

of the Afghanistan problem. In general, since Giscard's visit to Mrs. Gandhi this February, the French have helped India extend its political and economic weight in South Asia. In May, France enlarged its original economic cooperation deal and offered to assist India's energy resource development program in a big way. The proposal included development of India's large coal deposits; a mammoth aluminum project; large-scale nuclear development plans enlarging current joint nuclear work; and assistance in oil exploration, development, and research.

This was discussed during the Paris trip by the Secretary to the Foreign Affairs Ministry, Mr. Name Bhandari, who met with top officials from the French energy and economics ministries as well as with French Foreign Minister Jean François-Poncet. This fall a French economic and technical delegation will follow up with a visit to India.

Two weeks ago, British newspapers leaked the news that the Dassault firm is offering India the latest in French military technology: the Mirage 2000, which the French army itself will not receive before 1985. The Mirage deal, if consummated, would supersede an agreement made by the Janata government to buy inferior Franco-British planes. The Mirages could be manufactured in India, providing advanced training to Indian personnel. Meanwhile, on July 12 it was announced that West Germany will construct two submarines for New Delhi at a cost of \$100 million.

**June 18:** Head of Pakistan diplomacy Aga Shahi in Paris, following visit to Bonn; meets French Foreign Minister François-Poncet.

**June 26:** South Korean Vice Premier Kim Woun Gie in Paris; meets Premier Barre. negotiates for two 900 megawatt nuclear plants.

**June 28:** Argentine Foreign Minister Pastor in Paris.

**July 10:** French High Commissioner for Nuclear Energy Teillac in Indonesia to promote nuclear cooperation.

**July 12:** Indian government announces it is buying two submarines from West Germany for \$100 million.

**July:** France announces proposal to sell Mirage 2000 planes to India.

## ...and the Soviets

by Susan Welsh

The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in January marked a turning point for Franco-German policy toward the Warsaw Pact—not because it proved the inherent expansionism of the Russians. As French Ambassador Raymond Offroy and others have emphasized, it demonstrated that the U.S.S.R. would not passively tolerate insurgencies on its borders and an increasingly open U.S.-Chinese military alliance, combined with NATO's December decision to station intermediate-range missiles in Western Europe, three minutes from Soviet territory.

Europe has therefore moved to stabilize other potential hot spots around the U.S.S.R.'s perimeter—including Poland—and to renegotiate the Euromissile question.

By the time the Madrid Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) convenes Nov. 11, European heads of state hope to have in place and ready for signing, a series of military and economic agreements. The plan is to create a "safety net" for European East-West relations, regardless of who wins the United States presidential elections in November.

French President Giscard places great stress on the Madrid conference, where he will present proposals for a Europeanwide disarmament conference. France does not want a "purely ritualistic meeting in which everyone presents their own views," Giscard stated at a reception in Paris for Rumanian President Nicolae Ceaucescu on July 25.

### Renegotiation openings

Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev backed the French call for a disarmament conference in an interview with *Pravda* July 30. Brezhnev appealed to Western nations to help "lessen the military threat . . . to Europe and consequently to the world." Brezhnev and Giscard discussed the possibility of a disarmament conference during their talks in Warsaw last spring.

The key "military détente" issue which must be resolved, however, in the view of both Eastern and Western Europe, is the deployment of "Euromissiles"—medium-range nuclear missiles—by the U.S. and the Soviet Union. European NATO members last Decem-

ber accepted a U.S. plan to deploy nearly 600 new missiles in Western Europe if the Soviets refuse to reduce their own preponderant nuclear arsenal targeted on Western Europe.

Moscow views the NATO decision as an intolerable threat, comparable to a deployment of missiles on Cuba capable of reaching the U.S. mainland. The new NATO missiles would, for the first time, be in reach of Soviet territory.

Brezhnev and West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt discussed ways to open U.S.-Soviet negotiations on this issue when they met in Moscow last month.

There are now hints from West Germany that the NATO decision could be opened for review. The defense policy spokesman of Schmidt's Social Democratic Par-

ty, Erwin Horn, said July 30 that American Secretary of Defense Harold Brown had withheld crucial information from the European allies in order to push through the December 1979 decision. The Brookings Institution had issued a study on the Soviet medium-range SS-20 missiles—the weapon which the NATO missiles were intended to counter—saying that the SS-20 did not constitute a major upgrading of Soviet forces in Europe, but was in fact a one-for-one replacement of the outmoded SS-4 and SS-5 missiles, as Soviet President Brezhnev claimed in a speech last fall. Horn charged on the floor of the parliament that Brown conducted the negotiations “in bad faith,” and that therefore a general review of the NATO resolution was in order.

### The contingencies

The West German press now predicts a stalemate in NATO over the issue. Belgium refuses to begin debate on the Euromissiles until the fall, the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* reported Aug. 4, and this in turn may give Italy and the Netherlands second thoughts about accepting the missiles on their territory. If these countries decide against the U.S. weapons, then West Germany would not accept them either—Chancellor Schmidt insisted from the outset that the Federal Republic would not be the only continental European nation to deploy the missiles.

These thorny questions of “military détente” are mainly significant in the context of the East-West European efforts to create political stability through economic development, both in Europe and in the developing sector.

Most significant in this respect will be Chancellor Schmidt's visits to Poland and East Germany later this month. The Chancellor has frequently stressed the need to maintain stability in Central Europe, and his government's willingness to extend aid and credits for that purpose. In view of the recent economic difficulties and destabilization of Poland, this commitment takes on particular significance.

Giscard, who will go to Poland in September, has also accepted an invitation to visit Hungary before the end of the year. French Foreign Minister Jean François-Poncet was just in Budapest laying the groundwork for the president's upcoming trip, with a particular stress on raising the level of economic cooperation between France and Hungary. François-Poncet met with Hungarian President Janos Kadar, who had just returned from meetings with Brezhnev in the Soviet Union. Kadar told François-Poncet that the Soviet Union has no schemes for seizing Persian Gulf oil fields, and does not aim at controlling the Gulf or threatening Western interests there.

## East bloc agenda

**June 30-July 1:** West German Chancellor Schmidt in Moscow.

**July 1:** French Defense Minister Yvon Bourges in Poland.

**July 23-26:** Rumanian President Nicolae Ceausescu in France.

**Aug. 1:** Soviet trade delegation in Paris, headed by Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Ossipov to discuss French purchase of natural gas.

**Aug. 1:** French Foreign Minister François-Poncet in Hungary. President Giscard expected to make official visit there by end of year to negotiate economic agreements.

**Aug. 19-20:** Polish leader Gierek to go to West Germany to meet West German Chancellor Schmidt, and also possibly GDR leader Honecker.

**Aug. 27-31:** Chancellor Schmidt's trip to the German Democratic Republic.

**Sept.:** French President Giscard's official trip to Poland (tentative—no date set).

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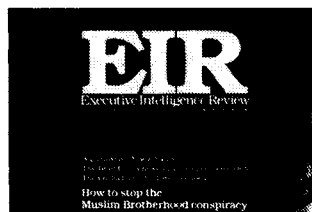
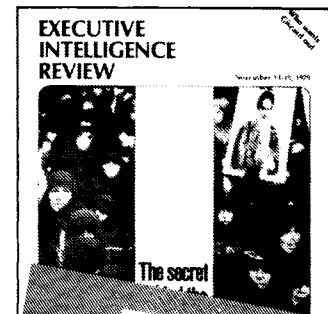
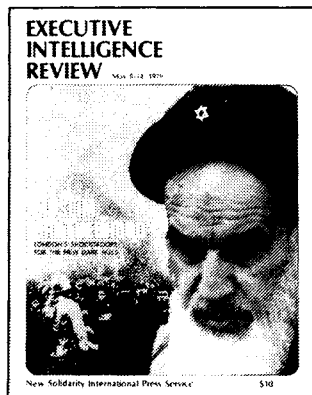


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