

## Behind The Lockheed Scandal — Atlanticists' European Arms Drive

Feb. 10 (IPS) Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho), this week used his chairmanship of the Multinationals subcommittee of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to expose multi-million dollar payoffs by the bankrupt Lockheed Aerospace Corporation to the Rockefeller family's political networks in Western Europe and Japan. Carried out on behalf of the Harriman-Ball financier faction the intent of the Church exposure is to shake up European defense ministries which these old Rockefeller networks control or influence, clearing the decks for implementation of stepped-up arms production under the corporatist Tindemans plan in Europe and a similar arrangement in Japan.

In addition, the exposure of the dirty management dealings of Lockheed, a corporation whose continued existence is based on government bailout funds, is intended to create a climate of outrage in the U.S. that would find a suitable outlet in the various pieces of legislation calling for corporatist regulation of U.S. corporations. This regulation itself could also help in stifling opposition to transferring NATO armaments contracts to the Europeans under the Tindemans plan. Yesterday, Sen. Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz), representing the aerospace industry, attacked the Senate Foreign Relations Committee bill to restrict foreign arms sales for "conceding important market advantages" to the Europeans.

### Rocky's Bilderberg Hit

So far, the Lockheed bribe scandal has tarred West German Neo-Nazi Franz Josef Strauss, Holland's Prince Bernhard, and several figures in the Japanese right wing. Bernhard, inspector general of the Dutch armed forces, is the founder and titular head of the Bilderberg Club, a grouping of industrialists, politicians and financiers that comprised the key deliberative policy body of the Rockefeller brothers' supranational government. Bernhard, a former Nazi SS officer still presides over Bilderberg functions which are attended by David Rockefeller, Gianni Agnelli of FIAT, Strauss and others. As a member of the Dutch Royal family which owns a controlling interest in the Royal Dutch Shell oil combine, Bernhard is a likely target for the press and Wall Street's congressional water boys eager to show their clout against Rockefeller and his "Seven Sisters" oil cartel.

Strauss, a long time Rockefeller ally, will soon find the scandal breaking around his head after Congress reconvenes

next week. It could hardly be avoided: the Bavarian Christian Social Union chieftan was the West German Defense Minister during the 1960s F-104 "Starfighter" scandal. At that time, Strauss personally insisted on magnifying the boondoggle by adding every possible extra feature to the original Lockheed model. In spite of Strauss' expensive embellishments, the Lockheed frame was so badly constructed that many pilots lost their lives in routine training flights.

In Japan, the revelations of bribes have already rocked both right wing forces and the government of Liberal Democratic Party Prime Minister Takeo Miki. While the complicated repercussions of the scandal for Japanese politics deserve a full treatment by themselves, it is clear that it will spur the development of a Tindemans-like domestic defense industry. Already the scandals have begun to have their desired effect. Yesterday, the Japanese government cancelled a \$1.3 billion contract with Lockheed.

### Could Backfire

While the Modus Operandi currently being employed by Church and his associates — controlled leaks directed against selected targets— is identical to that which he successfully used to engineer the takeover of the CIA by Harriman-Ball forces, the thus far tightly controlled "scandal" has the potential to backfire.

Observers on Capitol Hill point out that even a cursory examination of Lockheed's 1960s contract to NATO countries for the infamous "Starfighter" will reveal shady dealings with such figures as Italian industrialist Gianni Agnelli whose FIAT Aeritalia was the sole Italian arms producer to participate in the Lockheed contracts. Such a scandal will destroy Agnelli's ability to be deployed against pro-development and pro-debt moratorium forces now consolidating in Italy.

The Church committee, meanwhile is doing everything possible to avoid going too far in exposing the "Strauss connection." Pentagon sources told IPS today that one witness asked in an executive session of Senate subcommittee hearings on Lockheed whether the committee "wanted to hear about" Lockheed's role in sending arms into Eastern Europe via "third parties" like Strauss. Sens. Church and Charles Percy (R-Ill.) responded: "That subject will never be raised at these hearings again."