

## A grain of SALT

President Jimmy Carter told the American Newspaper Publishers Association on April 25 that the United States is fully committed to concluding a SALT II accord with the Soviet Union, and U.S. newspapers headlined the slogan that SALT will be the "best chance for peace." But even as Carter spoke, the effects of another "peace in our time," concluded barely a month ago under the orchestration of the White House, brought the two potential signators of a U.S.-USSR Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty closer than ever before to a thermonuclear war.

Indeed, the actions of U.S. ally Israel, under the combined impetus of the "lebensraum" demands of its own war economy and the U.S. military umbrella extended by the terms of the Camp David pacts, signal that the Administration's current push for SALT cloaks an unbridled drive for strategic confrontation against the Soviet Union.

The Israeli military has begun preparations for a blitzkrieg war against Lebanon and Syria, the latter a treaty partner with the Soviet Union. Since April 22, Israeli armed forces have launched low-level, continual bombardment of positions in Lebanon from the northern port of Tripoli to the Palestinian camps in the south. In addition, the fascist militia commanded by Major Saad Haddad, the Lebanese renegade who last week declared an Israeli-backed "Republic of Free Lebanon," have launched heavy shelling against United Nations, Lebanese, and Palestinian forces in the south of Lebanon.

But observers are expecting something much bigger. The Israeli press has accused neighboring Syria of "teleguiding" the bands of terror-

ist zombies whose actions over the second half of April have whipped the Israeli population into a frenzy for revenge. In fact, Arab sources privately say that the terrorism was perpetrated by a combination of British intelligence and Israel's own intelligence service, the Mossad—not the first time that the Mossad has spilled Israeli blood to justify a "reprisal."

The threatened conflict in the Middle East is intended to expand immediately into a conflagration that will engulf the entire "arc of crisis" from the African Horn to the Persian Gulf, Iran and Pakistan. The disintegration of Iran, now under the Nazi-like rule of the komitehs and Ayatollah Khomeini, and the Egypt-Israel war axis are each being used to destabilize the governments of Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Syria and Turkey.

In this light, it is hardly surprising that Jimmy Carter's April 25 speech insisted that "we will not accept any Soviet attempts to link SALT with aspects of our own foreign policy"—while one day earlier, Carter's press secretary had affirmed to reporters that U.S. decision on

deploying new weapons systems would be linked to "Soviet behavior." Administration proponents of SALT and their apparent foes in such outfits as the Committee on the Present Danger are fully in agreement that SALT should be used to force the Soviets to curb technology development, and provide a framework for negotiation while regional, "limited" nuclear wars are hotly pursued—preferably on the south Asian flank of the USSR.

A series of statements emanating from Moscow over this last week in April have made it abundantly clear that the Soviets will accept neither a ban on high technology nor a strategy for "limited" war (See SOVIET SECTOR report). The Soviet leadership sees the possibilities for avoiding World War III as rapidly running out. It is for this reason that they are staking much on French President Giscard's current visit to Moscow, and on Franco-Soviet negotiations which reportedly include a mutual monitoring of world hot spots.

—Nora Hamerman

### The Week in Brief

Senator Proxmire's Banking Committee has just issued a report which predicts that **60 to 80 percent** of the U.S. population would be immediately killed in a nuclear war. This is considered an acceptable figure by the study's author, Dr. Arthur Katz. Katz is currently Assistant Secretary of the Environment at the **Department of Energy**.

In an interview, Katz spelled out

that the Harrisburg "nuclear mishap" was run to test civil defense capabilities. As he explained, however, civil defense is not concerned with the biological survival of individuals, or even the biological survival of the species. What is crucial is what he termed the "survival of the nation." Katz explained that the committee is investigating whether, after nuclear attack, the nation

would fall to the level of a Third World country and whether or not the U.S. would become a client state.

Katz is optimistic; in the committee's view, the United States after 80 percent of its citizens were dead would be in a better situation than the USSR, because the latter is surrounded by hostile nations. In fact, Katz estimates that the cost of fighting such a war would be cheap.

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Veteran French foreign policy commentator Paul Marie de la Gorce became the first Western journalist to raise the issue of whether a **military confrontation with the Soviet Union** might not be launched by the United States.

In a commentary published April 23 in *Le Figaro* just before French President Giscard d'Estaing left for a state visit to Moscow, de la Gorce discussed the strategic implications of the Soviet development of high precision long-range SS18 and SS20 missiles. "... Setting aside the question of knowing whether there is the slightest reason to think that the USSR is contemplating suddenly and massively attacking Europe—and (retired French) General Gallois recognizes that they have reasons not to do so—one could ask if the **United States couldn't one day take the initiative** ... in response to the collapse of its positions in other parts of the world or in response to a conflict set off elsewhere. ..."

Earlier this month the U.S. Strategic Air Command announced a "no prior notice" rehearsal for a **nuclear first strike** against the Soviet Union under the code name, "Global Shield '79."

In a second commentary in *Le Figaro* April 24, de la Gorce stressed the **continuity of French foreign policy** since de Gaulle defined it as "entente, detente and cooperation" 20 years ago. Assessing the "favorable circumstances" of Giscard's trip, de la Gorce noted that France, contrary to the United States, is calling for a global settlement in the Middle East, has turned its back on military ad-

ventures in Africa, and refuses to back China against the USSR.

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**Herbert Wehner**, the leader of the West German Social Democratic Party (SPD) parliamentary fraction and a close ally of Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, has put out the most powerful warning of the **imminent danger of world war** yet to come from the leadership of a NATO country. Speaking to a conference of SPD war veterans and refugees in late April, Wehner warned against those "who want to show their own muscles" and "are not content with having provoked two world wars—they want a third one too."

Wehner said: "There is one thing that brings publicity in Germany, it is showing one's own muscles. I warn those who go for such demonstrations, for in the end **we all may find ourselves back in the dust**, or worse, in the mud.

"The Federal Republic is part of the North Atlantic defense alliance. This came about before the final attempt at a peace-treaty-like agreement between Germany and its former enemies. And when this could no longer be reversed," Wehner said, "there was only one thing left to do: to do everything in our power to **prevent the two opposing military blocs from clashing** with one another. ..."

"One thing is clear: a retreat to the cold war would not be like what we experienced during the fifties and sixties; it would be much worse. ... We must do what is humanly possible, lest someone provokes not only two world wars, but finally a third world war."

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The "**gentler**" method to force Mexico to hand over its oil as a strategic reserve for a militarized United States is **not working**. In Pittsburgh this week, the head of the Energy Commission of Mexico's Chamber of Deputies told a stunned audience that the idea of a **North American**

**Energy Common Market** is a "**sophisticated provocation**" against his country.

Nor has the zealous promotion of the idea from liberal presidential contenders Edward **Kennedy** and Jerry **Brown** as the alternative to James Schlesinger's more abrupt tactics fooled Mexico. Speaking to the Latin American Studies Association, Jesus Puente Leyva pointed to the "**Kissingerian origins of the proposal**" in the U.S. "**State Department, the Rand Corporation, etc.**"

The Energy Commissioner stated that Mexico will have nothing to do with the pact. He underscored the point upon his return to Mexico City, telling reporters: "Mexico has **no gas to sell abroad.**"

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Some observers think it was **no accident** that just as French President Giscard arrived in Moscow for crucial Franco-Soviet summit talks on world peace, all hell broke loose on the domestic front. All **French ports** were shut down April 26 for the second time in three days, as the dock and shipyard workers union retaliated against the one-day management shutdown days before.

The nationwide **port lockout**, organized by the Stevedoring Association, shippers and shipyard managers, was presumably to attract attention to the plight of French industry after a three month-long labor shutdown. However the focus of hostility has been the Communist Party-linked dockworkers union, the most pro-industry and pro-Soviet union in the country. Joint managerial press conferences and communiqués targeted the CGT labor confederation, to which the dockworkers belong, with calls to revoke the 1967 law granting the union a **monopoly on hiring and wage scales**. If a paralyzing strike is provoked, the French government could be forced to intervene against the union while President Giscard is in Moscow. **Who benefits?** A clue may be in the fact that in March, the London *Economist* predicted that Giscard would be out by May—over **labor difficulties**.