

instrument for ensuring independence, peace and progress, a barrier to the hegemonic aspirations of the major powers. . . .

"Last year the European Community celebrated its 20th anniversary We are now in the process of consolidating what has already been achieved, and carrying on from there. A common monetary system is in preparation. Its purpose is to create the necessary monetary basis for further economic integration . . . (and) increase Europe's role in international affairs. . . .

"ASEAN is ten years younger than the European Community, and yet this regional association has already become a factor of stability which is acquiring increasing importance within the political constellation of Southeast Asia. . . ."

London press speculates: Will Britain be left in the cold?

"Dropping out of Europe" by *Business News Editor Kenneth Fleet* in *Sunday Times of London, Nov. 19:*

The Government is about to turn its back on the European Monetary Union, the most important European political initiative since the Treaty of Rome and take the circuitous road to costly frustration.

. . . This week the Government is expected to produce a Green Paper on the EMS, next week the Commons will debate the subject and the week after the EEC governments will make their disposition at a Brussels summit. The Government ought to be honest about why it will not bring itself to face the requirements implied in the EMS, and how it sees the alternative working out. Otherwise we shall have passed another historical turning point in the same fog of ignorance that shrouded the EEC.

The City of London should take the same point . . . It is not too fanciful, I believe, to see in the launching of the EMS without Britain as a founder member, the beginning of the end of London as Europe's financial center.

Japanese Foreign Affairs Minister Sunao Sonoda rounded out the pattern of strengthening Euro-Asian cooperation with his trip to Czechoslovakia, after a stopover in Paris, and ending with a brief stop in Moscow where he met with Soviet Vice Foreign Minister Nikolay Firiyubin and Premier Kosygin, who himself was seeing off Polish Premier Jaroszewicz on his way to Tokyo.

In Czechoslovakia, Sonoda signed groundbreaking accords with Foreign Minister Chnoupek on scientific and technological cooperation and with Premier Strougal for the establishment of a mixed economic committee which will look into the "significant possibilities" for economic and industrial cooperation bilaterally and in third markets. It was also agreed that regular consultations on the foreign minister level would be scheduled.

Europe. In Soviet eyes, Britain no longer inspires awe, respect, affection or any particular emotion: the country simply no longer matters. . . .

Britain provides ample ammunition for the propaganda organs to paint a picture of a country in decline . . . and the Russians think of Britain as a country that does not really like them, has many influential anti-Soviet politicians and is now provocatively considering arming the Soviet Union's enemy, China.

. . . British trade is of little interest . . . Britain does not appear to carry much weight within Europe. . . . The country is a magnificent example for the Soviet public and Soviet correspondents in London lose little time pointing out racial troubles, "political oppression in Northern Ireland," the sharp class antagonisms, symptomized by frequent strikes and the problems of the aftermath of Empire. In short, Britain is a marvellous target.

. . . Finally and probably the most telling reason the Russians do not feel much warmth for the British: The average Russian regards an Englishman as cold and supercilious. Cartoons depict him as a tall, haughty colonialist now dressed in tatters. and the Russians believe their lack of sympathy is mutual.

The view from Paris

"Don't Rock the Money Boat, Warns Giscard" — *Sunday Times, Nov. 19:*

President Giscard of France will warn James Callaghan on Friday that if Britain stays out of the new monetary system, she will face great risk. Callaghan will be in Paris (Nov. 24) . . . he will receive an unsympathetic welcome.

. . . Britain's negative attitude is strongly resented . . . The French show little patience with Callaghan's plea for a "transfer of resources" from other countries to Britain to make membership easier . . . They say that Britain as Europe's third largest industrial power, with all its jealously guarded North Sea Oil wealth, has no claim to the kind of handouts being offered to the Italians and the Irish.

The view from Moscow

"Britain does not matter any more to Moscow," *London Times, Nov. 17:*

Anglo-Soviet relations are worse than Soviet relations with any other leading country in Western