

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

least two months to clean out the group of Atlanticist politicians still buried within the party, pinpointing general secretary Bettino Craxi and the so-called intellectual wing grouped around ex-Action Party leader Riccardo Lombardi.

On Mancini's instructions, the PSI leader Zuccala called for a preliminary debate of PSI parliamentarians to discuss the overall strategy of the party — as a prelude to a PSI directorate meeting and subsequent DC-PSI meeting. The directorate meeting would have been the arena for an all-out fight with Craxi et al.

On Jan. 26, however, this meeting was sabotaged with only 20 Parliamentarians attending, forcing Mancini to back down in this round of the fight because he did not have the majority necessary to call for a directorate meeting. Mancini, as reported in Jan. 27 *La Repubblica*, blasted the "terrorist methods" employed against potential participants in the debate. The powerful PSI Chamber commission head Mariotti stated to *La*

Repubblica that there was "psychological terror" not only in preventing parliamentarians from attending Zuccala's meeting but at the provincial-federation levels of the party as well. On Jan. 24 *La Repubblica* had reported that Mancini's office had received a barrage of calls and letters congratulating his push for DC-PSI government immediately.

By Jan. 26 however the network of ex-Action Party members — grouped around Amendola (PCI), Ugo LaMalfa (Republican Party) and Lombardi — had struck back. The Bologna federation of the PSI (Bologna is Amendola's homebase) put out a condemnation on Jan. 26 of the Soviet Union's position on dissidents, diverting attention of the federation leaders away from the Mancini meeting. The Bologna statement read in part: We ask solidarity of the PSI federations in condemnation of the Soviet Union, "just because Stalin has died does not mean that Stalinism and its vicious purges is dead."

Callaghan Will Use Bullock Report to Take Economic Debate "Into the Workplace"

BRITAIN

The highly controversial Bullock Commission report on "worker participation" released Jan. 26 will facilitate the public debate on the economic strategy currently being pursued by British Prime Minister James Callaghan. Callaghan, who has taken personal responsibility for overseeing discussion on the report while it is being formulated into legislative proposals, is apparently fulfilling the pledge he made to the Labour Party's annual conference last October to take the government's program "into the workplace" to impress upon the British people the need for industrial expansion and regeneration.

The report, prepared under the chairmanship of Lord Bullock, a master of St. Catherine's College, Oxford, has already generated considerable controversy in Britain. It proposes to give employees equal representation with shareholders on company boards of directors in firms of 2,000 or more employees. Rejecting "token" two-tier proposals of the sort applied in West Germany and Sweden, where trade unionists exert *advisory pressure only* over company decisions, the Bullock report calls for a "2x and y" formula in which shareholder-chosen directors would equal employee-chosen directors, and a number of "outside" directors would be chosen jointly by the labor-management groups.

Although the plan would be imposed only after one-third of the firm's employees had agreed to it by secret

ballot, the report's proposals could potentially involve 7 million employees in 738 firms in Britain, both public and private, British and foreign-owned.

The following are extracts from key sections of the Bullock Report as printed in the Jan. 23 edition of the *Observer*. The official version of the Report was not yet available at press time.

"During our inquiry we found a widespread conviction, which we share, that the problem of Britain as an industrialized nation is not lack of native capacity in its working population so much as a failure to draw out their energies and skill to anything like their full potential. It is our belief that the way to release these energies, to provide greater satisfaction in the work place and to assist in raising the level of productivity and efficiency in British industry — and with it the living standards of the nation — is not by recrimination or exhortation but by putting the relationship between capital and labour on a new basis, which will involve not just management but the whole work force in sharing responsibility for the success and profitability of the enterprise.

"Such a change in the industrial outlook and atmosphere will only come about, however, as a result of giving the representatives of the employees a real, not a sham or token, share in making decisions about the future of an enterprise which in the past have been reserved to management and the representatives of the shareholders.

"The debate about industrial democracy is much less about the desirability of moving in the direction of greater participation (which many accept as inevitable)