



NEW SOLIDARITY International Press Service

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LATE EVENING NEWS ROUND-UP
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 1976 2030 HOURS EST

I. PRIORITIES

PRIORITY ITEMS

ASSAD WARNED ON "AMERICAN SCHEME"

FRANKFURT, W. Germany, April 14 (IPS)--While the Soviet Union "has so far kept a low profile" in Lebanon, they "now act more forcefully," according to the Beirut correspondent of the Armed Forces Network as reported in an AFN broadcast today. As confirmed by the AFN office in Frankfurt, the broadcast stated that "Leftist press in Beirut reports that three Soviet officials are in Damascus right now to warn Syria not to slip into an American scheme."

AFN also cited a UPI report stating that the Soviets sent an emissary to Damascus to sound out the Damascus government on its future role in the Lebanese conflict.

SOVIET AMBASSADOR MEETS LEFT AND RESISTANCE IN LEBANON

April 14 (IPS)--Lebanese leftist leader Kamal Jumblatt and Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat held a meeting with Alexander Soldatov, the Soviet ambassador to Lebanon, two days ago, according to European press accounts today.

According to WINS radio in New York today, Jumblatt has invited a Soviet delegation to Lebanon.

ASSAD UNDER FIRE FROM IRAQ

April 14 (IPS)--The front-page editorial of the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung today reported the growing weakness and likely overthrow of the regime of Syrian President Hafez Assad in the face of growing Iraqi influence inside both Lebanon and Syria: "Syrian influence is disintegrating throughout the Arab world and Palestinian groups....Internationally Assad is being denounced as a U.S. agent by progressive Arab countries."

Last night Radio Baghdad attacked Assad and his policy of coordinating his move into Lebanon with the U.S. Ambassador to Damascus. Similarly, the Palestine Liberation Organization also denounced Assad this week for his collaboration with the U.S., Israel and Jordan against the Lebanese left.

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PLO CHARGES SYRIAN ROLE IN NEW "BLACK SEPTEMBER" PLOT

April 14 (IPS)--Falastin al-Thawra, the official publication of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), charged in a major editorial that Syria is in direct collaboration with Israel, Jordan and the U.S. to organize a new "Black September" massacre of the Palestinian left in Lebanon.

According to Palestinian sources, any attempt by Syria to wipe out the Palestinians in Lebanon, as was done in Jordan by Jordanian King Hussein in 1971, will lead to the collapse of Syrian President Hafez Assad. "Syria is not Jordan. In Syria there is strong Arab nationalism, and, if Assad went ahead with any Black September move, it would mean that Syrian army generals would make a coup."

PALESTINIANS DEMONSTRATE IN SOUTH LEBANON AGAINST SYRIAN OCCUPATION

April 14 (IPS)--Thousands of Lebanese and Palestinians voiced their disapproval of the Syrian invasion of Lebanon today, conducting large demonstrations in the southern Lebanese port towns of Tyre and Sidon, both heavily populated by Communists and Iraqi Baathists, according to today's New York Post.

East German radio also reports that there are general strikes throughout southern Lebanon, protesting schemes to partition the country.

U.S. FLEET MOVES TOWARD LEBANON

April 14 (IPS)--The U.S. aircraft carrier Saratoga, accompanied by two torpedo boats and ten warships, is moving into the eastern Mediterranean, according to Radio Prague today. In addition, Israeli paratroopers had maneuvers near the Lebanese border today, the Czech radio stated.

Radio Prague also reported heavy fighting in Beirut and suburbs, reporting that 50 are dead in fighting yesterday and today.

ISRAELI HAWK IN FACTIONAL MOVES, AIMS TO BECOME PRIME MINISTER

BONN, W. Germany, April 14 (IPS)--According to a spokesman of the German-Israeli Society today, Israeli Defense Minister Shimon Peres is now moving under a one to two month timetable to pull the faction controlled by former Minister of Defense Rafi out of the ruling MAPAI Party into direct collaboration with the extreme right-wing Likud Party. Stating that Peres is aiming to create a government crisis in which he would become Prime Minister, the same spokesman said that such Peres moves are "dangerous for Israel, the Middle East and the world."

KISSINGER: "MIDEAST COULD EXPLODE TOMORROW"

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 14 (IPS)--Speaking before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee today, Secretary of State Henry Kissinger stated that the Syrian troop deployments into Lebanon "are getting

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close to the borderline" of Israeli tolerance, adding that passions remain high throughout the country and that the situation "could explode tomorrow." Kissinger then concluded that the Israelis, who have been tightly coordinating their operations with Syria through the State Department, do not see the Syrian invasion as a threat to their security--"but it is a situation that bears watching."

SOVIET DAILY ATTACKS ATLANTICIST PUSH FOR THERMONUCLEAR WAR

April 14 (IPS)--In an article sharply criticizing West German Atlanticists' rhetoric about the so-called Soviet threat, the Soviet daily Sovetskaya Rossiya has warned that "realistic politicians in the West should stop playing detente while simultaneously playing nuclear war."

Excerpts from the article were carried by the West German daily Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung today.

IL FIORINO CALLS FOR TYING LIRA TO RUBLE

April 14 (IPS)--The Italian financial daily Il Fiorino today suggested aligning the Italian lira with the Soviet ruble as a possible solution to the lira's uncontrollable fall to nearly 900 to the dollar on the Western foreign exchange markets. "According to these conceptions," Fiorino states, "there is only one solution, which is to abolish the (foreign exchange) market and fix the value of the lira by authority. We could, for example, align it with the ruble and give it a fictitious parity vis-a-vis the dollar. Ultimately, it is enough to be contented with the type of life that the lira can have with the ruble and to get rid of every black marketeer who insists on behaving on the exchange market more or less in the same way that taxi drivers do in Moscow."

CORRIERE DELLA SERA REPORTS "RUMORS OF DEBT MORATORIA" IN ITALY

April 14 (IPS)--Following the further collapse of the Italian lira on foreign exchange markets since the beginning of the week, yesterday's daily Corriere della Sera reported that "the Bank of Italy wants to make the lira fall...(since) the devaluation serves to not having to pay internal debts." On the other hand, Corriere continues, "there is increasing credit being given to the rumors of an imminent declaration of debt moratorium by Italy" against foreign loans.

The paper reported that Italy will have to pay a large part of its 2 billion dollars in debts this next September and that "since the money does not exist, we will be forced to ask for the suspension of (debts) from our creditors."

AGNELLI PANICKED OVER HINT OF DEBT MORATORIUM

MILAN, April 14 (IPS)--Gianni Agnelli, Fiat owner and president of Confindustria (industrial association), stated today that he does not think Italy is becoming a Latin American country. "As banking experts have indicated, the condition of the economy is better

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than what the exchange of the lira or the Bourse (stock exchange) indicate." Agnelli made his statements in an interview published today in the respected Italian daily Corriere della Sera. To stress his point, Agnelli stated that "not even the lira at (an exchange value of) 900 lire per dollar is a disaster if you do not consider it to be so," also assuring the public that "we will have a lot of foreign tourists" in Italy this year. Finally he pleaded that "all can be saved: it is enough to have the will."

These statements, which come one day after Corriere published an article reporting "rumors of a declaration of a debt moratorium" by Italy on foreign loans, have, according to reliable sources here, spread a wave of panic that Agnelli is seeking to quiet.

BUSH SAYS CIA WILL CONTINUE TO PLOT LATIN AMERICAN COUPS

April 14 (IPS)--Under the front-page headline "Bush Refuses to Discard Further Toppling of Governments by the cia," the Mexican daily Excelsior today reports CIA director George Bush said that "The U.S. should be in a condition to carry out espionage operations abroad," during a speech by Bush at Harvard University School for Business Administration luncheon yesterday. Speaking about CIA involvement in Chile during the Allende regime, Bush refused to discard the possibility of any further CIA involvement in "similar activities," noting that "each case should be examined separately."

FEDERAL RESERVE IN A MAJOR MOBILIZATION TO RESCUE THE DOLLAR

NEW YORK, April 14 (IPS)--Wall Street's assault on European currencies, now in its fourth month, has so shaken the bankrupt dollar that the Federal Reserve Bank has launched an all-out effort to calm international speculation down. Foreign exchange traders in New York report that over the past five to six days the New York Federal Reserve Bank has been briefing them regularly on the "basic strength" of the U.S. dollar in an effort to postpone massive dumping of the currency. This comes on top of last week's record dollar-absorption operation of 2.2 billion dollars by the Federal Reserve to sop up a flood of unwanted dollars from the markets, which resulted directly from both the currency speculation and the collapse of international trade and production.

Most immediately, last week's pound crisis--engineered by Wall Street Atlanticists as a way to trigger spillover forced devaluations of the French franc and other weaker European currencies--has brought the monetary system to a breaking point. The bankrupt Bank of England has spent 1.8 billion dollars of its reserves (which are entirely borrowed) in sterling support operations since March 1, and the pound is still extremely vulnerable to a run. Since Monday, the U.S. financial press has conducted a campaign to calm speculators by declaring that the pound is undervalued and should not go down any further. Currently, Britain's borrowed dollar reserves are helping that country to finance the government's debt.

Meanwhile, in Denmark the government debt market has collapsed completely due to the pressure on the currency and outflow of cap-

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ital. The government has so far sold only one-half billion Danish kroner worth of the 19 billion kroner government debt issue that it has recently floated. The only way the government will be able to sell more debt is through increased dollar borrowings and further interventions on behalf of its currency.

ONE-THIRD OF PATIENTS AT BOSTON CITY HOSPITAL SUFFER MALNUTRITION

April 14 (IPS)--A team of Massachusetts Institute of Technology Department of Nutrition researchers working in conjunction with Deaconess Hospital in Boston have discovered that fully one-third of all patients at Boston City Hospital are suffering from malnutrition. According to yesterday's Boston Globe, the situation is so grave that the resistance of many patients to the myriad of infectious diseases prevalent in the hospital threatens to collapse completely. The researchers' report states that the overworked staff at the city hospital virtually ignores the evidence of the depletion of the human beings they are treating and that normal precautions against malnutrition, such as intravenous feeding, are simply not being employed.

MALNUTRITION HITS DETROIT'S CHILDREN

DETROIT, April 14 (IPS)--Yesterday's Detroit News reports that over 110,000 women, children and infants in Detroit are officially known to be suffering from malnutrition. The article further states that rickets, a bone-deforming disease linked to Vitamin D deprivation, is becoming prevalent among the affected children.

FBI FILES SHOW NCLC LEADERS ON EMERGENCY DETENTION INDEX

NEW YORK, April 14 (IPS)--Files received today from the FBI by two leaders of the National Caucus of Labor Committees show that the entire leadership of the National Caucus of Labor Committees is on the FBI's Security Index of persons to be picked up and detained during a "national emergency," a spokesman for the organization said here tonight. Heavily-edited FBI files, released under the Freedom of Information Act, were received today by National Caucus of Labor Committees National Executive member Nancy Spannaus, editor-in-chief of New Solidarity, and by Edward Spannaus, former Director of Organization of the National Caucus of Labor Committees. According to the files, both Spannauses had been put on the Administrative Index (ADEX), a security list, in late 1974. Last fall, Rep. Kastenmeier (D-Wisc) released documents showing that the FBI had continued to keep the security index even after the 1971 repeal of Sen. Hubert Humphrey's (D-Minn) "Emergency Detention Act of 1950," which legalized the establishment of political concentration camps in the U.S. during national emergencies.

The list today is obviously mostly National Caucus of Labor Committee members, the spokesman continued, since the NCLC was being added to the list at the time when 90 per cent of the names previously on it were being dropped. At the end of 1975, the list contained only 1,250 names, down from 13,000 in 1972. Although the GAO report claims that the ADEX list was terminated in January 1976, a call to Kastenmeier's subcommittee elicited a skeptical response to this claim.

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The Labor Party's Freedom-of-Information Act suit against Attorney General Edward Levi and FBI Director Clarence Kelley will now be amended to include the detention list disclosures.

SCHLESINGER REITERATES COLD WAR CALL

April 14 (IPS)--Reiterating his recent call for a return to Cold War with the Soviets, former Defense Secretary James R. Schlesinger said last night that the meaning of detente is no longer "mutual reconciliation and the gradual normalization of relations." It is now evident, Schlesinger said, that "detente means precious little regarding policy specifics....Soviet doctrine precludes a serious approach to mutual accommodation that satisfactorily protects the interests of Western Civilization." If detente really amounts only to avoiding nuclear war, Schlesinger said, it differs little from "the Cold War period."

Mr. Schlesinger made the remarks during a speech at Harvard University, according to the Washington Post today.

End of Late IPS for April 14, 1976 2030 Hours EST