

collapsed firms. Instead of declaring a company bankrupt, Benn allows the workers the opportunity to assume its debts by agreeing to speed themselves up to the necessary level.

Concurrent with this, the Trades Union Congress will be collaborating with the government in setting expansion levels for Rockefeller projects in Britain, like North Sea oil and related petrochemical industries, and industries supplying development projects in the Middle East. Their message is: full employment does not mean employment in your present job. These designated expansion industries will take up the slack in collapsing sectors like auto while the British economy crumbles in the world depression.

CHAVEZ HATED IN MEXICO

Jan. 8 (IPS)--Latin American Labor Committee organizers in Mexico City have uncovered significant sentiment against the United Farmworkers "border police"--headed by Cesar Chavez and funded by the United Autoworkers--and against Trilateral Commission agent and West German metalworkers union head Eugen Loderer.

When briefed on Loderer's CIA credentials and possible implication in the Federal Police kidnapping last month of Mexican Labor Committee leader Carlos de Hoyos Perez, one legal representative ("asesor") for tens of thousands of Mexican auto workers remarked to his sidekicks, "See--I told you guys Loderer is a fascist." The asesor agreed to provide IPS with further intelligence on Loderer's recent visit to Mexico. There, according to his own secretary, Loderer met with other labor counterinsurgents to figure out how to squash leftists in the trade union movement.

The auto workers asesor also recounted the intense hatred he and his members have for Rockefeller's racist pimp Cesar Chavez. The fate of the Mexican working class depends upon the movement of workers in the United States, he said. Chavez' operation--designed to forge hatred between U.S. workers and desperate Mexican migrant labor--marks Chavez clearly as the enemy of the Mexican working class. Other contacts among independent and left-leaning leaders of workers and peasants have reported the same verdict on Chavez: "He's an agent."

VIETNAM OFFENSIVE RUNS ON CP TURN

Jan. 8 (IPS)--The capture of the provincial capital of Phouc Binh by Vietnamese Communist units yesterday marks the peak of a month-long offensive by North Vietnam and the Provisional Revolutionary Government (PRG) of South Vietnam to significantly shift the balance of political power in the Indochina region.

The key military developments reflect the recently expanded and deepened relations between the Vietnamese and the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, taking the offensive out of the fields of Vietnam itself and placing it within the context of the current left turn within the international Communist movement.

The offensive has been marked by a general heightening of military activity throughout Indochina. South Vietnamese troops have been burning rice crops in the Mekong Delta area in order to prevent vital food supplies from falling into the hands of advancing PRG forces. Increased strength of the PRG in the Delta area was indicated by a recent rocket attack on Saigon itself, the first such attack in three years.

The offensive in Vietnam is linked to an upsurge of military activity in Cambodia, where a dry season campaign by Communist forces is underway. Vietnamese troops are reportedly fighting alongside Khmer Rouge units for the first time in 10 months.

The official position of the PRG is that the offensive is designed to "force" the implementation of the 1973 Paris "Peace" Agreement. Its actual political thrust is to reject the detente policy which was the condition for the Paris Agreement. This has been underlined by the Soviet backing for the present offensive.

Soviet Support

Over the past month there has been a series of high level visits and discussions between the Vietnamese and representatives of the Soviet bloc. Most important was the visit two weeks ago by the Soviet Chief of the General Staff, Kulikov, to Vietnam at the head of a high-level military delegation which met with its Vietnamese counterparts to discuss the military situation and Soviet support. The trip coincided with the visit of an East German delegation to Hanoi headed by Politburo member Werner Lambert.

In early December, a delegation headed by Nguyen Duy Trinh, Vietnam Workers Party Central Committee member, went to the Soviet Union to discuss new Soviet military and economic aid for Vietnam. Meetings were also held during the month with other Communist Parties including the French CP, which is now spearheading the left turn among CPs in Europe.

The political turn in Indochina itself was first reflected a month ago when Hanoi categorically denounced Father Thanh, a leader of the anti-Thieu "Third Forces," as a CIA operative. With this the CIA's hopes that the Vietnamese Communists could be lured into some sort of Popular Front coalition to replace the collapsing government of dictator Thieu were dashed, at least for the immediate future. This move to the left on the part of the Vietnamese was also reflected in a new hard line on the "democratic" CIA regime in Thailand.

Iron Fist

With its "democratic face" scenario at least momentarily stalled, the CIA has hastened to activate its hard-line military option. The CIA press, headed by UPI, has been highlighting the dispatch of an 11 ship flotilla of the U.S. Seventh Fleet from Subic Bay in the Philippines to an undetermined point off the Vietnamese coast in the South China Sea. While the Pentagon and State Department have vociferously denied any "emergency deployment," characterizing the maneuvers as "routine," the press has continually connected the presence of the fleet with the offensive in Vietnam and Cambodia. The deployment of the fleet, reportedly heading southwest for the Straits of Malacca and on to the Indian Ocean, raises the possibility of its deployment in the Persian Gulf area, a clear threat to the Soviets.

These events in Vietnam raise the possibility, admittedly remote and politically suicidal, of U.S. military intervention into Indochina. Less remote is the possibility that a red-scare about Soviet support for Indochinese Communists could be used to justify massive increases in arms shipments to Vietnam and Cambodia and increased arms production at home.

GANDHI OPENS ATTACKS ON FASCISTS IN INDIA

Jan. 8 (IPS)--India's Prime Minister Indira Gandhi has used the recent assassination of Railways Minister Lalit Mishra to launch an attack on right-wing CIA-directed fascists in India.

Gandhi laid the blame for the assassination squarely on the shoulders of CIA agent provocateur and fascist Jayaprakash Narayan, claiming "that the fascist forces out to destroy democracy had claimed their first victim."

Addressing a meeting yesterday held in memory of Mishra, Gandhi claimed that the assassination is part of a dangerous plan backed by certain foreign forces aimed at her. In recent weeks, Gandhi has spoken of CIA activities within India.

The Indian Communist Party, which has vigorously supported the moves by the Gandhi government to increase trade with the Soviet Union and East bloc, has also pinned the blame for the assassination on Narayan.

The assassination occurred in Narayan's organizing base, Bihar province. Mishra, notorious for his strike-breaking activities during last May's nationwide railway strike, was the central figure in Watergate-style corruption scandals being orchestrated by Narayan's forces.