
CONFERENCE REPORT

Fabian peace groups plan political attacks

by Luba George

On April 23, leading members of the following organizations gathered at the University of Groningen, Holland, for a major "disarmament" strategic planning conference: the Institute for Policy Studies (IPS); Socialist International; the American Friends Service Committee; Physicians for Social Responsibility; Fellowship of Reconciliation; Pax Christi; Society of Jesus; and the Inter-Church Peace Council of Europe. The theme of the conference, titled "Nuclear War in Europe and How to Stop It," was the implementation of plans adopted by the Socialist International at their December 1980 conference in Washington, D.C. to undermine the Reagan administration and to topple the West German government under Chancellor Helmut Schmidt.

The three-day conference was organized by Adm. Eugene R. LaRoque (U.S. Navy retired) through his "independent" Washington think tank, the Center for Defense Information. Featured panelists at the conference included LaRoque's cothinkers from the European military, who, as the admiral puts it, are "concerned" that the superpowers are "planning, training, and arming for a nuclear war in Europe." Participants included:

Brig. Gen. Michael Harbottler, former commander of U.N. forces in Cyprus, and presently secretary-general of the newly created World Disarmament Campaign that was set up to push "disarmament" on a government-to-government level. The WND is headed by the 92-year-old Comintern-connected Socialist International founder **Fenner Brockway**. WND has received a full endorsement from the Thatcher government; it is overseen by Lord Trefgarne of Her Majesty's Household.

Col. Gerhard Berkhoff, deputy chief of operations, Royal British Army; may be promoted to general.

Rear Adm. F. Gueritz, formerly Royal British Navy.

Rear Adm. Eugene R. LaRoque, director of the Center for Defense Information, Washington, D.C., a group backed by the U.S. Fund for Peace and the neo-Fabian IPS. At the CDI, LaRoque and his staff of military and civilian analysts are in the forefront of the push for

conventional buildup in width, for military parity; against nuclear technology, and anti-high-technology programs. To LaRoque, the recent Space Shuttle flight is "proof" that "technology is running amok" and cannot be "politically controlled."

LaRoque has made extensive trips to Israel, Japan, Korea, Sweden, and the Soviet Union to get "first hand" reports on their military situations. He served as assistant director, Strategic Planning Division, office of Chief of Naval Operations, and served seven years at the Pentagon.

E. P. Thompson, conference co-organizer. Thompson is an ex-Communist Party member and Marxist expert on "Jacobinism" and is the leader of the new European-wide Nuclear Disarmament Movement (END). For the last six months, he has based himself in the United States because the "Reagan administration is appallingly dangerous," and "it is imperative to build a disarmament movement against Reagan." It was Thompson who, with the Rev. William Sloane Coffin, Jr., organized the Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee's weekly course series "Politics of Disarmament," the spawning grounds for recent peace demonstrations in the United States.

Gen. (Ret.) Wolf Graf von Baudissin, director of Peace Research Institute in Hamburg, West Germany. Tom Hofstad of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA) described the retired general as the "Gene LaRoque of West Germany."

Herbert Scoville, former deputy director, Central Intelligence Agency and National Security Council member under Henry Kissinger.

Earl Ravenal, NSC member in the Johnson administration, cochaired the Groningen conference. He is a member of the proterrorist Institute for Policy Studies.

Many of the individuals and institutions involved in the conference played major roles in undermining previous U.S. administrations, including those of Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon. Some of their European counterparts were key in the 1968 destabilization of Gen. Charles de Gaulle.

But behind the conference walls there is a secret Admiral LaRoque does not like to talk about publicly: in collaboration with allied European "research centers," and the CDI, a former U.S. intelligence officer named Bill Arkin has been researching "for the conference" the specific location of nuclear weapons sites in Europe. But in February, the West German magazine *Stern* published a three-page article partly based on Arkin's research showing about 100 dots on a map of West Germany that represented nuclear weapons sites. The names of the sites would be revealed, the article said, at the conference.

One wonders how LaRoque, an admitted supporter of Castro, became an assistant to the Chief of Naval Operations, and former head of the Inter-American Defense Board.