

# France, Soviets map Eurasian alliance

*Bloc for peace and cooperation would supplant NATO*

France, her partners across Europe from Bonn to Moscow, and Japan are quickly putting together a precedent-setting drive to replace NATO with a strategic alliance for peace, security, and economic development covering the entire Eurasian land mass.

Under the present circumstances — particularly the suicidal policy drift of the Carter Administration — this new alliance is intended to transform the political and economic realities of the area east of the Atlantic Ocean to conform with the geometry created by the European Monetary System and Fund.

French President Giscard d'Estaing is well situated to maintain a leading role in this development, given his political-strategic experience in swinging the international alliance behind the EMS. Recent French diplomatic thrusts, initiated by Giscard, into the Third World, the East bloc, and Japan, may have results that will outstrip even the historic accomplishments of French President Charles de Gaulle.

As the reports below detail, these activities have sent diplomats criss-crossing Eurasia with unprecedented intensity, with Paris and Moscow the points of convergence.

## France and USSR — stabilizing Africa

In Africa, French initiatives in the Maghreb (northwest Africa) and in the Horn of Africa region are the centerpiece of diplomatic efforts with the USSR to bring stability to the various tribal and "liberation" conflicts and organize peace around political and economic entente and cooperation.

Similarly, a pro-French coup in Mauritania two months ago, a renewed diplomatic resurgence of King Juan Carlos's Spain, and a remarkable Algerian policy shift towards France are providing the basis for a compromise settlement of the Western Sahara imbroglio, which had had Algeria, Mauritania, and Morocco entangled over territorial disputes.

Japan, recently visited by French Foreign Affairs Minister Louis de Guiringaud, has a similar crucial role to play in exporting its "American system" of capital-intensive economic development. Japan has contributed to the Eurasian design in the just-concluded cooperation accords with Czechoslovakia.

The Middle East and Latin America are also being drawn into the process. Italian Premier Giulio Andreotti has just concluded a trip to several Middle East capitals in an attempt to turn attention back

toward a Geneva conference following the Camp David disaster.

King Juan Carlos's current trip to Latin America is intended to strengthen Spain's ability to be the EMS "bridge" to South American countries.

— Dana Sloan

## International push for Geneva conference emerges

A renewed push for the calling of a Geneva conference this week emerged as the primary tactic of forces linked to the European Monetary System's efforts to resolve tensions in the Middle East.

The drive for Geneva, which includes a great deal of behind the scenes diplomacy as well as public statements, was announced Nov. 18 by Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary General, in New York. Abandoning his previous reluctance to speak publicly on the subject, Waldheim told a press conference that it was "dangerous" to exclude the USSR from any role in regional peace negotiations. "The Soviet Union is definitely not happy about this development," said Waldheim, who urged that the UN assume primary sponsorship of the Middle East talks and that the Palestine Liberation Organization be included.

The renewed international pressure for Geneva developed at a critical moment in the post-Camp David maneuvering over the conclusion of a separate peace between Egypt and Israel. Western Europe, Japan, and the USSR are all concerned that a bilateral pact between Cairo and Tel Aviv will destabilize the entire area — leading to a U.S.-Soviet confrontation.

So, in the interests of a Middle East peace, considered crucial — or even essential — for the successful establishment of the EMS, the Geneva initiative is underway. Already, the leading Arab states, except Egypt, have embraced the Geneva strategy. Only Israel and Great Britain, and their allies and agents in the United States, are opposed.

### Who backs Geneva?

Backing Waldheim's call are the following forces:

- Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti of Italy visited the states of Libya, Egypt, Jordan, and Iraq, where, in each case he discussed Italy's support for Geneva,