

NEW SOLIDARITY INTERNATIONAL PRESS SERVICE - EVENING NEWS ROUNDUP
JANUARY 18, 1975

JAN. 18 (IPS) - ASSOCIATED PRESS, AGENCE FRANCE PRESS, AND TIDNIN GARNAS TELEGRAMBYR (SWEDEN) ARE CARRYING AN UNCONFIRMED REPORT TODAY THAT GENERAL SECRETARY LEONID BREZHNEV IS RELINQUISHING HIS DUTIES. THE STORY ORIGINATES FROM THE MOSCOW CORRESPONDENT OF THE PRESS TRUST OF INDIA, BUT HAS NOT BEEN CONFIRMED BY TASS, THE OFFICIAL PRESS AGENCY OF THE SOVIET UNION.

JAN. 18 (IPS) - TRUD, THE NEWSPAPER OF THE SOVIET ALL-UNION CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS, REPORTED JAN. 16 ON A PLENARY SESSION OF THE COUNCIL ADDRESSED BY ALEXANDER SHELEPIN, A MEMBER OF THE POLITBUREAU OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE SOVIET UNION AND CHAIRMAN OF THE ACCTU. TRADITIONALLY A FACTIONAL OPPONENT OF GENERAL SECRETARY LEONID BREZHNEV. SHELEPIN EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR BREZHNEV'S RECENT SPEECH AT A CLOSED SESSION OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOVIET UNION'S COMMUNIST PARTY. THE ACCTU RESOLUTION, PUBLISHED IN TRUD, CALLED FOR "STRENGTHENING THE UNITY OF ACTION OF ALL DIVISIONS OF THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT IN THE STRUGGLE FOR PEACE, DEMOCRACY, AND SOCIAL PROGRESS."

PCF -- CPUSA COMMUNIQUE

JAN. 18 (IPS) - L' HUMANITE, THE DAILY PAPER OF THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY (PCF), REPORTS TODAY A COMMUNIQUE PUBLISHED AFTER A MEETING BETWEEN A DELEGATION OF THE NOMINAL "COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE USA" AND PCF LEADERS IN PARIS. IN LANGUAGE SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE JAN. 6 JOINT DECLARATION BY 20 EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES, THE COMMUNIQUE CALLS FOR "UNITY OF ACTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST MOVEMENT."

II. MIDEAST

JAN. 18 (IPS) -- ACCORDING TO THE NEW YORK TIMES TODAY, THE UNITED STATES CONFIRMED ITS SALE OF ANTI-TANK MISSILES TO THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT. THE SALE IS INTENDED TO PROVIDE "PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE" TO SMALL LEBANESE FORCES WHICH ARE NOW UNDER PRESSURE FROM COMPUTER RAIDS" ACROSS THE LEBANESE BORDER.

JAN. 18 (IPS) - SAUDI ARABIA'S KING FAISAL PLEDGED \$150 MILLION FOR THE SYRIAN WAR EFFORT, AS WELL AS A \$200 MILLION LOAN FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, ACCORDING TO TODAY'S WASHINGTON POST. MEANWHILE, PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION LEADER YASSAR ARAFAT ASSUMED PERSONAL COMMAND OF GUERRILLA OPERATIONS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON.

JAN. 18 (IPS) - MARILYN BERGER REPORTS IN TODAY'S WASHINGTON POST THAT ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER YIGAL ALLEN SAYS MIDEAST NEGOTIATIONS ARE READY TO MOVE INTO THE "PRACTICAL PHASE" AND THAT U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER HAS AGREED TO ARAAFAT'S INVITATION TO VISIT ISRAEL. KISSINGER WOULD NOT GO UNTIL FEBRUARY, AND STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS COMMENT THE INVITATION WAS EXTENDED "IN PRINCIPLE."

JAN. 18 (IPS) - PRESIDENT SADAT OF EGYPT HAS WARNED ISRAEL THAT UNLESS SHE WITHDRAWS FROM SOME OCCUPIED TERRITORY, HE WILL ABANDON COOPERATION WITH U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER'S STEP-BY-STEP PEACE EFFORTS, ACCORDING TO AP AND REUTERS REPORTS IN THE TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL.

JAN. 18 (IPS) - THE WEST GERMANY COMMUNIST PARTY NEWSPAPER UNSERE ZEIT REPORTED TODAY ON AN INTERVIEW WITH THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC MILITARY EXPERT WOERNER AND THE NATO-ALLIED WEEKLY, DIE ZEIT. THE FOLLOWING SECTION OF THE WOERNER INTERVIEW IS PROVIDED: "POSSIBLE WAR SCENARIOS AND CORRESPONDING DECISION ON THE PART OF THE AMERICANS AND THE GERMANS ON MIDEAST POLICY ARE THE SUBJECT OF INTERNAL CONSIDERATION BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND THE OPPOSITION (OF WEST GERMANY)."

III. INDOCHINA

JAN. 18 (IPS) -- IN AN ARTICLE MARTIN WOOLACOTT WROTE IN YESTERDAY'S TORONTO STAR "SOUTH VIETNAM'S DAY OF RECKONING IS CLOSE AT HAND." WOOLACOTT DESCRIBES THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AS BEING ABLE TO CHOOSE THE SITE AND TIME AND OBTAIN SUPERIOR FIREPOWER FOR ANY BATTLE. THE OBJECTIVE OF THEIR CURRENT CAMPAIGN IS TO DISPLACE THE THIEU GOVERNMENT," WOOLACOTT SAYS.

JAN. 18 (IPS) -- CAMBODIA'S LON NOL GOVERNMENT HAS INSTITUTED A "POLICY ON AUSTERITY," PLACING LOW SUPPLIES ON THE COMMUNIST FORCES' "TOTAL BLOCKADE" OF THE MEKONG RIVER, ACCORDING TO SYDNEY SCHANBERG WRITING IN TODAY'S NEW YORK TIMES. BOTH THE CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE UNITED STATES HAVE REFUSED TO REVEAL HOW LOW THE AMOUNTS OF VITAL STOCKS ARE, SO AS NOT TO "PANIC" THE POPULATION. THE AMERICAN "CONTINGENCY PLAN" TO BE USED AS A "LAST RESORT" TO PROP UP THE CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT IS TO USE U.S. AIR FORCE PLANES IN THAILAND TO AIRLIFT IN SUPPLIES.

JAN. 18 (IPS) -- THE TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL YESTERDAY CARRIED AN ASSOCIATED PRESS - REUTERS ARTICLE QUOTING PRAVDA COMMENTATOR YURI ZHUKOV TO THE EFFECT THAT THE U.S. WAS NOT FULFILLING THE TERMS OF THE PARIS ACCORDS, WHICH BAN U.S. ARMS SHIPMENTS TO SOUTH VIETNAM. PRAVDA SAYS THAT SINCE JANUARY 1973 THE U.S. HAS SENT 1100 TANKS AND ARMORED CARS, 800 GUNS, 700 AIRCRAFT, AND 200 WARSHIPS TO SOUTH VIETNAM.

IV. WESTERN EUROPE

JAN. 18 (IPS) -- WEST GERMAN CHANCELLOR HELMUT SCHMIDT BEGAN HIS FOREIGN POLICY SPEECH AT A SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC CONFERENCE YESTERDAY STATING THAT THE DANGER OF A MIDEAST WAR WAS "THE GREATEST DANGER TO OUR SECURITY." ACCORDING TO THE RIGHT-WING WEST GERMAN DAILY DIE WELT, SCHMIDT CLOSED WITH A WARNING TO THE U.S.: "...WE MUST AVOID THAT OUR AMERICAN FRIENDS, BASED ON AN OVERESTIMATION OF OUR ECONOMIC < FINANCIAL AND POLITICAL ABILITIES < POSE DEMANDS TO US WHICH WE CANNOT FULFILL." THE STANDING VIEW OF THE SCHMIDT GOVERNMENT IS THAT "THE RIGHT TO EXIST OF ISRAEL WITHIN ASSURED AND SECURED BORDERS MUST BE GUARANTEED."