

Le Quotidien de Paris, Aug. 26: "After what happened yesterday, it would be hard to see a Socialist Prime Minister being content with limited means to govern under Giscard's authority. Yesterday made vain any possibility of collaboration between Giscard and the Socialist Party, things being what they are today on the left."

"Since December 14, 1974, when Chirac formed a "Committee of 44" UDR members to back the candidacy of Giscard against that of Gaullist Chaban-Delmas in the presidential elections, many Gaullists have been more concerned with seeking their revenge against Chirac than against Giscard."

"Are we today again witnessing the break of December 14? Giscard in any case is ready to exploit its memory by a role reversal. Aren't there in the UDR many illustrious people, honest supporters of Chaban-Delmas, who suffered as Giscard does now from Chirac's methods?"

Les Echos, Aug. 26: "The ministerial crisis which is being played out is not reducible to its political component... The tensions from which the rupture came are of an economic order... The laxism of the last years and the irresoluteness of the last months have created a difficult situation and unhealthy climate."

L'Aurore, Aug. 27: "(The problem facing the Gaullists now is) how to avert the risk of a break between pro-governmental and Chiracians. The danger is not theoretical, judging by the reflection of someone close to Chaban-Delmas, who squarely accused Chirac yesterday of 'having succeeded in two years of making us lose the Presidency and the Prime Ministership.'"

L'Humanité, Aug. 26: "Despite considerable efforts, (the government) has reached none of its political objectives. The very narrow base on which it rests tends to shrink, and there is outside the majority no right-wing force capable of serving as an alternative to the big bourgeoisie's power."

"The forces of big capital and reaction want not only to continue, but to worsen the austerity policy, bring the consequences of the crisis of their system to bear even more heavily on the workers and the popular masses..."

"On these objectives, there exists no divergence between the Independent Republican, UDR, and centrist leaders. They agree..."

"On Chirac's side, there is an attempt to keep the patriots worried about the UDR's submission, about Giscard's and Lecanuet's policy of national resignation on the orbit of the reactionary coalition. This maneuver cannot fool anyone. Chirac himself stated on July 30: 'In any case, the UDR is part of the majority, and I want to say that, whatever happens, it will stay in it. It will be an active and loyal partner in the presidential majority.'"

West German Press Reactions

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Aug. 21: "Political observers are saying that new elections are impossible, since they could mean a victory for the Communists and Socialists, and since Giscard cannot count on his own people being able to outmaneuver the Gaullists. (Communist leader) Marchais is saying that he will not accept an austerity program, the government has made impossible promises to the peasants, and (Gaullist ex-Premier) Debré has announced that to continue along the present course will lead to catastrophe."

Sddeutsche Zeitung, Aug. 26: "The President, only supported by the center parties and accidental majorities, no longer has any base in the parliament. With this, the constitutional conflict... has already broken out into the open... The result is an explosive political situation, which cannot be fully evaluated... France is

surely at a turning point which might mean a return to the Fourth Republic."

Frankfurter Rundschau, Aug. 26: "In other words, Giscard has no parliamentary majority behind him. He is backed up against a wall... In the long run, Giscard has only one remaining possibility: he will have to move closer to the left."

U.S. Press Reactions

Christian Science Monitor, Aug. 26: "The appointment of a man known here as a technocrat to succeed the Gaullist leader, Mr. Chirac, was taken as a clear indication that the President intends to hold the reins in his own hands and no longer share administrative power with the Gaullists."

New York Times, Aug. 26: "The way in which the resignation took place, without any public pretense that it was by mutual agreement, appeared to be a slap at Mr. Giscard d'Estaing and presaged future political trouble. Barre has no political base, (and) is expected to follow without question the views of the President... (The Chirac resignation) opens the way for a more clear-cut test of the President's thesis that France is ready to abandon the highly polarized left-right politics instituted when de Gaulle established the Fifth Republic..."

Baltimore Sun, Aug. 26: "The final rupture was prolonged into the usually quiet summer doldrums by the president's need to make the break with the Gaullist leader (Mr. Chirac) as delicately as possible... The president made it clear he wants to reestablish his own authority... Mr. Chirac's departure ends direct Gaullist role in the national leadership... The Gaullist party, which could provoke a serious crisis by moving out of the President's majority in the National Assembly, was reserved in its reaction..."

Japan's Miki Nears Break With Dollar

By Kevin Coogan

Aug. 27 (NSIPS) — The evidence that Japanese Prime Minister Takeo Miki will fight Rockefeller's furious campaign to bring down his government by both responding positively to the Colombo Resolution on the New World Economic Order, and by negotiating major economic deals and a peace treaty with the USSR emerged late this week in the Japanese press. Miki's clear signals that he is ready for the break with U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's hardline against Third World debt moratoria at the upcoming Paris North-South talks is coupled this week with major articles appearing in Soviet and Italian papers giving the embattled Japanese Prime Minister critical international support for his fight for extended economic cooperation with the socialist countries. Such articles also give needed backup to anti-Atlanticist forces within Japan for their break with the dollar empire.

In response to these developments, the New York banks launched their most blatant political and economic assault to date on Japan. Internationally, Rockefeller has mobilized both his pet financial spokesmen such as Robert Roosa et his Congressional lackeys including House Banking Committee chairman Rep. Henry Reuss (D.-Wisc) to create a public outcry demanding a new "institution" to force Japan to stop "undervaluing" its currency — a demand that the Japanese destroy their economy to support the worthless dollar. Within Japan, the entire cumbersome Rockefeller apparatus, led within the

ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) by longtime Wall Street-ally Takeo Fukuda, is engaged in a massive destabilization of Miki's government calling for the "cleansing" of the party and the Prime Minister's resignation. Fukuda has up to now used to his advantage various anti-Atlanticist factions within the LDP that have been watergated by the Lockheed investigations in Japan.

Earlier this week, Fukuda led a rump meeting of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party in a desperate bid to force the collapse of the government of Premier Takeo Miki. The meeting, attended by two-thirds of the party's representatives in the Diet (parliament) and the cabinet representing the anti-Miki factions of the party, passed a resolution calling for Miki to resign and make way for a "new leadership" for the party and the government.

Miki, who refused to attend the meeting, immediately denounced it as illegal and vowed to resist all political pressures to force him to resign. In a nationally televised statement Miki forcefully declared his intention to remain in power and pursue his government's policies which he must initiate to resist the Atlanticist coup by requesting Soviet leader Brezhnev to visit Japan "as soon as possible" to conclude a long-awaited peace treaty. Further steps by Miki in response to the Colombo program would prove his ability to provide the strong leadership which would guarantee him increasing popular support and the backing of Japanese industrialists.

Fukuda has cynically tied his bid for power to the turmoil in the LDP generated by the Lockheed bribery scandal which resulted several weeks ago in the arrest of former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka on corruption charges. Despite Fukuda's well-known role in engineering the destruction of Tanaka's political career, members of the Tanaka faction, the largest in the party, have supported the anti-Miki move in a fit of anger over Miki's backing of the Lockheed investigations and the arrests which have taken place. At best, Fukuda's alliance is a temporary one which will rapidly disintegrate once deprived of the cause of the "enemy without."

Miki's Counterattack

The direction of Miki's counterattack was first announced via an article in the Aug. 24 Mainichi newspaper which carried a lead from Japan's Foreign Ministry evaluating the meaning of the Third World's "toughened stand" at Colombo. Unlike the lying coverage in the Atlanticist-controlled major U.S. press the article reports that the "early settlement of huge accumulated debts of developing countries through concessions by industrial nations" was a major demand of Colombo. After commenting that "settlement of these problems without the cooperation of industrialized nations would be "impossible," the article states that "the industrial countries will have to watch what developing nations ask of them in the future."

The central role of debt in the Paris North-South discussions was highlighted in an article on the same day entitled "North-South Dialogue — Japan's Independent Policy Urged" in the Asahi newspaper. The paper reported that at the stalled Paris talks, an announced focal point in the Third World's battle to implement the Colombo resolutions, Third World nations "insisted that the formulation of a guideline for a 'decree of benevolence' which would unconditionally cancel the debts of countries in a certain level of poverty be included in the working plans" but that opposition, particularly from the U.S., almost caused the talks to break up. "In the industrialized world subtle differences of opinions remain unresolved among the United States, Europe and Japan," the Asahi notes.

Moves Eastward

In tandem with Miki's moves toward the Third World, his

government has also stepped up its push for rapidly improved relations with the Soviet Union. This follows a major visit to Moscow by Japanese industrialists to discuss increased economic cooperation.

The eagerness of Japan's big businessmen to work with the Soviet Union was indicated in an Aug. 23 Yomiuri article. Under a headline "Zaikai (big business) Noncommittal On Soviet Overtures", the Yomiuri explains that the source of business's "noncommittal" attitude is "possible fear of international opinion against a further deepening" of economic ties with the Soviets. The paper then immediately cites both Henry Kissinger and the Chairman of Dow Chemical, C.A. Gerstacker as having warned Japan that "technological exports to the Soviet Union would help that country to strengthen its military buildup and consequently weaken the position of the Western camp."

Despite such pressure from Kissinger and Co., Miki has escalated his drive toward greater cooperation with the Soviet Union. The Aug. 25 Yomiuri reports that Japan's Foreign Minister "announced that he would like to talk with Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko when the two are in New York this September for the opening of the new United Nations session. The topic of discussion will be the northern islands territorial dispute between Japan and the Soviet Union — the only remaining obstacle to the conclusion of a Japan-Soviet peace treaty which would pave the way for expanded mutual economic cooperation. The basis for such a treaty already exists in a plan put forward by a close Miki advisor some months ago which outlines a workable compromise by the two powers over the disputed territory issue.

Miyazawa's announcement that he wished to talk with Gromyko came on the same day that Pravda published an article praising the growth of Japanese-Soviet contacts while noting that "the absence of a peace treaty" slows down such mutually desired cooperation.

The current Rockefeller strategy for Japan, expressed through his mouthpiece Fukuda, is clear. Fukuda is committed to wrecking the LDP by either trying to force Miki to split the party or if that fails, to form a "new" LDP himself. Such a move would jeopardize the LDP's control of Japan's Parliament and throw the country into even greater political turmoil making any major political shift away from the Rockefellers impossible. Fukuda has yet to exhaust all his dirty tricks. One remaining ploy is the possible arrest of current LDP Secretary General Nakasone on trumped up corruption charges involving alleged Lockheed payoffs.

The battle for Japan has yet to be decided.

At this point, outside the LDP, Miki commands popular support in Japan and any attempt to force him out by a party vote would generate a political crisis throughout the country, including the possibility of a split in the ruling LDP. The Fukuda clique is attempting to create maximum pressure for Miki to resign in order to "resolve the crisis" in a way which removes them from responsibility for a government collapse.

While political commentators in Japan are predicting that Miki will resign, the Premier can outlast the Fukuda drive and, if left no alternative, dissolve the Diet and call early general elections for a personal mandate from the Japanese people to continue his policies. Even should Fukuda succeed in forcing Miki's resignation, there is considerable question whether he could form a viable government. Fukuda could quite possibly force Miki out only to find himself left by the wayside by his temporary "allies" in favor of a third alternative, one who could command the support of the pro-development and mainstream conservative elements of the party with zaikai backing for anti-Atlanticist policies.