

France — out of the U.S. orbit, certain pro-Carter circles in lower Manhattan and Washington have been tempted to revive the old idea of an alliance between the forces around François Mitterrand, the leader of the French Socialist Party, and the Centrists and Independent Republicans supporting the President and his sidekick Interior Minister Michel Poniatowski. This scheme, known to be a favorite of (for example) the new U.S. National Security Advisor Z. Brzezinski, would be to outflank the Gaullists and their allies on the “left.” The conservative *Le Figaro* expressed a widely held view last week in speaking of “objective connivance” between the Independent Republicans and Mitterrand to oppose the threat of the Chirac candidacy.

Gaullist spokesmen have already taken steps to discredit such schemes and to force the hapless Mitterrand into the embarrassing position of running against Chirac — if he dares — in the Gaullist stronghold of Paris. Following Poniatowski’s attacks on Chirac’s decision to run for mayor as favoring an opposition victory, RPR vice-president Yves Guéna accused the Interior Minister of having “unavowable motivations,” — i.e., of conspiring with the Socialist Party against the Gaullists. Chirac said on radio that should the Union of the Left (Communist and Socialist Parties) win the 1978 legislative elections, President Giscard should resign rather than adopt the “unconstitutional” course of appointing a Socialist Prime Minister.

Italian Metalworkers Contract Demands Conversion to Tractor Production

ITALY

On Jan. 21 in Turin the National Coordinating Committee of FIAT — 450 delegated representatives for more than 800,000 metalworkers (FLM) — overwhelmingly approved a negotiating platform for contract negotiations with FIAT. The series of negotiations which will begin at the first week of February is the first important private sector negotiations of the year. The FIAT negotiations form the precedent for all other private employees negotiations.

The platform — which has been unusually under-reported by the Italian press — calls for partial conversion of auto production to produce tractors for Third World export; emphasizes the importance of nuclear power development, and stresses the primacy of overall

technological development in the context of an expanding industrial economy.

The most complete reportage to date of the platform comes from the FIAT-controlled press the Turinese daily, *La Stampa*. On Jan. 27 *La Stampa* “synthesizes” the Investment and Policy statement, neglecting to report the key issues in the platform. *La Stampa* reported: “FLM asks to be advised of the lines and programs of FIAT investments in Italy and abroad, with particular regard to the division of labor between Italian plants and foreign plants. In reference to December’s FIAT-Libya deal, the platform calls for “the examination and use of the increased capital acquired to be used wherever possible for Mezzogiorno investments.”

La Stampa then reports briefly on plans for reconversion of car to autobus production and “hypotheses for development of IVECO (the industrial vehicle consortium of FIAT and France).”

PSI Bid to Enter Govt. Blocked

Italian Socialist Party leader Giacomo Mancini’s initiative for the PSI to immediately enter the government of pro-development Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, has been sabotaged by the ex-Action Party network, centered around Giorgio Amendola of the Italian Communist Party (PCI) and the Republican Party’s Ugo LaMalfa, and the PSI’s Riccardo Lombardi.

On Jan. 22 Mancini factional ally, PSI spokesman Cassola floated the proposal for the immediate entrance of the PSI into the government, specifically as the bulwark against the Trilateral Commission’s assault on Italian democratic institutions. Writing in the official PSI daily, *Avanti*, Cassola stated: “The Trilateral

Commission has threatened that the present economic crisis may necessitate the reduction of democracy in Europe. The Italian left, confronted with this prospect, must act now to maintain democracy. This can be done only by a Christian Democratic-PSI coalition with the outside support of the Italian Communist Party.”

Cassola’s statements were made one day after Jimmy Carter’s inauguration. The government formula proposed by Cassola, as part of the Mancini strategy, would strengthen the present government by institutionalizing its broad-based popular support.

To prepare the PSI for its governmental responsibilities, Mancini had operated “underground” for at