

Stasko stated: "Oil stands as a successful indicator of the accelerated development of machinery to industrialize and modernize the country." This disgusting public acclaim of the Shah as an anti-imperialist national-liberation hero was the levy of self-degradation the Polish Communists paid in preparation for Polish Premier Jaroszewicz's visit to Iran Nov. 11. Jaroszewicz and Prime Minister Amir Abbas Hoveyda of Iran discussed plans for further Polish involvement in the enormous economic "development" projects slated for the Iranian desert.

The Soviet paper Izvestiia similarly had hailed the Shah's policies last month, just before the Soviet news agency TASS announced that His Imperial Majesty shortly will pay a friendly business visit to Moscow.

FRENCH GOVERNMENT ESCALATES "RED SCARE" CAMPAIGN

Nov. 16 (IPS)--French Prime Minister Chirac and Interior Minister Poniatoski have stepped up a major "red scare" campaign designed to break the current wave of strikes and to demoralize and decimate the French Communist Party (PCF). Following statements this week by the French employers' association CNPF, which declared that the postal strike is "on the verge of creating general economic chaos," Poniatoski ordered the police to clear out the post offices occupied by the strikers. Since Nov. 14, the military has been handling the mail and removing garbage from the streets of Paris.

Both decisions indicate that Poniatoski is ready to employ any means necessary to intimidate the working class and the PCF. So far, the response of the unions and the Communists has consisted of symbolic protests and street demonstrations in Paris and other cities.

The "red scare" campaign officially started 10 days ago, when Prime Minister Chirac accused the PCF of "politicizing" the postal strike, as well as other sporadic job actions. His frequent invocation of the "national interest" and the adoption of a Bonapartist style of delivery, unheard since De Gaulle's 1958 coup, set the tone of the attack.

Following this, Poniatoski termed the PCF a "fascistic party" at the tribune of the National Assembly, arousing anger among Communist militants around the country. A purposely irate Jacques Duclos, long-time member of the PCF's politburo, responded in kind, amid a torrent of invectives flowing from both sides. To prove its respect of the national interest, the PCF finally decided to publicize highly its participation in the Nov. 11 celebration of Armistice Day. Numerous party delegations were seen depositing floral wreaths on the tombs of PCF members who served in the Resistance and died under the Nazi occupation.

The PCF's protests and denunciations of the government's return "to cold war practices" does not scare the Chirac-Poniatowski clique. To break the strikes and reduce the Communists to complete impotence, they are ready to indulge in further provocation and repression, even if it looks like France is on the verge of civil war.

The French government can count on the Socialist Party's (SP) help. While meekly condemning Poniatowski's "cold war" style, the Socialists are prompt to point out to the PCF that the red scare campaign would soon abort...were the PCF to stop its current polemic against the CIA-controlled SP. This polemic, the Socialist leaders say, "alienates everybody."

TRILATERAL COMMISSION SOVIETOLOGIST LAYS MIDEAST BLAME ON SOVIETS

Nov. 16 (IPS)--The French daily Le Figaro opened its front page columns Nov. 14 to the Trilateral Commission's Sovietologist Helene Carrere d'Encausse, who set the Soviets up as responsible for the Mideast war.

Over the past few months, this traditional right-wing daily has been gearing up its anti-working class stand by increasingly adopting a pro-Rockefeller line.

Totally leaving out the key U.S. role in the Mideast, Carrere d'Encausse places the Soviets at the core of the present Mideast situation. Manipulating the actually diminishing Soviet influence in the Middle East and playing on their foolish support of the CIA-controlled Palestine Liberation Organization, the article builds up a fantasy in which the Soviet Union nonetheless represents a world power equal to the U.S. Carrere d'Encausse then warns that the frustrated, aggressive Soviet Union views the Middle East as "the main place for confrontation between the interests of the big powers." Thus, as the Rockefeller-rigged Mideast war verges on escalation into a nuclear conflict, this Trilateral agent is setting the Soviets up for carrying full responsibility for Rockefeller's criminal plans.

The publication of this article, which implicitly links the French Communist Party to the Soviet leadership, is part of the "red scare" launched recently by the government against the Communist Party.