions which did not favor the nation's unity and the National forces were taken.

This Soviet backing for both the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Lebanese left comes after very strong pressures were exerted by the Syrians on both the Palestinian and Lebanese left. Al-Jumburiya also reported that Syrian president Assad has gone as far as to threaten the expulsion of all Palestinian refugees from Syria.

#### WEST GERMAN CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT CHALLENGES SOVIETS WITH NUCLEAR CONFRONTATION

APRIL 17 (IPS)--In an interview on the Bavarian TV network April 15, West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt stated that the Soviet Union fears confrontation with the West and that the West is more than strong enough to deter armed Soviet response to western provocations. After defending President Ford's dropping of the word detente because "it is not an English word, but a French one," Schmidt said, "For the present period of 1976 and 1977, there is no danger of the West's military inferiority. It is just the opposite. The capability of the united Western armed forces...to deter, as well as to defend in an emergency, is fully sufficient to prevent the Soviet Union, or any one of the leaders in the Soviet Union, from any frivolous thoughts." Schmidt elaborated, "A return to the cold war is conceivable. But to say that Soviet strategy is aimed at confrontation with the West, is, I believe, a false interpretation. The Soviet leadership fear uncalculable risks."

Speaking about Western Europe, the Chancellor flaunted the Soviets' impotence. "I do not see the Soviet Union jumping into a power vacuum," he said, and mocked the Italian Christian Democrats and the French Gaullists for not being reformist enough, like the Social Democracies, to keep their countries' communist parties as insignificant as those in northern Europe.

#### DIE WELT SAYS ONLY HARD WORK AND ANTI-COMMUNISM WILL SAVE WEST GERMANY

April 17, (IPS)--In its lead editorial today titled "West Germany: The Country Without Reserves," the NATO-connected West German daily Die Welt states that capitalism's last resource in West Germany is the hard working "little man." "West Germany has one million unemployed, inflation...increasing costs for social services...pension bankruptcies...no raw materials, no geopolitical hinterland, no protection from world political developments," Die Welt states. "It

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is even lacking that national identity which is allowing Great Britain to survive the crisis..." On the much ballyhooed economic upswing, Die Welt comments that West Germany "has the upswing, to which people cling...but it has no ideas."

According to Die Welt, the only good signs are "the hard work of the little man and his spontaneous anti-communism. But the government has to take new measures to make sure that these are not destroyed by left and right wing demagogues."

#### WASHINGTON POST BLAMES THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT FOR TERRORISM AND DETERIORATION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

April 17, (IPS)--The lead editorial of today's Washington Post blames the Soviet government for lawless harassment campaign against the American diplomatic community in Moscow as well as for continuing the tension in its policy toward Jews that, the Post claims, has led to the terror tactics used against Soviet diplomats in New York by a few American Jews. In its editorial entitled "Diplomatic Hostages and Detente," the Post declares that "the Kremlin has undertaken a campaign of phone threats, bomb scares and physical intimidation against American diplomats in Moscow." The Post states that the deterioration of diplomatic relations growing out of this harassment reflects the "soured state of detente." Further, the Post states, while the American government is attempting to uphold the law and bring to account the Jews who have fired bullets into the apartments of Soviet diplomats in New York, "the Soviet government is itself breaking the law and dishonoring its international duty by conducting organized harassment of Americans in Moscow." The Post condemns "the assaults by militant Jews in New York but insists that "the basic source of this tension remains the Soviet Union's refusal to respect the human rights of its citizenry, in this case, the rights of Jews."

#### PRESS COVERS UP KISSINGER DEMANDS FOR CONFRONTATIONS WITH SOVIETS

April 17 (IPS)--The major East coast press, the New York Times, Washington Post and Baltimore Sun, systematically covered-up the content of Henry Kissinger's speech in Phoenix yesterday.

As this news service reported yesterday, Kissinger's speech in Phoenix was a reiteration of his policy of "regional confrontations" with the Soviets. But the press universally concentrates on Kissinger's demand that the American people should reject "fairy tales of America being second best and forever taken in by wily foreigners." The rest of the coverage plays on that same theme -- Kissinger's rebuttle to presidential candidate Ronald Reagan's charges that he views the U.S. as slipping into a number two position behind the Soviets.

## VIOLENT CONFRONTATIONS IN MEXICAN COUNTRYSIDE INCREASE AS PEASANT LAND SEIZURES SPREAD

April 17 (IPS)--There have been increasing confrontations between Mexican peasants and large landowners and police over the last 48 hours as seizures of land by peasants throughout the country have escalated following a land seizure and massive peasant mobilization in the northwestern state of Sonora one week ago.

A chief of police has died of wounds inflicted by 'machetes' and five peasants were wounded in a clash between peasants and police near the city of Poza Rica in the Mexican Gulf state of Veracruz two days ago, according to the April 16 issues of El Sol and Ultimas Noticias of Mexico City. According to conflicting reports, the clash occurred when police tried to force the peasants to abandon land they had seized. Late reports today indicate that the peasants responsible for the death of the police chief have been released after it was determined that the confrontation was provoked by the police.

In the past 48 hours, there have been a total of four reports of similar seizures of land belonging to latifundists in the Mexico City press, which is normally reticent on such matters. In two of the states mentioned - Zacatecas and Tamaulipas - confrontations between peasants and police and landowners have occurred.

## MEXICAN AMBASSADOR TO U.S. BLASTS ATTACKS AGAINST MEXICO

MEXICO CITY, April 17 (IPS)-- Mexican Ambassador to the U.S., Juan Jose de Olloqui, released a sharp protest two days ago against U.S. provocations and attacks against Mexico. De Olloqui specifically condemned as "partial and distorted" an article which appeared in the Wall Street Journal 12 days ago and which Senator William E. Brock (R-Tenn.) read into the congressional record several days later. The article condemned President Echeverria's agrarian reform proposals which are intended to distribute lands and credits to the Mexican peasantry, and quoted a rightwing landowner attacking the government for being too leftwing. In response, De Olloqui emphasized that "together the government and people of Mexico will continue economic development with justice and freedom."

## MEXICAN COLUMNIST CALLS FOR SOLIDARITY WITH PERU TO STOP KISSINGER DRIVE FOR RIGHT-WING COUP

April 17 (IPS)--Salvador Lozano, columnist for the left-leaning Mexican daily El dia, charged April 13 that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and "international finance capital" are forcing a right-wing turn in Peru. He reported a variety of measures in recent weeks which indicate that the government of President Morales Bermudez has begun to bow to the IMF and Wall Street pressures, and warned that this must be halted or there could be war: "international finance capital works with a system. Committed to alleviating the crisis afflicting it, it looks for solutions in war and super-

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exploitation of workers.

Lozano, a collaborator of leftist labor leader Galvan and co-editor of the magazine Solidaridad, emphasized that the pressures on Peru were the same as those on Mexico which have been denounced by President Echeverria. On April 1 Echeverria launched a frontal attack on "pro-fascist" groups like the Monterrey industrialist group who are controlled by U.S. interests and who, Echeverria charged, are plotting a coup.

Lozano concluded that "The Peruvian Revolution will move ahead, if we show solidarity with the workers of Peru and defeat the agents of Kissinger here in Mexico."

#### USERY HITS PUBLIC EMPLOYEE NO-STRIKE LAWS

April 17 (IPS)--Secretary of Labor W.J. Usery has urged states with laws prohibiting strikes by public employees to change those laws in the interest of "collective bargaining and labor peace," according to today's Seattle Post Intelligencer.

Warning that public workers' "strikes occur anyway," Usery said it is paramount to avoid labor confrontations: "In this year of heavy contract bargaining involving more than 8 million workers, it is in the mutual interest of labor, management and the community to avoid strikes."

Usery defended the 1.65 cash per hour plus unlimited cost-of-living increase he negotiated for the teamsters master freight contract: "the trucking decision with the teamsters was a little high but a long strike would have been disastrous."

#### SF TRANSIT WORKERS VOTE TO CONTINUE SYMPATHY STRIKE INTERNATIONAL STRIKE SUPPORT GROWS

SAN FRANCISCO, April 17 (IPS) -- San Francisco Transit Workers Union today voted by an overwhelming 10 to 1 margin to unconditionally continue their sympathy strike in support of striking craft and municipal workers. They urged the city Central Labor Council to call for a general strike. This extraordinary expression of labor solidarity was undertaken by the Transit Workers despite the deployment of a caucus controlled by the FBI-run Revolutionary Union and other FBI agents in the union leadership to organize a back-to-work movement. The San Francisco media has immediately launched a black propaganda operation claiming that the Transit Workers will go back to work in 72 hours unless the CLC initiates a general strike.

According to tomorrow's New York Times, Federal mediation efforts have broken down after the city Board of Supervisors demanded that the striking unions remove pickets from the transit and other key municipal sites as a precondition to initiating (more)

Federal mediation. The union leaders immediately rejected this proposal. The Federal negotiation effort then ended and the mediators resigned.

A spokesman at strike headquarters stated this morning that "we will not go back; we are not bluffing. The eyes of the whole world are on the strike -- it's a test case."

Buffalo sent a mailgram with 100 signatures to Bay Area Congressman Ron Dellums, a supporter of debt moratorium, which included City Councilman Horace Johnson, and Attorney Jay Carlisle. New York State Senators Carl McCall and Major Owens sent statements to Dellums, and Philadelphia sent the Congressman a mailgram with 300 signatures. From Canada, the North American Labor Party sent 30 telegrams of support. Over this weekend telegrams are being sent directly to the S.F. Labor Party office to ensure the widest dissemination to strikers.

Nationwide support for the strike and for a city debt moratorium is growing. Detroit sent a telegram from 100 unionists representing 25 UAW plants, and shop stewards from Teamster local 299. Akron City Council President Ed Davis also signed. Boston sent 100 signatures on a statement directed to San Francisco Service Employees International Union, which is honoring picket lines.

#### NORTH AMERICAN WORKERS WINNING 20-30 PER CENT WAGE GAINS

NEW YORK, April 17 (IPS) -- Reports from around the continent indicate that North American workers are winning a number of key contract settlements carrying wage increases on the order of 20 to 30 per cent in the U.S. and slightly higher in Canada. Besides the Teamsters recent nationwide master freight agreement containing a 1.65 Dollar per hour plus unlimited cost of living increases, other favorable settlements include:

Vancouver teamsters local 31 representing 5,000 drivers settled for a 36 per cent wage increase over two years;

Northwest International Association of Machinists representing 3,600 workers settled for gains equivalent to the nationwide teamster victory;

In New Britain, Connecticut, 5,000 United Auto Workers members at Avco yesterday won a 21 per cent wage increase plus cost of living increases for a two year contract;

Milwaukee Sanitation workers who had worked without a contract for a year have settled for a 20 per cent wage increase over two years, with the first year retroactive;

In Philadelphia, 150 members of the International Watchmens

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union won a wage increase equal to approximately 25 per cent in a surprise settlement that resulted from intensive strike support provided by 3,000 longshoremen and several hundred teamsters who refused to cross their picket lines.

The reports also indicate increasingly active support to strikers from other workers, as typified by the support to San Francisco municipal craft unionists from the city's transit workers, who have voted to continue their sympathy strike. In Meridan, Connecticut, teachers who have been locked out in a contract dispute with the city council have won the support of city AFSCME workers including sanitation and highway workers. When the city council hired private carters to pick up the garbage, the private sanitmen decided to honor the picket lines.

In Kansas City, where a total of over 14,000 workers are now on strike, 2,600 meatcutters demanding a 25 per cent wage increase over two years have been joined by 4,000 members of the Retail Clerks who have refused to cross the meatcutters' picket lines.

Finally, many unions, encouraged by the high teamsters settlement, are demanding the reopening and in some cases, have reopened contract negotiations in order to include higher wage demands. In Vancouver, meatcutters reopened their contract following the teamster accord, and have since achieved a new settlement. In Seattle, postal workers are threatening to strike for reopening of a contract which does not expire until 1977. The postal workers are also seeking restraints against speedup plans by the Postal Authority.

#### ITALIAN METALWORKERS ATTACK AUSTERITY DEMANDS OF UNION CONFEDERATIONS

April 17 (IPS) — Agreements reached in "secret" meetings between Confindustria (Italy's industrialists' organization) and the heads of Italy's three largest trade union confederations (CGIL, UIL, and CISL) to force workers to accept austerity measures "has provoked a split within the trade unions," according to the Italian daily La Repubblica today. La Repubblica stated that the Metalworkers Federation, headed by Giorgio Benvenuto, "in view of the revolt by the base...had to put out a document" rejecting the austerity plan. The paper further reported that Benvenuto was involved in a "heated argument" with Luciano Lama, head of the Communist Party-controlled CGIL, since "Lama has been shown to be willing to armtwist the industrial unions" into accepting the austerity line of the confederations.

According to the daily La Stampa, Benvenuto objected that the unions "must identify the levels of a reasonable understanding with the industrialists" now because to "rush into a bad contract could insure quiet elections (in June) but in July everything would start again and the unions would not have

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the authority and credibility to ask workers (for) the sacrifices that are necessary to allow the economy of the country to recover."

#### IL TEMPO WARNS OF TRADE UNION REVOLT AGAINST PCI, CGIL

April 17 (IPS) -- In an article entitled "economics and trade union life," the Italian daily Il Tempo states today that "one has the impression that Lama (the head of Italy's CGIL trade union confederation) who deals in the name of the PCI (Italian Communist Party) and was interested in concluding the question of the workers' contracts before the explosion of the electoral campaign, may have uncovered his cards too soon. If operation 'shut up the workers' had been developed with less hurriedness," the paper states, "he could probably have gotten better results... It is certain that the negative reaction of the industrial unions is moving in direction that is contrary to the PCI and the CGIL."

"For Lama, it is a difficult moment," Il Tempo continues. "It was Lama who suggested to Agnelli (the head of FIAT and leader of Confindustria, the industrialists' federation) to attach wage increases to the presence of workers in the factories in order to fight absenteeism, Lama, the head of the CGIL and a 'sure' man of the PCI."

#### WEST GERMAN PRESS SAYS ITALY UNGOVERNABLE

April 17 (IPS) -- The right wing West German daily Die Welt today implicitly called for a coup in Italy by calling the country "ungovernable" under parliamentary democracy. "Instead of recognizing," Die Welt writes, "that under the given majority relations and in the face of the solidified and hardened fronts between parties, the country has become ungovernable, the Christian Democratic Executive once again discussed La Malfa's (austerity) plan, which was already rejected in the previous months as impractical."

#### PCI LEADER ISSUES THREATS TO ELP ORGANIZER IN EFFORT TO QUELL WORKER OPPOSITION TO FASCIST AUSTERITY

TURIN, April 17 (IPS) -- Pilo Gaspari, a member of the European Labor Party in Turin, Italy, today received direct threats against himself and his family from the local secretary of the Italian Communist Party (PCI). The PCI leader personally threatened Gaspari and his family with beatings if he continues to organize with the European Labor Party. After the personal warning, Gaspari received a phone call threatening that "you and other workers must stop working against our party."

The threat came after Gaspari denounced the fascist austerity measures being demanded by the PCI -- including wage cuts and

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freezes, import cuts and fuel rationing -- before an audience of workers and PCI members who had been assembled to hear the PCI secretary talk on the need for workers to sacrifice and accept slave labor as a solution to the economic crisis. Gaspari's intervention around debt moratorium and formation of an International Development Bank as the only solution to the present international crisis so polarized the meeting that the PCI leader was forced to leave, while people gathered around Gaspari demanding further briefings.

#### WEST GERMAN UPSWING HOAX TO BE FINANCED BY WORKERS WAGES

April 17 (IPS) -- Today's editorial in the Atlanticist-connected West German daily Sueddeutsche Zeitung, titled "A Report on the Economic Conjunction" demands that controlled investment in capital and forced stock purchases -- profit sharing -- by workers, schemes pioneered by Nazi finance minister Hjalmar Schacht, be used to save the mythical economic upswing. "Through a certain kind of control," the paper writes, "investments can be directed into the right industries that have to be capital intensive. It is therefore no accident that the theme of workers' participation in owning capital,...is now acquiring some real meaning again."

#### GREEK LEADER PROPOSES GREEK-TURKEY NON-AGRESSION PACT

April 17 (IPS) -- Greek Premier Constantine Karamanlis has proposed to the Turkish government that a non-aggression pact be signed between Turkey and Greece, according to WINS radio in New York today.

#### IMMIGRATION SERVICE THREATENS USLP MEMBER WITH DEPORTATION APRIL 30

CHICAGO, April 17 (IPS) -- Attorneys for U.S. Labor Party member Polly Skinner Johnson, a Canadian citizen seeking permanent U.S. resident status, will enter Federal Court here to seek a declaratory judgement outlawing the attempt by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to deport Mrs. Johnson under the anti-Communist provisions of the McCarran Act. The opportunity for this move came yesterday, when two INS agents visited Mrs. Johnson to inform her that she would be deported at the end of the month.

The agents claimed that Mrs. Johnson had "missed a meeting" on her case which neither she nor her attorney had been informed of. On this pretext, the agents said, the INS plans to hold a Final Deportation Hearing on her case April 30, at which time she must "show cause" why she should not be deported.

One day prior to the INS's notification of Mrs. Johnson that the final deportation hearing had been scheduled, a judge in Federal Court in Chicago threw out an INS "Motion to Compel" USLP candidate for Illinois Attorney General, Richard L. Leebove, to answer

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questions regarding a December 1975 illegal raid at the Air Balance plant, where the USLP has a sizeable following among Mexican-American workers. The Federal Government, which is attempting to charge Leebove and Chicago American Civil Liberties Union attorney Goldberger with a felonious conspiracy to entrap the INS into staging the illegal raid, had contested Leebove's right to invoke the Fifth Amendment against incrimination in the case.

END OF LATE IPS FOR APRIL 17, 1976