

Who's running the government?

Missile Crisis-style EXCOM takes charge of Carter

In the midst of a grave international crisis in 1962, the Kennedy Administration was essentially sidestepped and an extraordinary committee — called EXCOM — took over policymaking. That was during the fall of 1962, when the Cuban Missile Crisis and the Chinese invasion of India threatened to hurl the world toward war.

Last week, that same pattern again unfolded as a group of would-be technocrats gathered at the White House for three days of meetings. While President Carter was in Mexico, a group including CIA director Stansfield Turner, National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski, Defense Secretary Harold Brown, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff was chaired by Vice-President Walter Mondale. During Friday, Saturday and Sunday — Feb. 16 to 18 — these gentlemen met and — most probably decided — how the United States would deal with the Chinese invasion of Vietnam, the disorder in Iran, and the United States' rapidly deteriorating relationship with the Soviet Union.

On Feb. 19 they reportedly summoned President Carter and informed him of their deliberations. While the discussion of their meetings has not been disclosed, President Carter's speech in Atlanta, Ga. Feb. 20 — linking SALT to Soviet restraint and virtually pledging a U.S. arms buildup — indicates their content.

There is little surprise in the fact that Jimmy Carter does not make Presidential policy. But, there is an irony in the fact that the current extraordinary committee is virtually the political heir of the one convened in 1962. Both were the brainchildren of British intelligence-directed institutions in the U.S.

The affiliations of the committee members indicate that:

- **Stansfield Turner** was schooled in geopolitics by the Council on Foreign Relations and the London-based International Institute of Strategic Studies.
- **Harold Brown** is a former board member of the Schroeder Bank, the same bank which placed Hitler in power.
- **Cyrus Vance** is a member of the British-dominated Council on Foreign Relations and the United Nations Association. He is also a member of the Ditchley Foundation, a high-level, British-dominated group formed to promote Anglo-American friendship.

• **Zbigniew Brzezinski's** background as a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the former Executive Director to the Trilateral Commission is common knowledge.

• **Walter Mondale** was described by the *New York Times* in a 1977 feature as a Fabian Socialist who learned political theory at the London School of Economics. He is also a member of the CFR.

Revealingly, the man closest to the pliable President is Peter Jay, the British Ambassador to the United States.

Although the press has recently made much of supposed policy differences between Vance and Brzezinski there was reportedly no conflict during last week's meeting. Says a top Asia specialist at the Brookings Institution: "There is no difference whatsoever between Zbig and Vance. They have a coordinated style."

Unreality continues to prevail in the Carter Administration. Reports from Marshall D. Shulman, special assistant on Soviet Affairs to Secretary Vance, that the Soviet Union would not strike out at China for its invasion of Vietnam are receiving wide circulation. While these remarks contradict official commentary from Radio Moscow and the Soviet daily Pravda (see INTERNATIONAL section) it is similar to the President's Feb. 21 speech.

What Carter said

Following are excerpts of a speech made by U.S. President Carter in Atlanta Feb. 20:

With our strong allies, we have succeeded in preventing a global war for more than a third of a century — the longest period of general peace in the modern times....

In short, we provide the bedrock of global security and economic advance in a world of unprecedented change and conflict. In such a world, America has four fundamental security responsibilities:

- To provide for our nation's strength and security safety.
- To stand by our allies and our friends.
- To support national independence and integrity.
- To work diligently for peace. ...

The independence of Iran is also in our own vital interest and that of our closest allies — and we will support it....

If others interfere (in Iran), directly or indirectly, they are on notice that this will have serious consequences and will affect our broader relationship with them.

We will not get involved in conflict between Asian Communist states. Our national interests are not directly threatened, although we are concerned at the wider implications of what has been happening....

Many nations are troubled — even threatened — by the turmoil in Southeast and Southwest Asia. To stand by our friends and help meet their security needs in these difficult times, I will consult with the Congress to determine what additional military assistance will be required. This added measure of support is crucial for stability throughout the Indian Ocean area.

And let me repeat: In the Middle East, in Southeast

Asia and elsewhere in the world, we will stand by our friends — we will honor our commitments — and we will protect the vital interests of the United States....

Finally, let me put this agreement in the context of our overall relations with the Soviet Union and the turbulence that exists in many parts of the world. The question is not whether SALT can be divorced from this context. It cannot. As I have often said, our relationship with the Soviet Union is a mixture of cooperation and competition, and as President of the United States, I have no more difficult and delicate task than to balance the two. I cannot and I will not let the pressures of inevitable competition overwhelm possibilities for cooperation — anymore than I will let cooperation blind us to the realities of competition....

It is precisely because we have fundamental differences with the Soviet Union that we are determined to bring this most dangerous dimension of our military competition under control....

State acts like it's preparing for conflict

Further indication that the Carter Administration is consciously pursuing a policy of confrontation with the Soviet Union comes from deployments by the United States State Department over the past two months. During that period, the State Department has employed an extraordinary gamut of dirty tricks both to provoke the Soviets and, equally significant — to silence voices opposing a confrontationist course. Particularly significant, State has intervened vigorously to block contacts between European forces and the U.S. Labor Party, headed by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., the leading — and sole nationally prominent — U.S. figure opposing the Carter Administration's confrontation course.

Notable cases include:

Italy: U.S. Ambassador Richard Gardner is heavily involved in the collapse of the Andreotti government. In an interview on Italian television Dec. 29, Gardner announced his intention to force a collapse over the issue of Communist participation in the government. "There will be a government collapse within January," said Gardner, "the PCI cannot join the government.... That is Brzezinski's foreign policy." To show the extent of his influence, Gardner further suggested that he and President Carter engineered the 1978 Italian government crisis over the same issue. Since then, Gardner has become involved in a public scandal involving U.S. demands

that Italy stop hunting terrorists and devote more attention to spying on the Soviet Union (see COUNTERINTELLIGENCE).

Afghanistan: Warren Christopher, the Assistant Secretary of State, second only to Cyrus Vance, last week openly spread misinformation about the assassination of the U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan. Christopher accused the Soviet Union of substantial responsibility for the murder of U.S. Ambassador Dobs in a meeting with Soviet Ambassador Dobrynin.

Christopher's accusation was later exposed as false by the reports of the U.S. embassy in Afghanistan itself. The Afghani government had clearly indicated that the Soviets played no role in the tragedy, it was later revealed. But this did not stop Christopher from using the false report to further the deteriorating relations between the U.S. and USSR.

At the same time, the State Department is illegally harassing the European Labor Party and the U.S. Labor Party. Both parties have led international organizing in support of the European Monetary System of West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and French President Giscard d'Estaing. This is the proper context for the State Department's part in disseminating lies that both organizations are "KGB agents," "Russians," or "crazy cults" to West German, Italian, and Arab officials.