

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

urged all signatory states to join in efforts to achieve full implementation in order to further the process of consultation and contact between the participating countries and to promote mutual understanding. They pledged continued efforts toward these goals in the period leading to the next Conference in Madrid in 1980.

Presidents Tito and Carter expressed their special concern about the situation in the Middle East which remains a source of great tension in international affairs. They agreed on the urgent need to find a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the problems of the Middle East and explained in detail their respective views on the current situation.

The two Presidents also agreed that the Ethiopia-Somalia conflict should be resolved by peaceful means, taking account of the need to respect both territorial integrity and the legitimate aspirations of the peoples of both countries...They expressed their belief that the international community should exert greater efforts for securing conditions to maintain the territorial integrity, independence and nonaligned position of these two countries.

In their discussion of developments in Southern Africa, the two Presidents expressed support for the legitimate aspirations of the African peoples to self-determination and majority rule. They condemn racism in all forms.

The two Presidents discussed a variety of aspects of human rights in the contemporary world and agreed that efforts toward the implementation of human rights in all countries should be in accord with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Helsinki Final Act.

Presidents Carter and Tito reviewed the international economic situation with particular attention. While approaching global economic problems from different perspectives, they recognized their gravity and stressed the need for necessary changes in world economic relations which take into account the interests and equality of all countries. They noted in particular the importance of increased support for accelerated economic development for the developing countries and a broader linkage between the economies of the industrialized and developing countries. They emphasized the significance of the global economic dialogue as a vital element in fostering cooperation between the industrialized and developing countries, which is an indispensable precondition for the settlement of existing economic problems.

The two Presidents voiced their deep concern over the continuation of the arms race which renders difficult the solution of substantial political, economic, and other

problems besetting mankind today. Both governments believe that durable peace in the world as a whole can only be assured if effective measures are undertaken to halt the arms race and to take concrete steps for nuclear disarmament toward the ultimate goal of general and complete disarmament. In this connection, the two Presidents underscored the importance of the negotiations on strategic arms limitations, mutual and balanced force reductions in Central Europe and of the other efforts to limit the arms race. They also stressed the importance of the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations devoted to disarmament.

The two Presidents emphasized the decisive importance of the development of energy for the economic growth of all countries, and of the developing countries in particular, and they believe therefore that nuclear energy for peaceful purposes should be made accessible to all countries without discrimination. The two Presidents also pointed to the danger of the proliferation of nuclear weapons and agreed that this danger can be diminished through an effective reduction of existing nuclear armaments and through the development and application of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and the implementation of measures in accordance with the provisions and objectives of the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and other international agreements within the framework of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The two Presidents observed that terrorism is a common scourge of the international community, and they agreed that effective measures must be taken to eliminate this senseless threat to people throughout the world. President Carter specifically condemned the violence directed against Yugoslavia by terrorists in the United States and pledged his government's commitment to take firm measures to prevent and to prosecute such criminal activity which is against the interests of the United States and of good United States-Yugoslav relations.

President Carter reiterated the continuing support of the United States for the independence, territorial integrity and unity of Yugoslavia. During the talks it was stressed that good relations and cooperation between the United States and Yugoslavia constitute an essential element of American foreign policy and that the United States is interested in a strong and independent Yugoslavia as a factor for balance, peace and stability in Europe and in the world.

President Tito extended an invitation to President Carter to pay an official visit to Yugoslavia. The invitation was accepted with pleasure.