

## Soviets Offer W. Germany, And Others, Cooperation — The Alternative To War

Only two days before events in the Middle East provoked warnings of global conflict from the USSR, the semiannual Leipzig trade fair in East Germany (DDR) opened with a dramatic announcement of another sort. The DDR and the West German firm Krupp were preparing to jointly build a steel plant in Ethiopia, reporters were informed.

This first step toward a long-term solution of the Horn of Africa crisis — East-West participation in its economic development — coincided with a series of similar Soviet overtures for cooperation with the West and the developing sector.

The Warsaw Pact nations' leadership is purposely combining war warnings with war-avoiding economic proposals, to send an unmistakable message to the West: join with us quickly to work for peace and progress, before it is too late — before the world situation deteriorates beyond anybody's control and thermonuclear war is the only future.

The Soviet military paper *Red Star* on March 11, the anniversary of the Nazi annexation of Austria 40 years ago, carried a warning:

*"Although 40 years have passed since the Anschluss, its lessons remain timely today — and not only for Austria.... One of the main reasons why the Western powers cynically handed Austria over to Hitler, and did not want to participate in the collective actions proposed by the USSR, was their hope to turn the fascist aggressor against the USSR."*

The parallel could not go unnoticed: *Red Star* proposes to regard with deepest suspicion the rejection of Soviet peace and development proposals today.

In addition to behind-the-scenes Soviet efforts to convene the Geneva Middle East peace conference or a preparatory meeting, Moscow has made substantial economic overtures toward the Middle East and northern Africa. Moroccan Prime Minister Osman, in Moscow the week of March 6, signed an extensive

agreement for Soviet development of Moroccan phosphate reserves. The Soviets are preparing to sell two nuclear reactors to Libya, the second such sale, after one to Finland, to a country outside the socialist bloc.

In line with these moves, the Soviets abruptly changed their policy regarding the large nuclear technology deal between West Germany and Brazil. The Foreign Broadcast Information Service translated a March 7 article from the *Jornal do Brasil*:

*"Valentin Falin, current USSR ambassador to the FRG (West Germany), stated yesterday that his country views the Brazilian-FRG agreement on nuclear cooperation as "something we accept, because this kind of cooperation does a great deal for peace throughout the world. We have good relations with the two contracting parties and that is why we accept this kind of cooperation between two friendly countries."*

This positive Soviet attitude is due in large degree to the efforts of West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, who has repeatedly tried to allay Soviet and East German fears of "nuclear proliferation." In a speech to Parliament March 9, he said that relations between the two Germanies should be based on a mutual commitment to "rapidly develop Third World countries by capital aid, technological and scientific cooperation." Radio Moscow contrasted Schmidt's sane policies to recent statements by West German Foreign Minister Genscher, which the commentator compared to the "German Reich" policies of those who advocate the reunification of Germany.

Czechoslovak television in late February hailed the process of political rapprochement and trade growth between Czechoslovakia and West Germany following "a period of stagnation." The program cited a recent visit by Social Democratic Party parliamentary faction head Herbert Wehner to Prague as a major contributing factor.

## Tito, Carter Affirm Mutual Cooperation

*President Tito of Yugoslavia met with President Carter March 7 and issued a joint statement which included the call for preserving the "independence and nonaligned position" of Ethiopia and Somalia. Following Yugoslav-U.S. talks, which pointed to the importance of the Nonaligned Nations and European Security talks, President Tito is sending his foreign minister Milos Minic to the Horn of Africa in an attempt to mediate between Ethiopia and Somalia.*

*The following excerpts of the joint declaration detail agreements reached by the two leaders during the talks:*

...Presidents (Carter and Tito) reviewed recent developments and pledged renewed efforts to lower the barriers to understanding and contact between all peoples of Europe, in accordance with their common aspirations. In this regard, they discussed the results of the Belgrade Conference and agreed that it had significantly strengthened the foundations for the continuation of multilateral efforts to increase security and cooperation in Europe. They reaffirmed their commitment to the success of the CSCE process and to full implementation of all sections of the Final Act. They