

Clinton-Gore would be 'Jimmy Carter II'

by Mark Burdman

"Jimmy Carter Mark Two" is how a Washington strategist and Oxford University intimate of Bill Clinton described what a Clinton-Gore administration would look like, during an Oct. 24-25 weekend conference on "Transatlantic Relations in Transformation" in Loccum, Germany. This source, and other Washington insiders there, indicated that a Clinton administration would have the following priorities:

Austerity and "Keynesianism." Austerity and "sacrifice" will be central commitments, under the rubrics of "getting our domestic house in order" and achieving "slow growth." One Clinton intimate averred, "Ross Perot has made sacrifice more palatable to the American population." A Brookings Institution policymaker added: "I am certain that a new Clinton administration will take expansionary fiscal measures to save the U.S. from an even deeper recession. Hopefully, this will be linked to a longer-term deficit-reduction package, but an expansionary fiscal stimulus is needed, to avoid not only financial, but other crises looming on the horizon."

GATT-trade war. A senior State Department official told the conference: "Obviously, the first and most important issue is GATT [General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade]. We need to solve the Uruguay Round now." This will be pushed with the usual talk about "expanding world trade," but, in content, as one source close to Clinton said, the Clinton years would mean trends toward "trade war" with Europe and other parts of the world, as the American economic crisis engenders a greater sense of desperation within the American political class.

Weakening Europe. While the "atmospherics" might seem more friendly toward Europe than in past years, and much interest was expressed in formalizing a U.S.-European Community treaty, the real content of policy will be to "strengthen" the U.S. by weakening Europe and other "competitors," along the lines of the notorious Wolfowitz doctrine. A strategist close to Clinton told a European interlocutor in a private discussion: "Within 10 years, the U.S. will clearly be *primus inter pares*, less perhaps than because of the U.S. going up, but because of the problems Europe will face. To put it this way, the difference between you and us, is that you have Yugoslavia and Russia on *your* borders, while we have Mexico and Canada. Which would you rather have—ha, ha, ha?"

Carolyn Kelleher of the Brookings Institution, who sport-

ed a Clinton-Gore button, said that the geographical priorities of the U.S. would become first Europe, second Asia, third Middle East. Latin America, she admitted, would be treated as "a domestic issue," because of the North American Free Trade Agreement, and Africa would effectively vanish from the strategic map.

Another individual said a Clinton policy would be "interventionist" globally, a contention complemented by others stressing the importance of "human rights," "ideological" propaganda campaigns in Europe stressing "American values," and a commitment to strengthening the U.N. apparatus.

Ecology. It was made clear that a Clinton-Gore government would be much more open to "ecologist" policies. One German ecologist showed charts in which the Democrats were given a "plus" for their positions on CFCs/ozone hole, the Rio Earth Summit, biodiversity, etc., while the Republicans were usually given a "minus" on these issues.

Technological apartheid. When *EIR* raised a question about how the issue of "technological apartheid" against the developing countries was viewed in Washington, an American technology expert replied, "What you refer to as 'technological apartheid' is very much to the point, it is one of the real issues in what the U.S. calls the 'expanded view of GATT,' to include such matters as stricter regulations on patents. The rhetoric from Washington may be about 'new Saddam Husseins,' but the real fear is about those Asian 'little dragons' and other potential competitors. There is a definite fear of technology spread, and the trend in both the U.S. and in Europe will be to *hold back* technology, to preserve a competitive advantage. I am sure that in a prospective Clinton administration we will hear more about this."

Workers fired to deal with debt

An *EIR* representative had raised the point that it would be absurd to discuss the future of "transatlantic relations" without reference to the determining factor of the economic depression in the United States and the trillions of dollars in various forms of indebtedness, all documented, he pointed out, in a new *EIR* report on the U.S. depression. A State Department senior official responded: "I don't agree that the debt situation is being ignored. Large and small corporations *are* restructuring to deal with debt." He said that General Motors and IBM, two corporate giants, were "taking the lead" in this trend. "General Motors has laid off 74,000 workers. It did what it should have done a long time ago. It will now become more efficient. IBM, breaking a social contract never to fire, has laid off 40,000 workers." He added, "Other firms will be following their lead." He said many white collar workers in the U.S. will now find themselves "permanently" out of work. All of which means, that "companies are indeed responding to the problems of debt."

The conference was co-sponsored by the Loccum Evangelical Academy and the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies.