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P.O. Box 1972, G.P.O.
New York, New York 10001
Editorial (212)279-5950
Customer Service (212)564-8529

THE BATTLE FOR THE PRESIDENCY

Dec. 20 (IPS) -- As part of their insurrectionary effort to seize full control of the executive branch of the U.S. government, forces linked to the Vice President Nelson Rockefeller and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger this week escalated their attack on the President of the United States. This drive which has as its immediate objective isolation and demoralization of President Ford, has, as its ultimate strategic objective, the assassination or removal of the President from office. Should this Rockefeller coup occur or seem inevitable, the Soviet Union - seeing the United States government in the hands of avowed madmen Kissinger and Rockefeller -- will launch a pre-emptive nuclear first strike against U.S. military, industrial and population centers.

On Dec. 18, Washington Post reporters Woodward and Bernstein dragged out some year-old evidence which "proved" that President Ford had perjured himself in testimony last year before Congress concerning his pardon of former President Richard Nixon. The article purports that former White House Chief of Staff and current NATO Supreme Commander, Gen. Alexander Haig had discussed with Ford the Nixon pardon during a period of time in which, the President had told the Congress no such discussions took place.

The leaked story smells of a National Security Council-ordered "paste-up" job on several counts. Rockefeller has called on exactly the same crew for the Ford Watergating who were so ably employed by the CIA and related agencies in the successful elimination of Richard Nixon.

(IPS was the first news service to break the story of the CIA-orchestration of Watergate. Extensive documentation of this Rockefeller operation is available upon request from IPS.) "Reporters" Woodward and Bernstein are the CIA press conduits who broke first Nixon Watergate "cover-up" story and who did the "investigative reporting" that pinned the mantle on the duped Nixon and his political allies. Alex Haig, referred to in knowledgeable military circles as a "paper clip general," is also known to be the personal towel-boy of Henry Kissinger. As White House Chief of Staff during Nixon's last months in office, Haig served as an "inside man", running the government for Rockefeller while continuously misadvising President Nixon against making a fight against the insurgents. It was Haig who made the final arrangements that eased Nixon out of office altogether.

More importantly, the sudden revelation of the "Ford perjury evidence" follows by less than a week the U.S. Labor Party's presentation to honest Congressional Republicans and Democrats of an airtight perjury case against the Vice President. Rockefeller had lied to Congressional Committees during his confirmation hearings about his use, as Governor, of the State Police to compile one million

political dossiers on individuals who had committed no crime.

Members of the House Judiciary Committee and others have already shown interest in the Rockefeller perjury evidence as a step towards his impeachment.

The Ford perjury concoction must therefore be seen as a counterescalation by Rockefeller forces to take the heat off "their boy."

Despite the transparency of the case against Ford, the Woodward and Bernstein article and subsequent follow-ups have found their way in major newspapers around the country: the National Security Council (NSC) merely called up its various media outlets and in the best tradition of the Nazi propaganda lords ordered the placement of the concocted story. As if on cue, Rep. Peter "Dopey" Rodino (D-NJ), the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, and Rep. Elizabeth Holtzman (D-NY) put a statement into the Congressional record indicating that they were willing to fully investigate the Ford pardon question to see if it warranted action by the House. Rodino and Holtzman both played a prominent role in the Judiciary Committee impeachment proceedings against Nixon.

ONCE A FOOL, TWICE . . .

There are signs that this particular Rockefeller operation against Ford will not get off the ground. The New York Times, reflecting opposition within its editorial board to the Rockefeller-Kissinger nuclear confrontation strategy, buried its coverage of the "Pardon Affair" on an inside page. The Times, which played a crucial part in the Watergate operation against Nixon, this time slanted its story to be favorable to President Ford, indicating that any confusion in Ford's testimony to Congress was likely caused by his being misinformed by Alexander Haig and Haig's associates in the White House.

Aside from the Rodino-Holtzman were "awaiting orders" statement, there is little enthusiasm for the affair on Capitol Hill. Many Congressmen feel that they were played for suckers in the Nixon Watergating and are not about to dive into the same sink-hole again -- regardless of the urgings from Rockefeller's media conduits.

ROCKEFELLER ANNOUNCES FORDS IMMINENT POLITICAL DEMISE

As the perjury scandal broke in the Post, the rest of Rockefeller's loyal press corps were intensifying their now weeks long campaign to paint the President as a piece of political carrion.

The magazine Newsweek, owned by Washington Post publisher Katherine Graham, this week put a picture of the President on its cover and gave it the headline "Ford in Trouble." The cover story, a compilation of "reports" about the President's growing unpopularity and his weakness in the GOP concludes that the President may become such a lame duck that it will be impossible for him to continue on as President.

Simultaneously, a spate of "opinions" from Rockefeller-linked syndicated columnists, including Evans and Novak, heralded the "Decline of the President."

Then on Thursday, Rockefeller himself and cabal member and former Nixon Defense Secretary Melvin Laird, a Ford "advisor," warned in separate speeches that the President could only save himself by immediately adopting plans for a fascist economy and concomitant Schachtian spending programs. If Ford doesn't wake up to this, the pair indicated, the President will have a very short tenure in office.

Rockefeller, also told a CBS interviewer that he had not ruled out a run for the Presidency this year - if certain undefined things occurred. "You can never tell what will happen," a grinning Rockefeller told CBS, "I wasn't referring to 1976 when I said that I would be too old to run for President."

THE REAGAN BOOM

As Ford's popularity plummeted, polls showed that Rockefeller puppet and ex-Borax salesman, Ronald Reagan had pulled comfortably ahead of the President. Various syndicated columnists, again acting on orders from their NSC master, suddenly decided that Reagan made interesting copy and ran voluminous explanations of his new found popularity. "He looks good in comparison to how bad Ford is," Evan and Novak wrote. CIA agent William F. Buckley termed "Reagan the man for the 1970s" and spewed his usual hyperbole about the candidates' "charismatic" qualities.

The "Reagan boom," like the Ford demise, is a totally manufactured phenomenon. No one offered any more evidence of his popularity than last week's Gallup poll. Pollster Gallup is a virtual employee of the Rockefeller family and its interests and generally finds evidence to support whatever his masters want.

While Ford may in fact lose some early primaries to Reagan, it is not that prospect, but outright Rockefeller subversion that is currently the cause of the confusion within the Ford camp. Take for example the performance of Ford's self-avowed "number one" supporter the Vice President -- at a recent Southern Republican conference. Rockefeller who was there, as he reminded everybody, as "the representative of the President," pulled some Southern GOP leaders into a back room and cursed at them. "You cocksuckers," the President's number one supporter screamed. "First you force me off the ticket and then you don't lift a finger to support the President." Rockefeller then threatened the GOP leaders, most of whom were at that moment in the Ford camp, that they had better "get off their asses." - or else. With such people on your side, who needs enemies.

The next day, the press carried reports that Ford was in trouble with Southern GOP leader.

The Reagan campaign is itself a wrecking operation aimed at hopelessly splitting the GOP. It is a "no-win" campaign -- performing a similar, though not identical, function as the McGovern campaign did on the Democratic Party in 1972.

The Rockefeller strategy is simple: destroy the GOP and put a loyal fascist Democrat like Sen. Hubert Humphrey (D-Minn) in the White House. Not surprisingly, a poll later in the week showed Hubert as handily beating either Ford or Reagan. By week's end, the CIA press sewers were carefully giving balanced coverage to the Reagan and the "once-and-future candidate" Hubert Humphrey.

GETTING KISSINGER ON ANGOLA

Congress this week took unusually strong measures to end the Kissinger-ordered U.S. involvement in Angola. The Senate yesterday passed by an overwhelming margin an amendment to the Defense Appropriation bill introduced by Sen. John Tunney (D-Calif) and Sen. Dick Clark (D-Iowa) which bars the use of funds for either covert or overt U.S. aid to anti-Communist forces in Angola.

Kissinger flew home from his defeat by the Third World at the Paris North South conference to try to salvage the Angola fiasco. While still in Paris he had attempted to involve the President in the affair, force the President to make a firm stand on the matter, by leaking information to the effect that the President had made the "final decision" to approve the funnelling of CIA monies to National Front (FNLA) and the National Union (UNITA). While loyal CIA press conduits around the country prominently featured the Kissinger story, few people took it serious. Everyone knows that Angola was Kissinger's operation -- the New York Times had splashed that fact across its front page last Sunday.

Kissinger then shifted gears. He leaked stories reiterating his claim that Angola was of "strategic importance" and that the pro-Soviet forces would win quickly if the U.S. withdrew aid. Again the Times, leaked the truth: a midweek article, quotes a high Defense department official as saying that Angola is of "no strategic importance:" It is not a Soviet-American test of wills, but a test case between Henry Kissinger and Moscow."

Then in the middle of the Congressional debate, Times columnist Anthony Lewis printed a column calling Kissinger a war criminal for his senseless ordering of the bombing of Hiaphong in 1972. The message was clear -- the criminal's actions in Angola are equally provocative and dangerous.

Significantly, President Ford had already decided to let Kissinger fry. The President made no effort to say that Congress was meddling in something it shouldn't. Instead, he said he would "welcome Congressional debate" and that Congress was by no means "over reacting." Ford thereby let it be known that he would hold no grudge for an aid ban. The President, reportedly dispatched Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to tell key Congressional leaders that he wanted the Defense Appropriation bill passed and wasn't too upset about the Tunney Amendment.

Kissinger, meanwhile, reportedly pulled 25 Senators into an hour-long session the night before the vote and cajoled, pleaded and threatened people in a vain effort to gain support for his Angola policy - or at least compromise on it. Kissinger went to see Ford, hoping that the President would say something in favor of a face-saving compromise; Ford said nothing.

Ford's comments following the vote; "We are setting up a possible tragedy" though splashed on front pages -- seem relatively mild. They are aimed primarily at protecting himself from sniping by right flank -- Reagan, et al.

No doubt was left as to who the target of the Angola amendment was. Even the normally spineless Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich) of the Black Caucus announced that he hoped that the actions of

of the Black Caucus announced that he hoped that the actions of Congress will go a long way towards removing Kissinger and his "Teddy Boy," UN Ambassador Daniel Moynihan from office.

FORD PEACE INITIATIVES IN MIDEAST

President Ford took decisive steps Dec.14 to diffuse the threat of war in the Mideast when he delivered a note to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin asking that Israel take no unilateral action against Arab countries without consulting the U.S. first and proposing to move discussion of Mideast peace settlement back to Geneva Conference. Ford's proposal flies directly in the face of the years of Kissinger unilateral, "set-by-step" diplomatic wrecking operations in the Mideast. It gives clear support to the long standing Soviet proposal to end the Kissinger shuttle and bring the whole matter to Geneva.

Kissinger did his best to wreck the President's initiative. The NSC apparently ordered a blackout of coverage even after an Israeli paper broke the story last week. However, in a sign of Kissinger's stumbling control over such matters, UPI sent out a dispatch on the matter anyway which became a lead article in the Monday Chicago Sun Times.

Kissinger then attempted to edit out the most explosive section of the Ford proposal: Several papers ran prominent stories omitting any mention the President's offer to restart the Geneva Conference. As of week's end a near full embargo had been clamped on the story by Kissinger's Atlanticist allies in Europe.

Nonetheless, the word was out, and the Soviet's have evidence that Kissinger-Rockefeller control of U.S. policy is by no means irrevocably hegemonic - yet.

A STRATEGY WITH LIMITATIONS -- AND DIRE CONSEQUENCES

The limits of the get Kissinger strategy became obvious towards the end of the week, as anti-Rockefeller forces did not escalate to dismantle the whole Rockefeller machine as it is represented in the international military, economic and political deployment under the codename Hilex. Although Labor Party organizers reported that the Hilex briefings have had an unprecedented impact on Capitol Hill, with the psychological tension at an all time high, no Congressman has yet moved openly.

The more gullible sections of Congress, including parts of the Black Caucus, Sen. Stevenson (D-Ill.) and others, are falling for less obvious aspects of the Hilex deployment. On Dec.17, the Black Caucus warned that Soviet "intervention" into Angola will threaten U.S.-Soviet economic relations. The same day, Rockefeller's pet Senator, Hubert Humphrey, with backing from Sen. Stevenson, called for the economic boycott by the U.S. of the Soviet Union (or described as "any country") should it remain in Angola.

IPS learned however, that several Congressmen have put pressure on Rep. Otis Pike (D-NY) Chairman of the House Intelligence Committee to use his Committee to get Kissinger by exposing Hilex. While it will remain in continuous closed closed door sessions during the next two weeks over declassification of CIA material, the

Pike Committee has thus far not acted against Hilex. The entire Congress, after completing work on tax legislation yesterday, has adjourned until Jan. 19.

The criminal stupidity and cowardice shown by Congress in refusing to go after the whole Rockefeller machine merely shortens the distance to the nuclear typewire and gives the Rockefellers a continuing tactical advantage.