

stated his intention to become a nuclear power. And there seems a high probability that some of the oil producers in the Middle East will also seek to do so."

Confirming the analysis published in IPS, Bergsten "warns" that "with or without nuclear weapons, the incidence of armed conflict within the Third World could well accelerate," based on the formation of regional "security blocs" in Latin America, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East.

PALME PREPARING A "TOTAL DEFENSE"?

STOCKHOLM, Dec. 18 (IPS)--An editorial in the unofficial party mouthpiece of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme indicates that the Palme government is seriously considering a substantial increase in that "neutral" government's immense arms budget. Other evidence in recent days from high-level Palme people in the Riksbank indicates that this renewed concern with defense is related to the recent international tendency for Rockefeller's economic policy to converge on a frantic short-term conversion away from Mideast redevelopment projects and into a hardline offensive primarily against the Soviet Union.

The editorial, appearing in the Dec. 12 issue of Arbetet, calls for a broad debate around "Total Defense--civil, economic and psychological integrated into one." This call amounts to justification for increased regimentation of the Swedish economy in the face of international economic collapse. Citing the twofold danger of "war from the Soviets over the strategic Barents Sea passage" and a "peacetime crisis as a result of vital import cutoff, such as oil from the Mideast," the Arbetet piece calls for activation of small "study circle debate" on this "growing danger."

The Real Significance

A statement last week by Krister Wickman, Palme's man in charge of the Riksbank, indicates changes are taking place behind the scenes in government circles. Talking about the possibility of world economic depression, Wickman said: "We must count on slower standard of living rises...decreased oil consumption...and [adopt] a restrictive credit policy."

Under the cover of manipulated fear of the Soviet Union and the Mideast oil producers, Arbetet is pushing a domestic policy which amounts to a version of the U.S. Law Enforcement Assistance Administration on an expanded scale. Information has recently been published in the Swedish press revealing a vast network coordinated through the Defense Department, Defense Research Agency, the Military Psychological Institute, and other agencies, which has compiled psychological dossiers and other information

on political groupings in Sweden.

The Arbetet article is directed for export as much as for domestic consumption. In recent weeks NATO, through the Norwegian government, has drawn the Soviet Union into negotiations on territorial rights in the area of the strategic winter Soviet shipping lane above the Nordkalotten Arctic cap region of Norway/Sweden. The Arbetet piece indicates a possible NATO/Palme escalation of psychological pressure on the USSR in this area.

SLAVE LABOR BILL AWAITING FORD'S APPROVAL

Dec. 18 (IPS)--An "Emergency Jobs Act" authorizing the creation of up to an additional 375,000 "public service" slave labor jobs in 1975 passed Congress today. The bill now goes to the White House for President Ford's approval.

It is still unclear at this time whether Ford will veto the bill. However, since the Administration already has asked Congress to appropriate \$1 billion for the slave labor jobs out of a total of \$2.5 billion authorized by Congress, the Ford Administration seems to be signalling that it will not veto the slave labor legislation.

Congress threw in additional legislation which would lengthen by 13 weeks the amount of unemployment insurance available to presently covered workers. In addition, an estimated 12 million workers not now covered by unemployment insurance, such as state and municipal employees, would be eligible for unemployment benefits. Government workers, who are now being thrown out of work in large numbers, would be encouraged to stay employed--at lower wages--by working in the "public service" employment program.

Average wages under this program will be about \$6,000 despite attempts by "liberals" to deny the fact by pointing out that the maximum allowable wage would be \$10,000.

If the entire authorization for slave labor jobs is spent, the 375,000 newly created jobs would be added to the 175,000 already approved. But even this total of 550,000 jobs is not satisfactory for slave-herders like Jesse Jackson, who is calling for 1.5 million jobs, and Leonard Woodcock, who is calling for a massive \$5 billion program.

It is expected that these social fascists will pressure the new "liberal" Congress to create even larger slave labor programs in January.