



NEW SOLIDARITY International Press Service

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NEW SOLIDARITY INTERNATIONAL PRESS SERVICE (IPS)

LATE EVENING NEWS WRAP-UP
FRIDAY, 12 MARCH 1976

I. PRIORITY ITEMS

GAULLISTS, SWISS READY TO MOVE AGAINST DOLLAR

NEW YORK, March 12 (IPS)—An authoritative spokesman of the Banque de France, the French central bank, confirmed today that the Banque had dumped between 265 and 500 million dollars of its dollar denominated reserves to counteract speculation against the French franc, and added that "The Gaullists and Swiss are ready to move against the dollar and are busy talking about establishing a floor price for gold. The only problem is the Germans won't move because they don't want to displease the Americans."

It was also confirmed today that the West German central bank, on orders from the U.S. Federal Reserve, has made a "swap" loan available to the French central bank so that the latter will sell West German deutschemarks instead of the dollar in support operations on behalf of the French franc.

Meanwhile, according to traders, multinational corporations, banks, and other investors have bet heavily on the French franc's devaluation next Monday, March 15, after the conclusion of the county election runoffs in that country. This is despite French Finance Minister Jean-Pierre Fourcade's public denial today that the Giscard government had any intentions of devaluing the French franc.

GAULLIST LEADER CALLS FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY TO EASE CRISIS

March 12 (IPS)—Gaullist leader Lucien Neuwirth called today for a "temporary income policy" to remedy the economic crisis by producing rapid economic development. Neuwirth, writing in today's French daily Le Monde, said that his proposal was similar to the growth policy implemented in 1958-59 by the first government of President Charles de Gaulle's Fifth Republic, after then Prime Minister Michel Debre, who still functions as a leading anti-Atlanticist Gaullist spokesman.

Neuwirth, who earlier this week charged that Interior Minister Poniatowski might have manipulated the vote tallies in last Sunday's first round cantonal elections, was subsequently demoted from his function as the official spokesman of the Gaullist UDR party when Atlanticist Premier Chirac created a new public relations post in the party.

(MORE)

GAULLIST GENERAL CALLS FOR GAULLIST, COMMUNIST VOTE AGAINST GISCARD

March 12 (IPS)—French General Binoche, former Commander of the French sector in Berlin and a leading anti-Atlanticist, has called on the French electorate to cast their votes, in next Sunday's second round of the nationwide county elections, "for the candidates who place the necessities of national independence above all other considerations," according to today's L'Humanite, the newspaper of the French Communist Party (PCF).

In a swipe at President Giscard's Independent Republicans, the center-right reformateurs group, and the Atlanticist Gaullist grouping centered around Prime Minister Chirac, General Binoche also urged voters to oppose the candidates "who, through the word "Europe" which they constantly mouth, serve the German-American interests and betray the memory of General de Gaulle, while boldly using his name as a reference."

ITALIAN METALWORKERS LEADER HITS U.S. "ECONOMIC BLACKMAIL"

TURIN, March 12 (IPS)—Speaking before a worker demonstration today in Turin, the socialist national secretary of the metal workers union (FLM), Sr. Tridenti, rejected the imposition of austerity on the Italian working class, and linked the class struggle in Italy to that of the European working class. "We cannot allow the United States to impose economic blackmail on us," Tridenti stated.

Clearly referring to the Italian Communist Party he continued: "there are some political forces that are willing to accept this blackmail in order to enter the government. These are the same political forces present in the city councils. They are not directly on the stage, but they manipulate everything and give orders too."

"We cannot," he stated, "accept this (austerity) policy which damages the working class, not only in Italy but in Germany, France, Sweden..." Reminding workers that economic measures alone are not enough to stop austerity he concluded: "The contracts (alone) do not defend the working class, after the contract, there will be no upswing."

The headline for the leaflet distributed by the FLM at the demonstration read: "Colombo, Agnelli and their lackeys are attacking chemical workers contracts. The FLM will do more."

FORD REITERATES HARD LINE TOWARD SOVIETS IN CHICAGO SPEECH

March 12 (IPS)—Speaking to the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations today on an Illinois campaign tour, President Ford reiterated his hardline confrontationist policy toward the Soviets and declared that the United States "must be prepared to meet challenges wherever and whenever they occur." the President added: "I am convinced that adequate spending for national defense is an insurance policy — an insurance policy for peace that we cannot afford to be without in today's world," according to the Chicago Daily News today. Ford also said that "one need only remember Pearl Harbor to know that weakness invites war."

According to WNWS radio in New York, Ford did not mention the word "detente" at all, instead referring several times to his alternate phrase, "peace through strength." WNWS also reports that Ford said that there may be no agreement on the second round of Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT II) this year, because, he said he would not sign any agreement that would compromise the United States or world peace.

Last night in Rockford, Illinois, President Ford repeated his Florida statement that the U.S. would oppose further Cuban or

KISSINGER ASSAILS SOVIETS, THIRD WORLD AND CRITICS BEFORE BOSTON WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL

March 12 (IPS)—Warning that the world lives in "the shadow of nuclear catastrophe" Secretary of State Henry Kissinger yesterday told the Boston World Affairs Council, "Moderation is a virtue only in those who are thought to have a choice," and warned that peaceful coexistence with the USSR "cannot, specifically, survive any more Angolas."

"In the age of thermonuclear weapons and strategic equality," Kissinger reiterated his determination to pursue a carrot-and-stick policy toward the Soviets: "We...face the necessity of a dual policy; on the one hand, we are determined to prevent Soviet military power from being used for political expansion, will firmly discourage and resist adventurist policies. But at the same time, we cannot escalate every political dispute into a central crisis... We have an obligation to work for a more positive future."

Kissinger lashed out at his domestic critics from the political left and right, demanding, "What do those who speak so glibly about one-way streets or pre-emptive concessions propose concretely that this country do? ...What level of confrontation do they seek? What threats would they make? What risks would they run?" Furthermore, he continued, "If one group of critics undermines arms control negotiations and cuts off the prospect of more constructive ties with the Soviet Union; while another group cuts away at our defense budgets and intelligence services and thwarts American resistance to Soviet adventurism... The result will be paralysis, no matter who wins in November."

Responding to European moves away from the Atlanticist orbit, Kissinger charged that if Communists participate in the government in Italy or France, "they would be tempted to orient their economies to a much greater extent toward the East. We would have to expect that West European governments in which Communists play a dominant role would at best, steer their countries' policies toward the positions of the nonaligned."

Accussing the nonaligned bloc of developing nations of "extortion" and "self-righteous rhetoric and adolescent posturing," the Secretary complained, "Nations which originally chose nonalignment to shield themselves from the pressures of global conditions have themselves formed a rigid, ideological, confrontationalist coalition of their own" which is challenging the U.S. in the international arena."

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Throughout his speech, Kissinger avoided the use of the word "detente," according to the New York Times today.

NIXON POINTS FINGER AT KISSINGER, HELMS ON CHILE COUP PLOT

March 12 (IPS)—In a sworn deposition made public yesterday, former President Richard Nixon claimed that he had no knowledge of CIA attempts to instigate a coup in Chile prior to Salvador Allende's accession to the presidency in the fall of 1970. Nixon admitted to authorizing funding and aid for anti-Allende forces in Chile at that time, as well as giving the CIA authorization to promote Allende's defeat in the Chilean Senate vote to certify his election, but not for a coup.

These statements directly contradict the testimony of Secretary of State Henry Kissinger (in 1970, Nixon's National Security Advisor) and then CIA-director Richard Helms, who claim that Nixon ordered a direct role for the CIA in organizing a coup. Nixon's deposition was printed in today's New York Times.

FORD EXPANDS INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY BOARD

March 12 (IPS)—President Ford yesterday announced yesterday an expansion of the Foreign Intelligence Advisor Board (FIAB), from ten to seventeen members, along with a de facto consolidation of the FIAB with his just-created White House Intelligence Oversight Committee. Among the new members of the FIAB are the three members of the Oversight Committee — Robert Murphy, Leo Cherne and Stephen Ailes, and Cherne will become the chairman of the FIAB.

The other new appointees to the FIAB include former Texas Governor John Connally, former Defense Secretary Melvin Laird, retired Gen. Lyman Lemnitzer, former Rep. Leslie Arends (R-Ill) and Democratic Party lawyer Edward Bennett Williams.

These, generally right-wing, appointees join the existing members of the FIAB, including former Ambassador to Italy Clare Booth Luce, American Security Council Chairman Robert Galvin, and physicist Edward Teller.

LEBANESE PRESIDENT REFUSES TO RESIGN AS SITUATION REMAINS TENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. March 12 (IPS)—Lebanese President Suleiman Franjeh is holed up in his Presidential palace surrounded by pro-government loyalist troops, and has refused to resign despite the announced seizure of power yesterday by Beirut General Abdel Aziz Ahdab, according to a recent British Broadcasting Corporation report.

While most army and air force units seem to have rallied behind Ahdab, Franjeh still retains the loyalty of several units, including those in his home town base of Zghorta in northern Lebanon, a Lebanese diplomatic source adds.

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The situation in Lebanon is described as tense. According to Voice of the German Democratic Republic radio this morning, "streets in Beirut are being patrolled by armed security guards." The Baltimore Sun today reports that Ahdab has given orders to the army to "shoot on the spot anyone engaged in subversive activities," without defining what these activities are.

SYRIANS INTRODUCING LEBANESE EXILE NETWORK INTO LEBANON TO INCREASE CONTROL

WASHINGTON, D.C. March 12 (IPS)—Declaring that "Syria is behind" Abdel Aziz Ahdab, the Beirut general who announced yesterday that he had seized power in Lebanon, a Lebanese diplomat revealed today that Syria is trying to import an entire network of military officers and intelligence agents into Lebanon to consolidate Damascus' control in the country. This network is named the "Chehabists" after their original leader, Faud Chehab, who was a top U.S.-linked agent in the period following the U.S. Marine invasion of Lebanon in 1958.

According to the diplomatic source, the Chehabists are embittered by their forced withdrawal from Lebanon in 1970 following the accession to power of current President Franjeh. At that time the Chehabists fled into Syria.

Now, the source says, the Syrians hope to use Chehabist bitterness against Franjeh as a means of imposing order in Lebanon, with the Chehabists seen as the only "coherent, viable political machine" available.

The diplomat said that, up to this point, the right-wing Franjeh is resisting the Ahdab coup.

MAPAM THREATENING TO RESIGN FROM GOVERNMENT COALITION

March 12 (IPS)—The left-leaning Mapam Party has threatened to pull out of the current coalition government of Prime Minister Rabin in Israel in protest against the regime's handling of the West Bank issue, the West German newspaper, Sueddeutsche Zeitung, reports today. According to the Zeitung, Mapam is demanding government eviction of right-wing, Israeli religious settlers from the Kadoun area of the Israeli-occupied West Bank territory. Until now, under pressure from right-wingers like Israeli Defense Shimon Peres, Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin has refused to move against the settlers, whose presence in Kadoun has fueled the recent unrest in various West Bank municipalities.

A faction in Mapam had announced last week that it was supporting protest actions by Israeli Arabs against government expropriation of Arab-owned land in Galilee in northern Israel. The planned protest actions are being coordinated by the Israeli Communist Party.

(MORE)

WEST BANK UNREST SPREADS

March 12 (IPS)--Arab mayors from four have resigned from their posts, in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, in what is regarded as the "most serious crisis on the occupied Jordanian West Bank since 1967," the Los Angeles Times reports today. According to the Times, the spreading unrest in the Israeli-occupied territory has jeopardized Israeli "self-rule" schemes actively pushed by both former Defense Minister Moshe Dayan and current Defense Minister Shimon Peres. In fact, the paper concludes, the threat of direct Israeli rule of the territory is growing and such rule would be "an admission of Israeli defeat."

According to wire service reports, fighting in the West Bank has escalated over the past 24 hours, with Israeli troops breaking up demonstrations by Arab students protesting the increased activity by right-wing Israeli religious groups in the West Bank area. According to the reports, individuals within the student ranks have exacerbated the confrontations by throwing stones and debris at the Israeli police forces.

GREEK CP REPORTS SOVIET PUSH FOR REORGANIZATION OF WORLD ECONOMY

March 12 (IPS)--"The Soviet Union is committed to the reorganization of international economic relations on a just and equal basis which will allow for a broader and expanded cooperation among all peoples for the principle of the peaceful coexistence," wrote yesterday's Rizospastis, the newspaper of the pro-Moscow Greek Communist Party (KKE) in a long feature article on the Soviet-Third World offensive for a new world economic order. Rizospastis said that "the Soviet Union, meeting its internationalist tasks, is helping the developing countries in their fight against neo-colonialism and imperialism," and "for independence in international economic relations and social progress."

The article, which marks the first time that Rizospastis has reported the stepped-up Soviet push for closer economic ties with the Third World coincides with the recent return of KKE General Secretary Florakis from Moscow where he participated in the 25th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Rizospastis gives a detailed report on Soviet assistance to India and Iraq, and expanded Soviet relations with Asian, Latin American, and African countries.

PRAVDA SAYS DEBT TO WEST IS CAUSE OF EGYPT'S CRISIS

March 12 (IPS)--The Soviet Communist daily Pravda of March 10 stated that Treasury Secretary William Simon visited Egypt to enforce a "Marshal Plan" on that country, which would mean "political, economic and military dependence on the U.S." Pravda also said that Egypt's economic crisis is largely due to the catastrophic increase of its foreign debt over the last two years.

Although Egypt owes several billion dollars to the Soviet Union for military aid, this debt was incurred before 1970, and the Soviets have been lenient on repayments.

ISRAELI COMMUNIST PARTY AND PLO DELEGATIONS MEET IN MOSCOW

March 12 (IPS)--Meir Vilner, General Secretary of the Israel Communist Party, announced on a Jerusalem radio broadcast that an Israeli CP delegation met with a Palestine Liberation Organization delegation headed by Foreign Affairs Minister Farouk Kaddoumi while both delegations were in Moscow for the 25th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party, according to yesterday's French daily Le Monde.

Vilner said the talks were very encouraging: "The PLO representatives affirmed that they wanted to create a Palestinian State which would be the neighbor fo the Israeli state, and not replace it." Vilner emphasized that the "PLO does not want to establish its state in place of Israel, but beside Israel."

GREEK, TURKISH, CYPRIOT CP'S ISSUE JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON CYPRUS

March 12 (IPS)--In a communique issued following joint meetings at the 25th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party and printed in Rizospastis, the newspaper of the Greek Communist Party, the top leaders of the Greek, Cypriot, and Turkish Communist Parties have condemned "American imperialists" for attempting to convert the island of Cyprus into a "nuclear arsenal." The communique, which dealt with Cyprus and the Aegean area in general, also blasted "Turkish reactionary leading circles" for preventing a resolution to the Cyprus problem within the terms agreed upon by the United Nations.

The three parties agreed on coordinated activities, with the objective of a just solution in Cyprus and the restoration of unity of the Cypriot population through strengthened ties between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities, and on developing friendly relations between the Greek and Turkish peoples. The statement is the first officially issued jointly by the three parties.

ABERNATHY SUPPORTS DEBT MORATORIUM

YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO, March 12 (IPS)--The Reverend Ralph Abernathy, Director of the Southern Christian Leadership Council, said here last night that he supports debt moratorium and is considering doing joint work around this program with the U.S. Labor Party. Abernathy made his remarks at Youngstown State University (Ohio) during an open house sponsored by the school's Black Student Association.

CAREY ORDERS STATE POLICE "DRAGNET"

March 12 (IPS)--New York Governor Hugh Carey and Assembly Speaker Stanley Steingut (D-Bkln) dispatched State Troopers last night to set up a "dragnet" round up of enough Assemblymen to pass a bill to prevent the State Dormitory Authority from defaulting on 30 billion dollars in notes today. The bill, finally passed by a vote of 77-3 at 2:00 A.M. this morning, and permits the State Insurance Fund to roll over the notes.

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The bill failed on its first call because, according to the New York Times Assembly rules require an absolute majority of the entire Assembly to approve a bill, and opponents of the measure had demanded a roll call blocking Steingut's attempt to manufacture a quorum by recording "yea" votes from empty chairs.

"Minutes later," today's New York Post reports, "an ashen-faced Steingut ordered the doors to the underground legislative parking garage sealed, toll gates to the Thruway barred to legislators, and State Troopers set out to haul back assemblymen who managed to slip through the dragnet. 'We got them locked in,' gloated gubernatorial aide Alex Zetlin," according to the Post account, which credited Zetlin with directing the dragnet operations.

The Post also reported that "the one Assembly telephone operator left at the Capitol began calling motels, restaurants, and bars... thruway restaurants were alerted."

Also on hand to urge passage of the bailout was Assembly Majority Leader Albert Blumenthal, who flew into Albany to cast his "yea" after being indicted in New York on bribery charges by a special state anti-corruption prosecutor the day before.

Reporting that Steingut is on the verge of losing control of his Democratic majority in the Assembly, the Post said that a "Democratic revolt, fueled by anger at cuts in social services, threatens to force Steingut to rely on GOP votes to pass Carey's (austerity) budget in the Assembly next week." "We didn't have the votes," the Post quoted Steingut as having said "several times in a small voice" last night.

NY ASSEMBLYMAN CHARGES NAZI TACTICS IN BAILOUT VOTE LAST NIGHT

NEW YORK, March 12 (IPS)—New York State Assemblyman Joseph Ferris (D-Bkln) charged today that the tactics used by Governor Hugh Carey and Assembly Speaker Stanley Steingut to get votes to pass a bailout of the State Dormitory Authority last night were "reminiscent of Nazi Germany."

Today's New York Post said that Ferris, one of three assemblymen to oppose the bill, was shouted down by pro-austerity legislators and then gavelled out of order by Steingut when he took the floor to speak against the measure in last night's "riotous session."

Ferris confirmed today that the Legislature is being put under tremendous pressure to pass the governor's 2.6 billion re-financing package for the state agencies as well as his "zero-growth" austerity budget as soon as possible. "We don't know... except for very vague points ... what we're being asked to pass," Ferris said. He also said that he had voted against the use of the State Employee Retirement funds to bail out state agencies yesterday and was very concerned about the investment of pension funds in the faltering agencies. Ferris also charged that an endless number of bills are being sent to legislators' desks market "urgent," with no time allowed for discussion of what the bills would actually do.

(MORE)

BUFFALO BOND RATING DROPPED

March 12 (IPS)--Hoody's investors' service has dropped its ratings of Buffalo, N.Y., municipal bonds from BAA to BA, while Standard and Poors, the nation's other major bond rating service, is refusing to rate Buffalo securities at all, according to the Buffalo Evening News. Buffalo narrowly escaped bankruptcy earlier this week.

CITIBANK HEAD WARNS PRESS IT FACES CENSORSHIP

March 12 (IPS)--Accusing the U.S. press of "undermining faith in the future and the country's survival," Citibank chairman Walter Wriston told an audience at the University of Chicago last night that if the press does not discipline itself, then some outside force will have to discipline it.

Today's Chicago Sun Times reported the statement by Wriston, who heads the nation's second largest bank.

HUMPHREY-CARTER TICKET PROBABLE DEMOCRAT CHOICE

March 12 (IPS)--New York Times columnist James Reston today announced that Senator Henry Jackson has little chance of winning the Democratic nomination for president and that a ticket headed by Senator Hubert Humphrey, with Jimmy Carter for vice president, is most likely to be chosen by the Democrats -- to pull together a "grand Roosevelt coalition." If Democrats "have to choose between Mr. Jackson, who divides the party on foreign policy and Humphrey, who has been Mr. Kissinger's most effective supporter in the Senate," Reston writes, "they might very very well go to a Humphrey-Carter ticket."

Reston's Times colleague Tom Wicker, in his column, agreed Jackson's chances for winning the nomination are slim.

KISSINGER RIGHT-HAND MAN NAMED IN MIDEAST LEAK

March 12 (IPS)--Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs Alfred Atherton, Jr. has been officially identified by the State Department as the person who leaked transcripts of top-secret negotiations carried on between Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and Mideast leaders last year, according to a New York Times story today. The leaked information formed the basis of the article on Kissinger's shuttle diplomacy in the current issue of Foreign Policy magazine. The Times noted that Atherton is extremely close to Kissinger, a fact which, the paper says, lends credibility to the belief that Kissinger personally authorized the leak. The Times added that "the rather mild disciplinary action of a reprimand" of Atherton indicates that "Mr. Kissinger was personally involved in the inquiry (of who leaked the data) and felt that Mr. Atherton's motivation was not malicious."

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NEW YORK BANKS "NOT PLEASED" AT BRITISH BUDGET DEFEAT

NEW YORK, March 12 (IPS)—"Well, we're not pleased about to say the least," said a loan officer at Chase Manhattan Bank today, commenting on the British Parliament's rejection of the 12 billion proposed spending cuts in the Wilson government's 1977-79 White Paper.

"The stupid White Paper business is this," the chase Manhattan off officer continued. "it's like a supermarket that doubles its prices one week, then cuts them by one eighth the next week and announces a big sale. The government projected a certain level of spending in 1974, wildly overspent in 1975, then tried to cut back a little in 1976, and they can't even get through. I tell you, it's all very depressing."

An economist at Manufacturers Hanover Trust observed, "after yesterday, it seems sort of like Italy. The problems of the currency fluctuations themselves could be sorted out, but now the danger is if a feeling of government paralysis appears on top of all this. I think that people here will get that feeling, if things are not straightened out in a week or so in Britain."

Two weeks ago both officers had been very optimistic about the prospects for a British recovery.

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