

A Eurosocialist labor faction

Scott Thompson files a report on the Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee conference in Philadelphia.

America was once again flooded with top European socialists over the Memorial Day weekend. They met in Philadelphia with 300 leaders of the Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee (DSOC), the main U.S. affiliate of the Socialist International, under the slogan "Reagan Worse Than Hoover." Such top brass as Bernt Carlsson, general secretary of the Socialist International, and Labour Party MP Tony Benn, reviewed the progress DSOC had made since its last major gathering, the "Eurosociatism and America" conference held Dec. 5-7, 1980 in Washington with a grant from the German Marshall Fund.

At the December conference, "Eurosociologists" including Willy Brandt of West Germany, Olof Palme of Sweden, Joop den Uyl of Holland, François Mitterrand and Michel Rocard of France met with DSOC's leadership (and, in secret sessions, with former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and the head of the KGB's U.S.A.-Canada Institute, Georgii Arbatov) to plot a wave of destabilizations targeting Europe, the United States, and Central America. Key to the U.S. aspect of this strategy was a plan to use the monetarist policies of Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker and OMB Director David Stockman as a foil both to "Hooverize" Reagan and to build a broad coalition between labor and the radical left to foment 1960s-style domestic unrest.

By contrast with the December conference, leaders of the liberal wing of labor, especially those from the powerful United Auto Workers and the International Association of Machinists, were well represented in Philadelphia. Both the UAW and IAM, joined by leaders of such old Communist Party-controlled unions as District 65 and 1199 Hospital Workers, used DSOC's convention as the forum from which to announce a 1930s depression-type political drive to "Organize the Unorganized."

By inviting DSOC to take part in this drive, the UAW and IAM have opened the door for a flood of union

dissidents, radical feminists, and others who are likely to wreck those unions in the same way the McGovern Rules permitted them to undo the Democratic Party.

In a May 21 press conference, David Livingston, head of District 65 and a new DSOC member under its anti-Reagan recruitment drive, reported that the "domestic chaos" aspect of the December conference planning was precisely what this new coalition of the labor left was about:

Since everybody is predicting, I will take a stab at it. I think the Reagan forces have an absolutely insatiable appetite for destruction. . . . The speed with which liberal forces, including the labor movement, will respond . . . will be much greater than we think. *I believe that by the turn of the year, there are going to be people engaging in the kind of responses we had to do to bring an end to the war in Vietnam* [emphasis added].

Following discussion at the December conference, Congressional Black Caucus leader Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.) called for using such issues as budget cuts, tax breaks, and the Social Security flap rigged by Stockman, as a vehicle to recruit disaffected urban minorities and to regain control over the Democratic Party by its liberal left wing. Conyers and others also repeatedly called for a purge of those moderate Democrats who have taken part in bipartisan policy initiatives with the administration.

Finally, the Philadelphia DSOC convention took place in a world radically altered since last December by the May 10 defeat of French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, coauthor of the Franco-German "superpower for peace" policy, at the hands of Jacobin Socialist François Mitterrand. In a May 21 press interview, DSOC chairman Michael Harrington jubilantly announced: "It is conceivable that one year from now every government in Europe . . . will have a democratic socialist as prime

minister or president.”

If Livingston’s prediction proves correct, it will not be a result of the actions of Harrington or the 5,000-odd members of DSOC, who are mainly retreated 1960s radicals. Rather, this could occur only through the Socialist International-linked trade unions who have moved in to openly sponsor DSOC. As Livingston stressed in his speech: “We need DSOC-type people in the labor movement, and DSOC needs a labor movement to build an effective movement for socialism.”

While not all of them were present at the Philadelphia convention, the list of trade-union leaders who have backed one or another aspect of DSOC’s organizing include: William Winpisinger, president, IAM, and executive committee member, Democratic National Committee; Jerry Wurf, president, and Bill Lucy, secretary-treasurer, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; Victor Gotbaum, president, AFSCME District Council 37; Joyce Miller, vice-president, and Jacob Sheinkman, secretary-treasurer, Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; and Moe Foner, executive director, Local 1199 Hospital Workers.

It is these union leaders, some of whom, like Livingston, took part in the Communist Party’s 1930s organizing drive, who have the money, manpower, and skills to pull together a broad coalition of the sort Tony Benn called for in his speech to join “the civil rights movement, antiwar movement, women’s movement, and the environmentalist movement.”

IAM president William Winpisinger, a DSOC vice-chairman, told participants of his plans for building such a movement:

The right wing in this country is well on their way to . . . a fascist state in the U.S.A., run by the corporations. It’s as simple as that. . . . It’s my hunch that he who stands ready with a program when Reagan’s program goes on its head—as it absolutely and inevitably will—will be the people that pick up the political dividends in 1984. I would like for DSOCers and all their allies and friends to be that political instrument.

The IAM, Winpisinger announced, would set up a program patterned on that of the Canadian New Democratic Party to train all its shop stewards as “political operatives.” “We in the trade union movement and you as DSOCers,” said Winpisinger, “become two-pronged organizers from now on. We’ll be organizing not just for new members and new shops . . . but we’re going to be organizing in the community, punching doorbells and enrolling people in the cause.”

The UAW also proposed a joint organizing drive with DSOC. It was UAW retired vice-president Irving Bluestone who helped line up funding for the December

“Eurosocialism” conference as a trustee (along with David Rockefeller, John J. McCloy, Averell Harriman, et al.) of the German Marshall Fund, while UAW president Doug Fraser, who is also a board member of the radical Institute for Policy Studies, lent his name to building the event. At the Philadelphia DSOC convention UAW vice-president Martin Gerber addressed the convention, exhorting its members:

Fellow scientists, fellow DSOCers . . . we must bring together the spectrum of minorities, workers, women, students, poor, educators, and the environmentalists—all those who are victims of the cruelest thrust any government has imposed in this country since its inception. By comparison Herbert Hoover and Calvin Coolidge are flaming liberals.

The next morning a DSOC labor caucus was formed under UAW international representative Carl Shier, an old Walter Reuther crony. Gerber officially invited DSOC participation in UAW’s new drive to “Organize the Unorganized.”

This new coalition of the labor left with DSOC is already plagued with problems and may result in destroying those unions like the UAW and IAM who invited DSOC to help build their unions. A floor fight broke out at the convention pitting some top trade-union bureaucrats against members of the union-busting dissident groups like Ruled Out of Order (ROOR) and Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU), which have admitted collaborating with the Justice Department to target progress-oriented leaders of the Laborers and Teamsters unions.

Standing behind the dissidents were Bogdan Denitch, a leading counterinsurgent who will soon take a post at Zbigniew Brzezinski’s old Columbia University think tank, and H. W. Benson, executive director of the Jesuit-controlled Association for Union Democracy (AUD). Benson has admitted working with some of labor’s worst enemies, including Walter Sheridan, former head of the infamous “Get Hoffa Squad,” and the National Right to Work Committee—all in the name of guaranteeing “union democracy.” Benson has even encouraged dissident caucuses to challenge the leadership of the UAW and IAM, and he carried out a rumor campaign throughout the convention charging Winpisinger, Livingston, et al. with using fraud and alliances with “gangsters” to maintain their posts.

In response, Livingston devoted the first half of his speech to an attack upon the dissidents, whom he labeled “revolutionary revolutionaries.” Caught in-between this cat fight were DSOC leaders Michael Harrington and Irving Howe (editor of the DSOC-linked *Dissent* magazine), who are on AUD’s advisory board.

Another problem that will hurt DSOC among labor's rank and file is that apart from rehashed rhetoric from the 1960s about "coparticipation" and "decentralization of decision-making," DSOC has nothing to offer labor. Harrington even dusted off a new version of the discredited Humphrey-Hawkins bill. "I would like to put people to work," said Harrington, "building alternate, renewable energy systems."

Budget cuts, riots, and terrorism

Harrington, Livingston, Benn and other major speakers at the DSOC convention each stressed the need to move immediately toward organizing black, Hispanic and other urban layers on the basis that they will be the first and the worst hit by Stockman's budget cuts. Representative John Conyers, a Congressional Black Caucus leader, in particular addressed this question, stating:

You see, brothers and sisters, we have to bring more black people into DSOC. The reasons are obvious, but here is one you may not have considered and that is that the Congressional Black Caucus is now the sole and only progressive element in Washington. . . . It is the only challenge to Reaganism and Reaganomics because this year we were forced to construct our own economic budget. . . .

The pain and the obscenity of Reagan's budget is going to be felt deeper and deeper every day across the U.S.A. And therefore I say it also gives us a chance not just to fight that battle, but to organize to change the character of the body politic in America [emphasis added].

As Conyers would be among the first to recognize, the "tar-baby" scenario in which the Socialist International has tried to enmire the Reagan administration in southern Africa and Central America can also be played back into American minority layers to foment riots and terrorism. The Socialist International's ties to terrorism are extremely public, as highlighted by Willy Brandt's announcement on nationwide U.S. TV last December that it would ship arms to the rebels in El Salvador. Mitterrand's recent appointment of Régis Debray, the Che Guevara-linked author of a handbook on guerrilla warfare (*Revolution in the Revolution*), as his adviser on Latin American affairs, is another infamous example.

Terrorism was openly discussed at a DSOC convention educational on "American Policy and Central America" given by two representatives of the National Revolutionary Movement in El Salvador, David Mancia and George Sol, the latter of whom now masquerades as a Washington, D.C.-based consultant. Asked whether it is true that Cuba and North Vietnam supplied guerrillas in El Salvador with weapons, Mancia

responded with indignation:

Those who say this slander our movement. It is true that we have received a small amount of arms from Cuba, but over the last 12 years of the Frente's existence we kidnapped corporate executives and others gaining \$20 million in ransom. With this money we bought arms on the black market in southern California and Florida. This is how we got our weapons: on the black market in America.

A related thrust at the DSOC convention was to forge an alliance with "liberation theology," a plan that had Harrington, an admitted atheist, recalling his days with the radical *Catholic Worker* and Benn stating that "the Bible and the teachings of Jesus lie at the foundation of British socialism."

Harvey Cox, a professor at Harvard Divinity School and sponsor of DSOC's Religion and Socialism Commission, also spoke on the "Moral Dimensions of Socialism" at the convention, noting that an ability to win the Catholic vote had been key to Mitterrand's victory in France, while noting that it was the archbishops and Jesuits who were the backbone of the "liberation struggle" in Nicaragua and El Salvador. Cox added that he had himself met recently with some of the Moral Majority's leaders, and, he stressed, even they should be considered among the potential recruits to socialism via "liberation theology."

Two weeks after the DSOC convention, precisely as Livingston "predicted," the following demonstrations were called for this fall based on the 1960s model:

- The People's Anti-War Movement is planning an All Peoples Congress of Resistance (Sept. 18-20 at Cobo Hall) that is to be followed by a National Day of Mass Resistance under the slogan, "Overturn the Reagan Program."

- A repeat of the Nationwide Action for a Fair Budget's "National Day of Action," organized by 120 groups on May 9, is planned for the week after Labor Day. Hundreds of thousands of minority members and workers are once again expected to take part in nationwide demonstrations.

- The Mobilization for Survival has proclaimed a "Disarmament Week" for October 1981 with nationwide demonstrations to build toward a 1982 National Peoples Congress. The NPC's goal is to influence the 1982 congressional races using the issues of budget cuts, nuclear power, etc.

New Democratic party

DSOC plans to channel all these areas of activity into a push to regain control over the Democratic Party. Asked how this coup might be accomplished, Harrington responded:

In terms of the Democratic Party what we will be discussing here this weekend is the mobilization of the broad liberal, left wing of the Democratic Party to challenge the leadership and ideas put forth by people like Paul Tsongas, Gary Hart, and John Glenn in response to the Reagan triumphant move to the right. And, to challenge Charles Manatt, the new national chairman of the Democratic National Committee, who has proposed cutting down the mid-term convention as far as possible. . . .

If the [1982] convention is still down to nothing, we will . . . hold an issues convention for the liberal labor movement in the United States, whether the Democratic Party calls for it or not. . . . An issues convention sponsored by unions, by minority organizations, and others, dealing with the issues.

Conyers was even more explicit on how the liberal, left wing plans to regain power: "Inside the Democratic Party there is an even more immediate issue than the budget. That issue deals with what to do with at least 69 members of Congress . . . who decided to vote for this obscene budget that represented the Reagan administration's commitment to slash 83 federal domestic programs. . . . It's sad enough that we only have two parties in this country, but it's even worse when one of the two parties' leaders capitulate to make it even less than two parties.

"Two things must happen. One, the Congressional Black Caucus and those who voted with it should challenge the leadership of the Democratic Party with DSOC's gentle, tender encouragement. Two, resign and let the real Democrats run the Democratic majority of the House while it still exists, or before they run us out of the Democratic Party. . . .

"In studying the psyche of members of Congress there is one thing we have found that they value more highly than anything else and that's the full employment concept as applied to themselves."

Through DSOC's Democratic Agenda coalition, its planned issues convention, and, most importantly, by opportunistically using the monetarist policies of Volcker and Stockman to mobilize minority and urban layers, this broad coalition of the labor left with DSOC is preparing, as at no time since the 1930s, to assure that Reagan is "Hooverized" and that the left wing of the Democratic Party regains control over the party's institutions. DSOC and its cohorts will probably fail to dominate the 1982 and 1984 elections. But, under the direction of the Eurosocialist leadership, this new coalition is taking the requisite steps to create chaos in the United States, without getting DSOC's candidates elected.

Detroit totters on brink moves underway for a

by Stephen Parsons

A rather remarkable photograph appeared recently in the nation's syndicated press. It was a picture of a man dashing through the streets carrying passengers in a rickshaw. The photograph was not from China or any Third World country. It was taken in Detroit—Motor City, U.S.A.

That photograph encapsulates the near-term fate of what was once the transportation capital of the world and the premier industrial city of the United States. It represents the final stage of a deliberate plan to dismantle heavy industry not only in Detroit and the state of Michigan, but throughout the Midwest's industrial heartland.

The intent of this plan is to "restructure" the economy from top to bottom. Specifically:

- to increasingly replace large-scale manufacturing with small sweatshop establishments;
- to slash the standard of living of the population and destroy the union wage-scale;
- to force people out of urban centers and drastically curtail transfer payments, Social Security, and public assistance to the swelling ranks of unemployed;
- to generate massive financial speculation under the cover of "venture capital risk investment;"
- to reduce state and local governments to powerless, squabbling factions under the thumb of supralegal "independent financial agencies," such as New York City's Big MAC and its overseer, Felix Rohatyn.

The perpetrators of this conspiracy are allied with Federal Reserve Board Chairman Paul Volcker and his policy of industrial credit strangulation and high interest rates. That policy has caused a spiraling depression in the Midwest and decimated government budgets. Immediately, it is the fiscal crisis in Detroit, which will hit full force in July, that threatens to activate the entire scope of restructuring schemes.