

INTERNATIONAL

Giscard, Brezhnev sign pact for peace

A ten-year program for French-Soviet cooperation

French President Giscard d'Estaing and Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev sealed a series of agreements in Moscow this week that commit the economic and technological resources of France and the Soviet Union to a full-scale mobilization to prevent war by raising global living standards and solving, in their words, "the problems of humanity." In the joint communiqué issued by the two leaders, whose summit occurred during Giscard's visit to the Soviet Union April 25-27, the second industrial power of Western Europe and the socialist sector's "superpower" broadcast their agreement to coordinate political action to resolve the hot spots that threaten to erupt into nuclear war between East and West.

Not one word about this vitally important summit has so far appeared in the USA's purported "newspaper of record," the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*.

The choices for Europe

The impact of French President Giscard d'Estaing's visit to Moscow is comparable to the Bonn meetings last year between the West German and Soviet heads of state. Those meetings initiated the launching of the European Monetary System (EMS) as a joint effort between Paris and Bonn. Moreover, the meetings are strategically timed, coming when the EMS is under intense Anglo-American pressure to join a war confrontation with the USSR. The political and economic results of Giscard's trip will form the foundation for a newly strengthened European opposition to the frantic assaults of London and Washington against the EMS conception of ensuring detente through cooperative international economic development.

While Giscard was in Moscow, the Bilderberg Club was meeting to finalize plans for the economic destruction of Europe through the use of terrorism and the oil weapon. The followers of British Tory leader Margaret Thatcher and her continental allies grouped under European Parliament candidate Otto von Hapsburg were also in conference over the role of Western Europe in an international assault on Moscow. George Ball, a participant at the Bilderberg conference, wrote an Op-Ed for the *New York Times* deriding French "illusions" in pursuing Gaullist policies of detente, threatening Europe with nihilistic violence if it refused to toe the Anglo-American war line.

Giscard and Brezhnev established the principle of maintaining continuous bilateral consultations at various levels to ensure the necessary quality of political cooperation. The consultations will be maintained through periodic meetings of the Soviet and French Foreign Ministers and the establishment of permanent working contacts between officials of the foreign affairs ministries on all questions of common interest.

Most important, the final summit communiqué asserted that the two respective heads of state will themselves meet on a regular basis once a year, a development unique in Soviet-Western relations.

The foremost aim of these summits and ministerial-level meetings will be, as the communiqué emphasizes, mutual cooperation to prevent the outbreak of war.

As with West German Chancellor Schmidt's earlier agreement, Giscard's pact with the Soviets included an array of planned projects for cooperation in their respective national development and for joint cooperation in Third World development. Another result of the Giscard-Brezhnev summit of potential major international significance was the provision in the communiqué pertaining to Giscard's standing proposal for a European-wide disarmament conference. The need for such a conference was noted in the final document of the summit, indicating the Soviets' first stated consent to the proposal.

The communiqué also outlines agreement on some of the major international "hot spots" such as the Middle East, where the Camp David formula was renounced in favor of the overall settlement supported by both Paris and Moscow.

The combined impact of this series of agreements makes the Franco-Soviet pact the political equivalent of the formal nonaggression pact which Moscow had originally proposed—a point not lost on continental supporters of the London-Washington war action.

Trilateral Commission member and editor of the French daily *Le Monde*, Alexander Fontaine, on May 1 authored an attack on the "European Council" created by Giscard and West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt whose foundation lies in peaceful cooperation with Moscow. Fontaine counterposed the Europe of the London-allied House of Hapsburg as the model for a British-dominated Europe of the regions.

—Vivian Zoakos