

JAN. 17, (IPS) - HUMANITE, NEWSPAPER OF THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY (PCF) RAN AN EDITORIAL TODAY WHICH DESCRIBED THE PCF'S CAMPAIGN TO " DEMONSTRATE THE MECHANISM OF AUSTERITY TO THE PEOPLE," IN THE CASE OF OIL PRICE RISES IN FRANCE. "THE COMMUNISTS WILL NOT BE QUIET," STATED THE EDITORIAL, WHICH IS FOLLOWED BY A POLITBURE COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCING NEW INITIATIVES IN PCF ORGANIZING AROUND THE CAMPAIGN. A NATIONAL MEETING ON RECRUITMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF PARTY CELLS WILL TAKE PLACE JAN 23, AND BE CHAIRED BY POLITBURE MEMBER ROLAND LEROY, A LEADER OF THE PCF LEFT FACTION.

HUMANITE ALSO REPORTED TODAY A RELEASE FROM THE SOVIET PRESS AGENCY TASS, STATING THAT THE EXCHANGE RUBLE USED WITHIN THE EASTERN EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, COMECON, MIGHT BE USED AS A BASIS FOR WORLD TRADE.

JAN. 17 (IPS) - UNSERE ZEIT, NEWSPAPER OF THE WEST GERMAN COMMUNIST PARTY (DKP) TODAY RAN AN ARTICLE ON SUBVERSION IN PORTUGAL, WHICH TAKES THE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTACK THE RIGHT WING OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL DEMOCRACY. "THE RIGHTIST SPD (SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY IN WEST GERMANY) IN THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL DEMOCRACY HAS ALWAYS STOOD FOR AN ANTI-COMMUNISM THAT IS DIRECTED AGAINST THE CAUSE OF UNIFIED ACTION."

JAN. 17 (IPS) -- TODAY'S NEW YORK TIMES RAN A PAGE 7 ARTICLE BY FLORA LEWIS ON THE STATEMENT ISSUED JOINTLY YESTERDAY BY 20 WEST EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES, WHICH CONDEMNED THE "MILITARY ADVENTURE PLANNED BY THE UNITED STATES IN THE MIDDLE EAST." THE TIMES ARTICLE STATES THAT THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STATEMENT IS THAT "IT IT SEEMED TO SHOW A SHIFT FROM THE MORE TRADITIONAL COMMUNIST LINE THAT EUROPE SHOULD NOT BE DIVIDED UP BETWEEN EAST AND WEST," INDICATING A LOOSENING OF TIES BETWEEN THE WEST EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES AND MOSCOW. THE STATEMENT WENT UNREPORTED BY EUROPE'S MAJOR DAILY NEWSPAPERS.

I II. MIDEAST

LONDON-ROCKEFELLER AXIS ESCALATES BLACKMAIL AGAINST IRAQ

NEW YORK, JAN. 17 (IPS)--STEPPING UP ITS BLACKMAIL AGAINST THE PRO-SOVIET REGIME OF IRAQ, THE LONDON-ROCKEFELLER AXIS HAS ESCALATED OPERATIONS IN OMAN AGAINST THE PRO-IRAQI POPULAR THE LIBERATION OF OMAN REBELS. ACCORDING TO THE JAN. 17 DIE WELT, THE WEST GERMAN DAILY, THE SULTAN OF OMAN, DURING A RECENT TRIP TO THE U.S. MET WITH NELSON ROCKEFELLER AND JAMES SCHLESINGER, AND WAS CONCEDED MILITARY SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE. UNDER COVER OF A MILITARY MISSION, WASHINGTON "NOW WANTS TO ESTABLISH ITSELF THERE." BASING ITS REPORTS ON ARAB PRESS SERVICE RELEASES, DIE WELT GOES TO REVEAL THAT THE U.S. IS "IN QUIET" PREPARING THE CONSTRUCTION OF A "LEGAL MILITARY PRESENCE ALONG THE PERSIAN GULF." THIS FOLLOWS BY A FEW WEEKS THE VISIT OF CIA CHIEFTAINS WILLIAM COLBY AND RICHARD HELMS TO OMAN. AMERICAN WEAPONS INSTRUCTORS HAVE ARRIVED AND THEIR NUMBER WILL INCREASE WITH DIRECT US WEAPONS DELIVERIES.

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JAN. 1. (IPS)--YESTERDAY'S DAILY TELEGRAPH OF LONDON HAS REPORTED THAT THE UNITED STATES' 7TH FLEET IS CONDUCTING JOINT NAVAL OPERATIONS WITH THE IRANIAN NAVY. WHILE IRANIAN OFFICIALS HAVE INSISTED ON INTERVIEWS WITH IPS THAT THESE ARE "NORMAL" CENTO DEPLOYMENTS, THE OBVIOUS SIGNIFICANCE IS TO HEAT UP A MIDDLE EAST WAR SCARE AGAINST THE SOVIETS TO DEFLECT FROM THE CURRENT COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE IN VIETNAM.

U.S. TO SUPPLY LEBANON WITH ARMS

JAN. 17 (IPS)--IN WHAT MAY BE REGARDED AS A DEVELOPING PINNERS MOVEMENT AGAINST IRAQ, THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT TODAY ANNOUNCED A DEAL WITH THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT TO SUPPLY "HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED ANTI-TANK MISSILES TO LEBANON" TO "COUNTER ISRAELI RAIDS", ACCORDING TO REPORTER JIM HOGGLAND OF THE WASHINGTON POST. THE US ALSO INTENDS TO PROVIDE JORDAN WITH HAWK ANTI-AIRCRAFT MISSILES. FOLLOWING THE RECENT VISIT TO SYRIA OF FANATIC ANTI-COMMUNIST KING FAISAL OF SAUDI ARABIA AND THE INCREASING MILITARY COOPERATION BETWEEN SYRIA AND LEBANON, THE POSSIBILITY OF THE DEALS REPRESENTING A FLANKING ACTION POSTURE AGAINST IRAQ CANNOT BE IGNORED.

JAN. 17 (IPS) --UNITA', DAILY OF THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY, REPORTED TODAY THAT THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO CONVOKE AN URGENT MEETING OF THE DEFENSE COUNCIL OF THE ARAB LEAGUE IN RESPONSE TO ISRAELI MILITARY OPERATIONS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. ACCORDING TO UNITA', "THE OUTRIGHT OFFENSIVE IN PROGRESS IN THE ARKOUR AREA IS TAKING ON INCREASINGLY THE CHARACTER OF A LIMITED WAR AND MAY BE AIMING AT THE OCCUPATION OF SOUTHERN LEBANON."

JAN. 17. (IPS)--IZVESTIA JAN. 14 REPORTS IN ITS LEAD INTERNATIONAL ITEM ISRAELI ATTACKS ON LEBANON, AND THE VISIT OF ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON TO THE UNITED STATES IN SEARCH OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT. THE VISIT OF THE SHAH OF IRAN TO EGYPT IS BEING COVERED FACTUALLY, WITH NO EDITORIAL COMMENT TO DATE. AN ARTICLE IN PRAVDA REPORTS THAT AN EGYPTIAN DAILY PAPER, ROZ AL-YOUSEF, HAS DENOUNCED THE STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH TO NEGOTIATIONS (ASSOCIATED WITH KISSINGER) IN FAVOR OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE.

IV. INDOCHINA

JAN. 17. (IPS)--IN AN OP ED ARTICLE IN TODAY'S WASHINGTON POST, TAD SZULC CALLS US AIR SURVEILLANCE OF NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAM A "DANGEROUS 'DEJA VU' " OF THE 1968 "PROTECTIVE REACTION STRIKES" WHICH LED TO LARGE-SCALE ATTACKS ON NORTH VIETNAM. THE POST QUOTES "SENIOR OFFICIALS" IN WASHINGTON AS SAYING THEY ARE PREPARED TO "PULL OUT THE STOPS" TO AID SAIGON WITHOUT BREAKING THE LAW.

JAN. 17. (IPS)--IN AN EDITORIAL BY THE NATO-ALLIED JOURNALIST, ROY CYCON, TODAY'S DIE WELT PROPOSES, "PERHAPS IT IS NOT SUCH A BAD THING, IF WITHIN A LENGTHY PROCESS, THE ADJUSTMENT OF THE SOUTH TO