

# Soviets deal with Europe... and call Carter a liar

by Rachel Douglas

The Soviet Union is treating Western Europe as the premier power of the Western world and the only hope for preventing world war. This is apparent in Soviet official press evaluations of President Jimmy Carter, especially since the Venice summit of Western powers, and in a major foreign policy document issued by the U.S.S.R. on June 24.

Immediately after the Venice summit, and with Chancellor Helmut Schmidt of West Germany due in Moscow a week later, the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party held a plenary session June 23. A chief item of business was Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko's report. In a policy resolution the Central Committee alluded to the Europeans by contrasting to the Carter administration certain "leaders of state" and "social-political forces" who could act to save detente.

Corresponding to this evaluation, Moscow is going out of its way to give diplomatic priority to the Europeans. The first East-West summitry since the Afghanistan crisis began the first of the year was Leonid Brezhnev's startling trip to Warsaw in May to meet with French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing. Now, the Soviets have rolled out the red carpet for Schmidt, according him the protocol of a full-dress state visit as he arrived for talks on trade, Afghanistan and the controversial NATO "Euromissiles."

## **Carter: mistaken or a liar**

The Central Committee resolution blamed "the NATO bloc, above all the United States" for endangering international security. It affirmed the weight Washington's "China card" carries in shifting Moscow's strategic evaluations: "The partnership of imperialism and Peking hegemonism is a *new dangerous phenomenon* in world politics, which is dangerous for all humanity, including the American and Chinese peoples." [emphasis added].

The daily *Pravda* and the Soviet news agency *TASS* spelled out the charges Moscow is lodging against

Carter. *Pravda* accused the United States of working together with China and Pakistan to continue the flow of arms into Afghanistan. "All this is part of its plan for strengthening the American presence in the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean," concluded the commentary.

The Soviets brusquely rejected the much-heralded American "peace-feeler," Carter's speech on a transitional government arrangement for Afghanistan—which was delivered *after* the Soviets, through France, announced a partial troop withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Carter, in belittling the Soviet pullback gesture, had committed "either a profound and dangerous mistake, or a deliberate lie," commented *TASS*.

Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev's speech to the Central Committee plenum, as well as the subsequent press commentaries, dealt with the Afghan crisis explicitly in terms of Soviet security. The point of Moscow's military move there, said Brezhnev, was "to wreck plans for putting Afghanistan in the imperialist orbit and creating a threat to our country from the south."

Alongside the attacks on Carter, the Soviet press published a series of exposés last week charging that American-aided support bases for the Afghan rebels were still functioning not only in Pakistan, but from Iranian territory.

*TASS* left no doubt that the destabilization of the South Asian region still presents a live war danger. "If Washington and the accomplices of American imperialism persist in implementing their plans of making Afghanistan a springboard for aggression on [our] southern frontiers," said *TASS*, "they would do well to bear in mind that the Soviet Union, its friends and allies have the means to deliver a fitting rebuff."

Also this past week, the Soviets sounded the alarm over the crisis in Southeast Asia, charging in Radio Moscow broadcasts that the United States and China, in stepping up military supplies to Thailand, were "waging an anti-Vietnam campaign."

At the plenum, Brezhnev mentioned the import of equipment as one priority area for discussion by Soviet economic planners who are working on the 1981-1985 Five-Year Plan draft. While Soviet-American trade has declined by nearly 40 percent so far this year, reflecting the Carter administration's sanctions, the Soviets are anticipating that the green light on East-West European trade routes will stay on. The 20 billion deutschemark natural gas and pipeline deal Moscow will be finalizing with Schmidt is "only the beginning," according to one Soviet energy specialist.

In this international context, the faction of Soviet economists who favor restoration of an international gold-based monetary system has resurfaced.

In May, the journal *Economic Sciences* carried an article virtually endorsing the European Monetary System, created by Schmidt and Giscard, as a workable policy to secure gold-backed stability for currencies and credit facilities that, in opposition to those of the International Monetary Fund, could promote real industrial growth.

The *Economic Sciences* article is especially significant because the Soviets and Schmidt will be discussing

the separate and joint roles of East and West in solving the problems of Third World countries.

At the annual summit of the Council on Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA), the Soviet bloc economic organization which met in Prague June 17, Soviet Prime Minister Aleksei Kosygin said that economic sanctions against the U.S.S.R. might cause "temporary difficulties in specific projects," but they could not stop industrial growth plans, "even if the United States administration put every single American product on the forbidden list."

Kosygin, also addressing the problem of raw materials and fuel supplies, outlined a program for the next five years whose pivot is achieving higher productivity through introduction of new technologies. Soviet oil deliveries to Eastern Europe, for example, will remain at the 1980 level of two million barrels/day over the next five years, but at the same time, the first results of the 37 gigawatt nuclear power construction schedule for Eastern Europe will begin to come on line. The CMEA has also decided to launch a project to produce nuclear fast breeder reactors with an eventual per-unit capacity of 3 gigawatts.

## The resolution on foreign policy

*On June 23, the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party adopted a resolution following a report to its plenary session by U.S.S.R. Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko. The resolution said, in part:*

In the recent period, aggressive imperialist forces have counterposed to the positive results [of detente] a policy dictated by their refusal to take into account the realities of the modern world. . . . Imperialism would like to put the brakes on the objective problem of world renovation. The leaders of the NATO military bloc, above all the United States, have adopted a policy of tipping the existing military balance in the world in their favor and against the Soviet Union, the socialist countries, and international detente and the security of the peoples.

From this follows imperialism's line of stepping up the arms race, unleashing provocations against socialist and other independent states, activating NATO militarily and expanding its functions as a tool of imperialist *diktat*. Trying to impose their will on other states, the ruling circles of the United States

embarked on the road of economic 'sanctions' and scaling down of scientific, technical, cultural and sports ties. . . .

There is rapprochement of the aggressive circles of the West, above all of the United States, with the Chinese leaders taking place, on an anti-Soviet basis that is hostile to the cause of peace. The partnership of imperialism and Peking hegemonism is a new, dangerous phenomenon in world politics. It is dangerous to all mankind, including the American and Chinese peoples. . . .

The . . . Central Committee expresses confidence that there exist objective possibilities and social-political forces capable of preventing a slide into a new 'cold war,' ensuring normal, peaceful coexistence among states with differing social systems and preventing the threat of world thermonuclear conflict. The road to the solution to this task is the road of negotiations, based on strict observance of the principle of equality and equal security. This fully applies to Soviet-American relations as well.

This point of view is winning advocates among leaders of state, both in Western countries and among the members of the nonaligned movement. The relaxation of tensions has put down deep roots in international life today and real conditions exist for preserving it as the dominant tendency in world politics.