

New Bonn-Paris-Moscow initiative for 'post-SALT' Europe

The governments of West Germany, France, and the Warsaw Pact countries have set in motion a major new initiative, intended to become operational after the signing of a strategic arms limitation treaty (SALT II), according to late reports from Europe. This closely-coordinated maneuver is aimed as a "one-two punch" against the "SALT without detente" approach advocated by the Carter Administration.

The Warsaw Pact annual Foreign Ministers meeting, held in Budapest, Hungary May 14 and 15, issued a call for a conference of the signatories of the 1975 Helsinki Final Act on Security and Cooperation in Europe—all of Europe plus the United States and Canada. The purpose of the conference, according to initial reports on Radio Moscow, would be "to consolidate trust, ease the threat of military confrontation, and reduce armed forces and armaments in Europe." The statement called for the signing of a treaty banning first use of either nuclear or conventional arms, and for the speediest possible conclusion of SALT II and moving ahead to SALT III.

Immediately following the Warsaw Pact announcement, the West German Defense Ministry informed the *Executive Intelligence Review* that the ongoing NATO Defense Ministers' meeting in Brussels had agreed to a plan, put forward by West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, for negotiations over the Warsaw Pact proposals to begin as soon as the SALT treaty is signed.

These moves are the outcome of recent top-level discussions between the French and West German heads of state and their counterparts in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Giscard met with Soviet President Brezhnev in Moscow at the end of April, and Schmidt traveled to Bulgaria for discussions with Bulgarian President Todor Zhivkov during the first week in May. The Schmidt-Zhivkov talks stressed above all the need to avert the danger of World War III, as Zhivkov warned that a new world war "would surely be the last, as hardly anyone would survive to fight another."

peculiar left opposition to SALT has emerged. Led by such antitechnology ultras as Federation of American Scientists director Jeremy Stone, and antinuclear FAS physicist John Holdren, this faction's "kill science" purpose dovetails with Vance's own publicly stated attitude toward preventing further scientific and industrial development in the Third World. Ostensibly peeved at SALT II because it does not really provide for arms reduction, this "left opposition" also dovetails with the threat to science and technology posed by both sides in the ongoing *Progressive* magazine "H-bomb" case.

The technology question

Because that case exploits the lack of a clear line of demarcation between basic science and justifiably classified weapons parameters, the present clause in SALT II calling for future restrictions on "qualitative" weapons developments in SALT III is very ambiguous in meaning. Under present conditions such a clause could serve as the basis for an attack on both Soviet science as well as for undermining U.S. weapons oriented labs which are focal points of high powered U.S. science and technology.

Ironically, the "military hero" Haig himself raised

exactly the same issue as the "left" when he lumped his opposition to SALT with the premise that the U.S. has continuously "underestimated the Soviet capacity for technological progress"—exactly the capability that Vance and Co. would like to eliminate.

The MX hustle

Meanwhile, other "conservatives" in the Senate are being roped into a less subtle tactical ploy. The hottest political provision in the treaty is that both sides will be limited to the introduction of just one new weapon system. On the U.S. side, this boils down to whether or not the U.S. will beef up its submarine force, by definition an effective second strike capability, or whether it will go ahead with the MX mobile missile. The latter has first strike overtones, and is also favored by rabidly pro-China Senator Scoop Jackson (D-Wash.) as well as by the utopian Air Force faction and Secretary Brown. A push for the MX would simultaneously be seen as a provocation to the Soviets, as an attack on the submarine-leaning Carter, and as a rallying point for conservatives who would be rounded up later by Haig.

The nation thus has a clear-cut choice. It can either tolerate a sham debate on SALT whose purpose is to