

making territorial claims on neighboring Ethiopia and Kenya. France maintains a strong position in the region with the presence of a military contingent in the new country of Djibouti. Giscard recently put forth a proposal for an all-parties conference to settle continued guerrilla warfare and end the potential flashpoint for regional war, and plan a concerted effort for the development of the area. This same proposal was discussed two weeks ago when Soviet Foreign Affairs Minister Andrei Gromyko went to Paris for talks with Giscard and Foreign Minister de Guiringaud.

Further headway was made towards an all-party conference this week when Giscard and Brezhnev held simultaneous talks with Ethiopian and Kenyan leaders. Brezhnev is reported to have urged visiting Ethiopian chief of state Mengistu to accept the conference-table approach proposed by Giscard. Earlier, a high-level Ethiopian delegation was in Paris Nov. 4, led by Colonel Berhanu Bayeh, where Giscard's proposal was reportedly discussed.

Giscard also held talks with Kenya's President Daniel Arap Moi and, according to *Le Figaro* Nov. 13, extended the conference proposal to include an economic development solution for wiping out starvation and epidemics in the region. Arap Moi was accompanied by his Ministers for Industry, Finance, and Defense, who met with their French counterparts.

On Nov. 14, Giscard met with Ivory Coast President Houphouet-Boigny, who is leading an Organization for African Unity (OAU) committee which has been set up to intervene in the Western Sahara conflict. Houphouet-Boigny just returned from a conference in Mali of the Economic Community of the West African States (ECOWAS), which established a Fund for Solidarity and Investment including the Ivory Coast, Upper Volta, Senegal, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger — all countries with close French ties.

Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals

The strengthening of East-West entente and cooperation took a giant step forward this week with the agreement between Bonn and East Germany on transportation and, at the same time, Hungarian leader Janos Kadar's groundbreaking trip to France.

Kadar's talks with Giscard, the first between French and Hungarian heads of state in the postwar era, were highlighted by Kadar's declaration that "we consider Europe to be an entity from the Atlantic to the Urals, and we are a force in making it so."

In a private conversation, nongovernment sources close to Moscow told the Paris correspondent of this review that the European Monetary System was the topic of extensive discussion between Ministers from

the two countries, and that the EMS is considered "the embryo of a new world economic system."

In addition, Giscard reiterated his proposal, already made to the Soviets, for a conventional disarmament conference to include all nations that signed the Helsinki accords for peace and cooperation in Europe.

The ten-year agreement signed this week between the West and East German governments on improving transportation between Berlin and West Germany thus takes on broader significance. It is an urgently needed sign of lasting improvement of relations between the two Germanies, stabilizing the issue of West Berlin, a sore spot in East-West relations since the end of World War II and often used to manipulate Cold War crises. The agreement calls for the construction of a new highway linking Hamburg and West Berlin, and for the improvement of East German waterways through which most of West Berlin's commercial traffic passes. The financing will come principally from West Germany. This ten-year accord "and the special trade conditions" already granted East Germany, howled the *London Times* Nov. 15, "make East Germany an unofficial member of the European Community."

Germany, Japan firm Euro-Asian ties

West Germany, whose Chancellor Helmut Schmidt has worked in close partnership with Giscard in formulating the Grand Design growth policies of the EMS, currently holds the Presidency of the Council of the European Community, a role which France takes over on Jan. 1 — "D-Day" for the EMS. This week, West German Foreign Affairs Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher welcomed the five foreign ministers of the ASEAN organization (Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, and the Philippines) to Brussels, with the following remarks on the roles of the EC, ASEAN, and the new EMS:

"I am particularly pleased that this first ministerial meeting between ASEAN and the Community takes place at a time when the Federal Republic of Germany holds the presidency of the summit. . . . Both have set themselves the aim of furthering the economic and social well-being of their member states. Both are, in their respective regions, major and recognized factors of stability and peace. With this conference we are adding to the regional an inter-regional dimension. This first meeting at ministerial level is a testimony to the will of both to join each other as partners in the work of building one world whose main characteristics are interdependence and cooperation.

"ASEAN and the Community have many basic convictions and many interests in common. Both view regional integration as an effective

instrument for ensuring independence, peace and progress, a barrier to the hegemonic aspirations of the major powers. . . .

"Last year the European Community celebrated its 20th anniversary We are now in the process of consolidating what has already been achieved, and carrying on from there. A common monetary system is in preparation. Its purpose is to create the necessary monetary basis for further economic integration . . . (and) increase Europe's role in international affairs. . . .

"ASEAN is ten years younger than the European Community, and yet this regional association has already become a factor of stability which is acquiring increasing importance within the political constellation of Southeast Asia. . . ."

London press speculates: Will Britain be left in the cold?

"Dropping out of Europe" by *Business News Editor Kenneth Fleet in Sunday Times of London, Nov. 19:*

The Government is about to turn its back on the European Monetary Union, the most important European political initiative since the Treaty of Rome and take the circuitous road to costly frustration.

. . . This week the Government is expected to produce a Green Paper on the EMS, next week the Commons will debate the subject and the week after the EEC governments will make their disposition at a Brussels summit. The Government ought to be honest about why it will not bring itself to face the requirements implied in the EMS, and how it sees the alternative working out. Otherwise we shall have passed another historical turning point in the same fog of ignorance that shrouded the EEC.

The City of London should take the same point . . . It is not too fanciful, I believe, to see in the launching of the EMS without Britain as a founder member, the beginning of the end of London as Europe's financial center.

Japanese Foreign Affairs Minister Sunao Sonoda rounded out the pattern of strengthening Euro-Asian cooperation with his trip to Czechoslovakia, after a stopover in Paris, and ending with a brief stop in Moscow where he met with Soviet Vice Foreign Minister Nikolay Firiyubin and Premier Kosygin, who himself was seeing off Polish Premier Jaroszewicz on his way to Tokyo.

In Czechoslovakia, Sonoda signed groundbreaking accords with Foreign Minister Chnoupek on scientific and technological cooperation and with Premier Strougal for the establishment of a mixed economic committee which will look into the "significant possibilities" for economic and industrial cooperation bilaterally and in third markets. It was also agreed that regular consultations on the foreign minister level would be scheduled.

Europe. In Soviet eyes, Britain no longer inspires awe, respect, affection or any particular emotion: the country simply no longer matters. . . .

Britain provides ample ammunition for the propaganda organs to paint a picture of a country in decline . . . and the Russians think of Britain as a country that does not really like them, has many influential anti-Soviet politicians and is now provocatively considering arming the Soviet Union's enemy, China.

. . . British trade is of little interest . . . Britain does not appear to carry much weight within Europe. . . . The country is a magnificent example for the Soviet public and Soviet correspondents in London lose little time pointing out racial troubles, "political oppression in Northern Ireland," the sharp class antagonisms, symptomized by frequent strikes and the problems of the aftermath of Empire. In short, Britain is a marvellous target.

. . . Finally and probably the most telling reason the Russians do not feel much warmth for the British: The average Russian regards an Englishman as cold and supercilious. Cartoons depict him as a tall, haughty colonialist now dressed in tatters. and the Russians believe their lack of sympathy is mutual.

The view from Paris

"Don't Rock the Money Boat, Warns Giscard" — *Sunday Times, Nov. 19:*

President Giscard of France will warn James Callaghan on Friday that if Britain stays out of the new monetary system, she will face great risk. Callaghan will be in Paris (Nov. 24) . . . he will receive an unsympathetic welcome.

. . . Britain's negative attitude is strongly resented . . . The French show little patience with Callaghan's plea for a "transfer of resources" from other countries to Britain to make membership easier . . . They say that Britain as Europe's third largest industrial power, with all its jealously guarded North Sea Oil wealth, has no claim to the kind of handouts being offered to the Italians and the Irish.

The view from Moscow

"Britain does not matter any more to Moscow," *London Times, Nov. 17:*

Anglo-Soviet relations are worse than Soviet relations with any other leading country in Western