

debate especially from newer members recently involved with the religious socialists in the Trotskyist groups in Europe. Could Communist Parties, who had allowed the massacres of leftists in Chile, ever be trusted, asked one such member. An American member intervened reminding the organizer that Rockefeller, the CIA --not the CPs--was responsible for the Chilean massacres. Indicating what it means to be an adult in socialist politics, the American continued, "No matter how keenly we criticize the particular policy errors committed by the Communist movement, our task is to show our comrades in the CPs what responsibility they have as Communists....With our knowledge of the situation, our struggle is to use their enormous political potential and to change them."

Confirming for the audience the position they had placed themselves in, the ICLC leadership detailed what that responsibility would concretely mean in the coming months. Drawing from the Strategic Studies series printed in New Solidarity (and circulated in seven languages as pre-conference material) American Labor Committee Executive member Uwe Parpart likened the situation to that of 1650. In that period, said Parpart, "virtually all the scientific knowledge--including the necessary forms of organization of human society--had been developed and simply waited for their implementation." Instead, there was ecological holocaust and the loss of millions of lives to plague and war. Parpart described to the audience how again the most advanced scientific knowledge must be explicitly used in our organizing if we are to stop the ecological and psychological devastation that Rockefeller's plan will entail.

During the three-day conference, ELC members from West Germany and organizers for the "Unity for Socialism" faction within the SPD officially founded the European Labor Party. The formation of such a party was necessary for these West German United Front organizers to legally run in the upcoming elections. While the West German News Agency (DPA) and Hessen Radio Network had been reporting on the conference, the founding of the ELP prompted the local, more provincial press to report "the Left has a new comrade."

SOVIET UNION MOBILIZES FOR 1975 PLAN

Dec. 24 (IPS)--The Soviet Communist Party's Central Committee plenum meeting Dec. 16 approved a state economic plan and budget for 1975 which promises strict austerity measures for the entire country. Major objectives of the ninth five-year plan, which concludes next year, have not been achieved. A significant portion of planned industrial expansion depends on Western financing and technology, which the Russians increasingly recognize is no sure thing.

As outlined by Chairman of the State Planning Commission (Gosplan) Nikolai Baibakov, the 1975 plan rests on improved utilization of the present industrial capacity and reorganization of production on both the local and ministerial (government) levels. This will require major mobilization of the working class.

With forced honesty, Baibakov admitted that it has not been possible to accomplish the improvements in consumer goods production which were planned at the 24th Party Congress four years ago. Construction of important food, garment, and other light industry facilities is way behind schedule, he said, alluding to the inability of heavy industry to supply the consumer sector. Now the priority is publicly reversed: 7 per cent growth in Department I (means of production) is planned for 1975, and 6 per cent for Department II.

Thus, expansion of heavy industry remains the most essential need of the Soviet economy. Gosplan is concentrating on fuel-energy, steel, chemicals for agriculture, and machine-building--the heart of the economy. In all these areas, Baibakov cited the chronic problems of chaotic delivery schedules, wasted raw materials, and delays in putting new plants and machinery to work.

Western Imports

Baibakov's exposition of the 1975 plan underscored the crucial role which Western deals and projects are supposed to play in the coming years. Listing the biggest construction projects in the European part of the country (the main industrial area), he started off with the Kursk steel complex, the Kuibyshev petrochemicals plants, and the Kama River Truck Factory. Baibakov politely disguised these capitalist-financed giants with euphemisms like "a complex of truck plants in the Tatar Autonomous SSR" (Kama), but the truth came through: if Rockefeller can pull the rug out from under these projects, the heavy-industry bottlenecks will choke up the whole economy.

Siberian development, also awaiting Western credits, is another main feature of the plan. The Soviet Union Communist Party youth organization, the Komosomol, is mobilized to construct the new Baikal-Amur Railroad in the far east. However, much of the oil and gas pipeline of which Baibakov spoke is supposed to be purchased from the West.

Precautions

Previously IPS reported that the Soviet Union is taking protective measures against eventual embargoes, by guaranteeing oil shipments to Eastern Europe and so consolidating the bloc economic organization, Comecon. Trade with Comecon countries was overwhelmingly stressed in Baibakov's speech.

In addition, the Gosplan urges increased coordination between state ministries, which are the government departments responsible for various branches of industry. This move for centralization should cut down on creeping anarchy in the production network.

Finally, where the Soviet economy's internal weaknesses do not allow new investments to be made, the slack must be taken up by increased worker productivity. For this, there are various programs of Stakhanovite competition (competitive speedup), personnel reductions in one sector of industry for redeployment to a harder-pressed one--without cutting production in the first sector--and wage bonuses linked to productivity. This hard necessity for the Soviet working class again to work as a population under siege vividly shows the urgency of adopting the internationalist strategy on all levels: for the Communist Parties and for economic cooperation on socialist terms.

RENEWED MIDEAST WAR SCARE TO OUTFOX SOVIETS

NEW YORK, N.Y., Dec. 24 (IPS)--Israeli General Haim Bar-Lev, war hero and current Minister of Commerce and Industry, warned this week that Israel will "strike first" on a massive scale if it is informed of a planned Arab strike by "sources in which we have complete trust," an obvious reference to the CIA. The warning came in a well-publicized interview with the Israeli newspaper Ma'ariv.

Such broadcasting by the CIA of its imminent ignition of a war represents a significant escalation of the heavy-handed Middle East blackmail policy against the Soviet Union. Through a series of visits to Middle East capitals by Trilateral Commission agents in recent days, Rockefeller is rapidly spreading the line that "the Middle East is the key to detente." While emphasizing the importance of the Mideast, Rocky is simultaneously pushing for war to suck the Soviets into a joint Soviet-American guarantee of a peace, an obvious deflection from the developing left turn in the socialist bloc.

Underscoring the escalated tension, Israeli war planes were sent over Beirut yesterday to create sonic booms. In anticipation of massive Israeli air raids possibly coinciding with a major Moslem holiday this evening, the Syrian and Lebanese armed forces are on full alert. Soldiers have been called back from temporary leave, food supplies are being stockpiled for emergency conditions, and practically every citizen is being mobilized for national defense.

The lame response by the Soviets to Rockefeller's blackmail has been an acknowledgement in the Communist Party newspaper Pravda that "the Middle East situation is explosive," combined