

# Soviets link SALT to East-West trade

*Brezhnev seeks end to 'negative elements' in U.S. Soviet policies*

In a series of statements and authoritative media commentaries focusing on the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty, Africa, and the Middle East, issued over the last two weeks, the leadership of the Soviet Union has branded the United States's post-Camp-David foreign policy — with its heavy Kissingeresque aroma — an intolerable threat to world peace and stability.

Specifically, the Soviets have charged that circles in the U.S. and Britain want to destroy the European-Soviet collaboration on expanding world trade and development. However, the Soviets have, at the same time, offered the U.S. a way out of the current policy crisis by stressing the existing potential for economic and political collaboration between the two countries — if the Kissinger-Brzezinski-directed provocative policies are junked.

The Soviet foreign circulation magazine *New Times*, in its current edition, makes the point. Commenting on an article by British General Sir John Hackett about the inevitability of World War III, author L. Sedin writes, "Certain British and NATO quarters evidently attach much importance to this dubious piece of writing, intended not only to justify but to give a new stimulus to the arms race. Leonid Brezhnev's visit to Bonn in May and the talks he had there opened new wide prospects for multiform peaceful cooperation between the two countries for decades ahead. It is perhaps precisely this that irks the NATO warmongers. They would like to induce the West European countries not to trade and cooperate, but to quarrel and arm."

## SALT II: Soviets adopt linkage

The latest round of SALT negotiations ended Oct. 23, with little progress reported. While certain technical questions, including the longstanding dispute over deployment of the U.S. cruise missile and the Soviet backfire bomber, reportedly still have to be worked out, the Soviets are giving every indication that much broader political aspects of U.S.-USSR relations must be worked out before a SALT II agreement can be concluded.

In effect, the Soviets are responding to the obvious hardening in U.S. policy exemplified by President Carter's decision, announced on the eve of Secretary of State Vance's departure for the Moscow SALT talks last week, to replace Arms Control and Disarmament

Agency director Paul Warnke with a retired general, and the chorus of calls from Kissinger associates for an arms buildup, by establishing a "linkage" policy of their own.

In coverage of the SALT negotiations Oct. 23, West German television reported that Soviet Premier Leonid Brezhnev called for the elimination of all "negative elements" in U.S. policy toward the Soviet Union. An elaboration of what Brezhnev means by "negative elements" appeared in the Oct. 25 *Handelsblatt*, the West German financial daily. The paper's well-informed Moscow correspondent, Heinz Lathe, revealed that Brezhnev personally intervened into the SALT negotiations last weekend to inform Vance that "other fields of U.S. foreign policy" must be "clarified" before a new treaty can be successfully concluded.

Significantly, reported Lathe, Brezhnev specifically requested a clarification on the restrictions which have been imposed on U.S.-USSR trade by the Senate, largely through the impetus of Brzezinski. (Brzezinski it should be noted, worked closely with then Senator Walter Mondale in 1974 to get the Jackson-Vanik amendment — tying U.S. trade with the Soviets to Soviet emigration policy — enacted by Congress.

The Soviets, Lathe continued, have also indicated that they are fully prepared to offer U.S. industry a whopping \$10 billion worth of economic deals if extended most favored nation status, now precluded by the Jackson-Vanik amendment.

At the same time, the Soviet leadership has sharply underscored the fact that they do not intend to be deflected from their foreign and domestic policies by Brzezinski's implicit threats that SALT will only be concluded if the Soviets change course. Soviet Defense Minister D.F. Ustinov, in a major Oct. 14 speech in Yerevan, Armenia, warned, "There are some in the West who would not be averse to capitalizing on the USSR's aspirations for peace, hoping that we will agree to 'pay' for the preservation of detente with concessions on principled questions of our foreign and domestic policy. These are illusory calculations. The Soviet Union has never traded and will never trade with its principles. Our country does not intend to depart from its constructive course in foreign policy matters. We understand very well that this would only play into the hands of those who dream of derailing detente."

## Africa and the Middle East

In addition to U.S. sabotage of better trade relations, the Soviets are also warning that U.S. policy in the Middle East and Africa must be sharply turned from its current course toward superpower confrontation.

In an authoritative commentary in *Pravda's* Oct. 22 weekly *Review of International Events*, Yuri Zhukov zeroed in on the transparent inconsistency between Vance's recent statement that SALT was "95 percent ready" on the one hand, and what, in reality, amounts to U.S. sabotage of the negotiations. In particular, Zhukov cited Carter's neutron bomb decision and the discussions at the NATO Nuclear Planning Group meeting in Brussels last week, attended by U.S. Defense Secretary Harold Brown, on the need to modernize NATO's theater nuclear forces.

Zhukov then went on to blast current U.S. policy in the Middle East, particularly U.S. support for the Israeli-backed Lebanese Falange, "who are going under the false flag of Lebanese Christians," as well as U.S. policy in southern Africa. Zhukov correctly terms Rhodesian Prime Minister's Ian Smith's trip to the U.S., fully backed by Henry Kissinger, as a violation of stated United Nations policy. The *Pravda* commentator also accused the U.S. of working in complicity with Britain and Canada to foist "illegal elections" on Namibia.

While joint efforts of the Arabs, Soviets and Western Europeans have temporarily succeeded in cooling down the volatile Middle East situation, Africa is on the verge of a continent-wide explosion, thanks to U.S. refusal to back a real peace plan for southern Africa.

The U.S. attitude is exemplified by its permissive reaction to the vicious military raids into the front-line states of Mozambique and Zambia launched by Smith on his way home from Washington meetings with Vance and UN Ambassador Andrew Young last weekend. Fifteen hundred men, women and children were killed by the Rhodesian raiders in the brutal attacks. Instead of condemning this slaughter outright, the Administration gave its de facto endorsement, saying only that the raids' "timing" was "objectionable."

The U.S. response drew immediate, angry rebukes from African leaders. In a press conference Oct. 23, Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda stated that "I stand amazed at the lukewarm condemnation of this wanton and dastardly attack on Zambia, a sovereign state, by the U.S. government and the British government." And the Organization of African Unity issued a similarly strong attack in a statement expressing its dismay over the weakening of Western resolve to get a just accord on the Namibia question.

— *Barbara Dreyfuss*

## Europe revolts against U.S. confrontationism

"NATO is so fragile now that it would not survive two of these publicly fought confrontations," said Christian Potyka, military correspondent of the West German daily *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, last week. His published attack summarizes Western Europe's de facto state of revolt against the military policy being pursued by NATO Secretary General Luns and former Kissinger adjutant, Supreme NATO Commander Alexander Haig. No fewer than four NATO member countries have announced their opposition to the anti-Soviet, confrontationist drift of NATO policy: West Germany, Norway, Greece, and Turkey. They are receiving strong support from non-member France.

Potyka's remarks were prompted by West German Defense Minister Hans Apel's latest criticism of the conduct of this year's NATO "Autumn Reforger" maneuvers, which left 14 people dead and \$10 million in property damages. In an Oct. 21 interview in the *Frankfurter Rundschau*, Apel as good as warned that unless NATO policy is brought into line in short order with West Germany's policy of detente and expanded economic trade and development with the Soviet Union, the alliance may lose its strongest, most valued European partner.

Apel's remarks are news only to those American and British newspapers that have consistently blocked out West European protests since the beginning of the Reforger maneuvers in early September. Then, and since, the West German government with strong support from French President Giscard d'Estaing, has made absolutely clear that it will not tolerate a NATO military policy that is inconsistent with the thinking behind the May economic accords signed by Chancellor Schmidt and Soviet President Brezhnev and renewed in the Bremen Summit of European Community heads of state.

Christian Potyka summarized the sentiment behind the German protests in his column today, writing that "the real issue is the relation of the sovereign state of the Federal Republic of Germany to the inner core of NATO: Brussels headquarters."

### Does Germany have an alternative?

Apel's Oct. 21 interview laid the matter squarely on the line, asking "whether there had ever been an alternative to the Federal Republic's membership in the Western Alliance." In the four days since that article appeared, the defense minister, who is fully supported by his long-time political confidante Chancellor Schmidt, has not let up one iota in his pressure on Secretary General Luns and Commander Haig.