

native to the Begin-Sadat meeting. If the two could not agree on a philosophic basis for compromise, Mr. Kissinger observed, the bureaucrats at Geneva could certainly not agree on boundaries or any other points of difference, and "Geneva would become irrelevant."

"For the first time," Mr. Kissinger said, "these

leaders are talking together and in Jerusalem, with Sadat going to the most sacred religious and historical shrines of Israel. Let them decide what the requirements for the future are. A Geneva conference is not an end in itself. If this mission doesn't succeed, how can Geneva succeed when you're dealing with bureaucrats?"

Harriman Prepares 'Grassroots' Drive To Support Panama Treaty

Exclusive to the Executive Intelligence Review

Twelve hundred professional lobbyists from around the United States met Nov. 18 in Washington, D.C.'s International Inn for a full day conference preparing them to "Go out and get the Panama Canal treaty passed."

The event was organized by Averell Harriman's newly formed Committee of Americans for a Panama Canal Treaty (COACT), while the Carter Administration supplied the big guns to get a protreaty machine rolling. Community speeches, television specials, articles in local newspapers, slide-talks, and so forth, can be expected to begin a "grassroots" swell across the country in answer to the vigorous publicity blitz of the largely "conservative" opposition to Senate passage of the treaties.

Unfortunately — if not surprisingly — COACT's organizing promises the American electorate a barrage of canned arguments for the Panama agreement which are no more than the flip side of the equally canned points made by the treaty's opponents. The so-called Panama Canal issue thus continues to be merely a fight for political leverage in internal United States politicking, leaving the needed open debate around full redefinition of U.S. foreign policy along the humanist, progrowth outlines on which it first began largely unaddressed.

The lobbyists gathered at the International Inn, all there by special invitation, were greeted by Vice President Walter Mondale, then addressed by an impressive series of speakers, including former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, treaty negotiator Sol Linowitz, and the Secretary of the Navy Graham Clayton. Linowitz was so overawed by his companions on the podium that he began his speech with the confession that he felt like a "brownie" in comparison with such figures as Henry the K.

The speeches were directed to answering "everything you always wanted to know about the Panama Canal treaty," preparing those present to see their con-

stituencies on passage of the treaty. Sol Linowitz tried to couch his arguments in favor of being "fair" to Panama, and ending the U.S. colonialist image abroad. Henry Kissinger provided hardline bluster, assuring the gathering that he would be more than willing to send in U.S. troops to keep the Canal open if there was no alternative, but that the treaty fortunately provides that alternative.

Kissinger also stressed the bipartisan nature of treaty support — and not incidentally playing up his own importance in passing. If "we" had won last November, and the "lamentable events" of last Jan. 20 thus avoided, Henry quipped, "we" would have negotiated the treaty also.

In addition to such speeches, every lobbyist was provided with a packet of materials by COACT, including sample speeches to "Hosttown", sample op-eds, and other "grassroots" organizing equipment, including a "How-to Kit." Even new slogans were put forward: "America: Speak Softly but Carry a Big Stick," and "Bully for America? or America, the Bully?"

The event was capped by a reception at the White House where Jimmy Carter personally appeared to give a pep talk to the group. A Harris Poll conscious Carter seemed to feel more energized himself at the sight of the 1,200 organizers. (An attendance of 400 had originally been projected.) Carter told the gathering he was glad to see so many people, and was sure they would all go out to insure the treaty was passed first of all "for me," and, of course, in the "long run, for national interests." A more politically astute member of the Committee must have corrected the President on this, for shortly thereafter Carter jumped back on the podium to remind people that indeed this was a bipartisan effort, and not just a personal matter for Jimmy Carter!

Whether or not the Harriman machine can get the treaty passed — and its efforts will probably aid that end — one thing was clear from the day's proceedings: Averell Harriman gained some solid brownie points with the Carter Administration by successfully demonstrating his ability to deliver his machine.