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Atlanticists Push for Fascist Austerity As Factions Fight Over Kissinger Confrontation Policy

WASHINGTON, DC, March 27 (IPS) — The U.S. Atlanticists moved into the U.S. Congress late last week with an eleventh hour austerity package designed to create the necessary mechanisms for a global "Big MAC" arrangement, with the critical March 31 international debt payments period now only days away. And while Wall Street's sages concurred on the immediate goal of Schachtian police states in the U.S. and Western Europe, a faction fight broke out in Atlanticist circles over Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's insane crusade on behalf of the Rockefeller interests to confront the Soviet Union in the Third World.

On March 23, Senator Kennedy (D-Mass) keynoted a broad institutional assault against Kissinger which included the New York and Chicago Councils on Foreign Relations, subdivisions of the U.S. State Department, significant sections of the Congress, and the Democratic National Platform Committee. This anti-Kissinger movement, initiated by 86-year-old Democratic Party power broker Averell Harriman and Wall Street banker George Ball, represents their factional attempt to redefine Atlanticist vital interests as focused around the Atlantic alliance, thus halting the risk of war with the Warsaw Pact over contested points in the Third World. On this basis, the Ball-Harriman clique hopes to sneak through the rest of the year by wielding the senile wizardry of old Soviet-manipulator Harriman. The 86 year old patrician will be sent out to personally convince the Soviets that fascism in Western Europe is no threat to the Soviets.

The criminal stupidity of this policy is its pathological delusion that either the Warsaw Pact, or the working classes and anti-Atlanticist forces of the U.S. and Western Europe will accept the provocative imposition of Schachtian police states. The Soviets have already warned the Atlanticists against making the assumption that they will passively accept a fascist Europe. The head of the USSR's U.S.-Canada Institute, Georgii Arbatov, warned on Soviet television this week that the present foreign policy of the Ford Administration is "if you want peace, to prepare for war." "Wholehearted preparation for war can make war inevitable," Arbatov said.

Thus, while the debate between the Harriman-Ball forces and Kissinger bears a formal resemblance to the fight over Kissinger-Rockefeller Hilex 75 nuclear confrontation policy in December-January, this month's battle is a caricature of that fight: the Harriman-Ball policy of militarization of Western Europe is now the Soviet's tripwire.

Nevertheless Treasury Secretary William Simon trotted out before a paralyzed U.S. Congress March 26 to issue an hysterical plea to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for swift action on proposed legislation that would put

Western Europe under Wall Street receivership. The OECD "safety net" which Simon was urging would give Wall Street centralized control over internal policy decisions of European governments with respect to realizing what Simon called the most "stringent austerity." Simon's last minute push for a fascist looting mechanism for Europe followed by one day the quiet, final passage by Congress of the Rodino-Edwards Municipal Bankruptcy Act. The bill will make New York City and other municipalities explicit bankers' dictatorships when they default.

The passage of the fascist bankruptcy bill on March 25 makes the Atlanticists' immediate tactic explicit: with a massive run on European currencies scheduled by the New York banks to commence March 29, Wall Street will move to force both the Europeans and the U.S. Congress to accept Simon's safety net — a global Big MAC. New York City will emerge as the exemplary model of this planned bankers' dictatorship.

The Atlanticists' fascist push is also forcing the issue in the paralyzed U.S. Congress, where the typical view that no significant legislation will be enacted until November 5 is now converging on the reality that the world economy is about to bust. The Simon "safety net" scheme and its companion piece, the increasingly discredited fascist Humphrey-Hawkins bill and the Rodino-Edwards Act, not only expose the Atlanticist explicit cravings for fascism — with or without a "human face" — but will also call the question on a reluctant Congress. The Atlanticists have helped make the choices for the legislators crystal clear: The U.S. Congress will be a battleground this week in which both the Atlanticist call for fascism and the working class demand for real debt moratorium legislation and adoption of the U.S. Labor Party's International Development Bank proposal will be on the table.

Simon's Eleventh Hour Plea

Treasury Secretary Simon's eleventh hour testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee was accompanied by extreme arm-twisting typified by an hysterical concurrent resolution initiated by Senator Edward Brooke (R-Mass) and cosigned by Senators Humphrey (D-Minn), Domenici (R-NM), Fong (R-Hawaii) and Case (R-NJ). The Brooke resolution warned that if the OECD "safety net" is not quickly passed, the Western European trouble spot, Italy, would go "Communist." Claiming that the existence of NATO is at stake, the resolution charged that without the "safety net," the Communist Party of Italy would enter the government and subvert it. Under this pressure, Case who had been fingered by the State Department as the swing vote in the committee, not only indicated he would vote for the safety net bill but signed the resolution.

Simon, accompanied by his top goons Gerald Parsky, Assistant Secretary for Monetary Affairs, and Charles Robinson, Undersecretary of State for Economic Affairs, warned of the imminent European financial crisis and the necessity for the most "stringent austerity." In the question period the depth of the crisis was opened up. Senator Symington (D-Mo) responded, "I began becoming suspicious about all these guarantees years ago." "As we know, the federal government is in worse shape than New York City." Case gave this reason for his support of the legislation, "I still want to sound a somewhat sour note . . . We may have to do these things to prevent the collapse of the capitalist system, but I don't like these things . . ."

Congress Backs Off From Humphrey-Hawkins

Counterbalancing the Wall Street lobbying push, Congress was beginning last week to be shaken out of its paralysis by a nationwide USLP assault on the corporatist Humphrey-Hawkins bill. Key congressional offices of such legislators as Tip O'Neill (D-Mass), majority leader of the House, and Abner Mikva (D-Ill), indicated that they had originally sponsored the bill but were now having second thoughts. On the Senate side, Senators Stevenson's (D-Ill) and Tunney's (D-Calif) offices reported that they were opposed to the bill. With key layers of the Democratic Party deserting, the sinking fascist ship, the office of Rep. Henry Reuss (D-Wisc), one of the official co-sponsors of the bill, said that the only lawmaker pushing the bill is Humphrey himself, and even Reuss was now backing off from it. (See special report on Labor Party mobilization against Humphrey-Hawkins)

The original gameplan around the Humphrey Hawkins bill, according to Congressional circles, was to push the bill through the House and Senate by mid to late spring and have President Ford veto the legislation during the period of the Democratic and Republican conventions for maximum political effect. AFL-CIO sources reported that they had already concluded a deal on the Senate side for speedy passage. However, by the time the already crippled bill is heard by Rep. Daniels' (D-NJ) subcommittee on April 6, the USLP mobilization has insured that there will be few Congressmen willing to openly join a crusade for the fascist legislation.

Fight Over Confrontation With Soviets

The faction fight in the Atlanticist ranks broke out under the extreme pressure of the March 31 roll-over deadline. Speaking in Dallas, March 22, Secretary of State Kissinger told the World Affairs Council that the U.S. intends to provoke military confrontations "on the regional level" to halt Soviet and Cuban "expansionism." "The U.S. will not accept further Cuban military intervention abroad" without retaliation, the Secretary declared. Administration spokesmen meanwhile "leaked" reports that high level discussions were taking place about action "contingencies" against Cuba. Kissinger himself refused to rule a possible U.S. invasion.

Speaking at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania on March 24, George Ball, the Lehman Brothers Wall Street strategist, outlined basic policy guidelines in opposition to the explicit Kissinger push toward walking the thermonuclear tightrope. Ball, responding to Kissinger's war threats Monday night in Dallas, called for the elimination of all proxy skirmishes such as Angola, and said that Western Europe is more important to the U.S. than the Third World, and that U.S. vital interests are restricted to Europe, Japan and Israel. Following Kennedy's remarks to the Senate, Ball claimed that the essential U.S. interests lay in strengthening the European Economic Community internally in order to stop the "anarchy in France and Italy." He also emphasized that the Italian and French Communist Parties have broken their

ties to "Moscow."

On this signal, a section of Harriman's desperate faction were activated to announce their support for a new era of containment" and to denounce Kissinger's adventurism and threats. Amidst an escalating barrage of press attacks on U.S. foreign policy calling for Kissinger's head, the April issue of Foreign Affairs, the mouthpiece of the New York Council on Foreign Relations, charged Kissinger with complete policy failures in Angola, Italy and the Middle East. On cue, Harriman-controlled stable Democrat presidential candidates Senator Frank Church and Jimmy Carter attacked Kissinger for irresponsible war provocations. On the congressional side, Senators McGovern (D-ND), and Clark (D-Iowa), and Representatives Bingham (D-NY) and Rangel (D-NY) all launched broadsides into Kissinger.

By the weekend the attacks expanded from Kissinger to his employer Vice-President Nelson Rockefeller. While Rockefeller was out of the country on a "world tour" Saturday's Washington Post carried reports from Woodward and Bernstein's new book on Nixon's last days in the White House. Woodward and Bernstein, the key press conduits in the CIA's watergating of Nixon assert that Kissinger had taped all his phone calls in the White House and deposited them with Rockefeller for "safekeeping." Tomorrow's edition of Newsday and the Chicago Sun Times publishes exposés of illegal Rockefeller use of the New York State Police gestapo apparatus during his tenure as governor.

Under this multi-faceted institutional attack Rockefeller-Kissinger forces maintained a slim grip on the National Security Council and high-level State Department policy positions, principally through their continued manipulation of President Ford. After losing the North Carolina primary to Rockefeller-puppet Ronald Reagan, Ford was primed by his new Rockefeller-linked campaign manager Stuart Spencer to deliver an anti-detente, anti-Cuba speech in San Francisco yesterday in which he reiterated Kissinger's threats about Cuba.

Harriman, however, is instigating a series of high-level policy meetings involving nearly all pro-Harriman personnel in the cabal this coming week which are aimed at finishing off the Kissinger confrontationist policy once and for all. Of significance, is a four day symposium sponsored by the Harriman-controlled American Assembly at Arden House in Harriman, N.Y. on "U.S.-Soviet relations" and trade with the Eastbloc. Attending will be Soviet and European specialists including think tanker Marshall Shulman, Trilateral Commission director and Soviet "expert" Zbigniew Brzezinski, Kissinger's second-in-command at the State Department Helmut Sonnenfeldt, and Harriman himself. Following these policy discussions, Averell will go on an organizing tour of Western Europe.

The so-called policy debate is taking place in an unreal world. The Soviets have already made it clear that the imposition of Schachtian policy state regimes in Western Europe will go past their tripwire, and trigger a nuclear first strike on the U.S. and Europe. The Ball-Harriman grouping contends that the Soviets can be tricked into accepting such conditions while NATO goes into a massive arms build-up. If that happens, by no later than 1977 they will be prepared to go to war to force the looting of the East Bloc for Wall Street. The "debate," in its most elementary form, is over whether to confront the Soviets now with an empty pistol or attempt to sneak fascism into the U.S. and Western Europe through this year and confront the Soviets with a half-loaded pistol in 1977. Therefore, both Atlanticist factions must be eliminated during the coming period of mass strikes in the U.S. and Europe if the human race is to avoid nuclear annihilation.