

A controlled press

Two of America's leading press organizations, the American Newspaper Publishers Association (ANPA) and the American Society of Newspaper Editors (ASNE), have just reiterated their longstanding, pious objections to Third World nations' efforts to secure a fair hearing from the world's press, through the Third World's campaign for a "new world information order" through the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Both organizations have just concluded their annual conventions in New York City, and the proceedings—highlighted by the Associated Press's scandalous showcasing of the presidential candidacy of NATO commander Alexander Haig—sharply illustrate precisely the problems of slanted and biased news presentation which Third World nations in particular are seeking to correct. Following is Executive Intelligence Review's on-the-scenes report.

Once a year the "free press" in America goes through the process of "getting their line" at the prestigious annual conventions of the American Newspaper Publishers' Association and the American Society of Newspaper Editors. These conferences are the yearly scene for a gathering of the publishers and editors of some 1000 of the nation's largest newspapers to launch the political issues and personages created by the same institutions which run the Democratic and Republican parties and the major U.S. press and media as well. These institutions are the New York Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) and its British parent organizations, the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) and Royal Institute for International Affairs (RIIA). As think tanks, their members sit on the boards of and control the major press, political parties, banking houses, businesses and legal firms in this country, to dictate the policy commands of the British monarchy.

This year at the nation's leading press conventions they launched the CFR's "controlled disintegration" program for fascism in the 1980s outlined in the CFR's recently published "Project 1980s" reports. Principal speakers at the two conventions were the CFR's hand-picked presidential candidates, NATO commander Alexander Haig, and his Democratic Party "opponents," Senator Ted Kennedy and President Jimmy Carter. The conferences featured presentations by these speakers and panel presentations by leading anti-

industry, pro-austerity and antinuclear demagogues over three day agendas. Panels and presentations were rigged for the twofold purpose of: 1) high profile media blitzes for immediate public consumption and 2) "in-house" only briefing sessions to indoctrinate the press behind the scenes. Thus, General Haig's Associated Press-sponsored luncheon address to ANPA, where the General discussed in lurid terms plans for a U.S.-Britain-China axis confrontation against East and West Europe, was embargoed from public distribution, while the *New York Times* and *Washington Post* promoted the General with Hollywood-style front page photos and carefully edited cosmetic "news coverage" the next day. Not surprisingly, *Washington Post* publisher Katherine Graham and *New York Times* publisher Arthur Ochs Sulzberger, the CFR and IISS's top press magnates who accompanied Haig on ANPA's dais, also lead the lists of directors of ANPA, ASNE and the Associated Press.

While some 1000 publishers and editors of the country's major daily newspapers were thus put through the paces of the CFR's rigged Haig-Kennedy 1980 presidential campaign, American citizens opened the pages of their newspapers the next day to see the same lines presented as "objective" new and "independent" editorials. For those who protest against "conspiracy theories," the truth could not be clearer.

Rigged conventions

The three days of conventioning at both ANPA and ASNE, from April 24 to 26 and April 29 to May 2 respectively in New York City, followed identical agenda and "rules of order" formats. ANPA Chairman Allen Neuharth, publisher of the Gannett newspaper chain, keynoted the ANPA event with a pious tribute to the conference theme of "First Amendment Freedom of the Press." Neuharth, who since his second marriage to former Florida State Senator Lori Wilson in 1973, has become a pro-environmentalist enthusiast (residing in a 60-year old renovated log cabin called "Pumpkin Center" on Cocoa Beach, Fla.), spent much of his time at the conference personally enforcing an unofficial gag rule and whispering campaign against reporters in attendance from this press service.

Over the three days of addresses and canned panel presentations by anti-industry and pro-austerity champions like the United Auto Workers' Irving Bluestone,

Business Roundtable leader Irving Shapiro of DuPont, Kennedy clan Mayor of Chicago Jane Byrne, and anti-nuclear energy "emergencies" expert Pennsylvania Governor Richard Thornburgh, neither ANPA members nor guests and working press in attendance were permitted to question speakers from the floor. In a similar format, the ASNE editors' convention carefully censored "discussion periods" following addresses by Senator Ted Kennedy, National Security chief Zbigniew Brzezinski, and panel sessions calling for economic austerity and wartime credit controls, abandonment of nuclear energy development, and a Peking-U.S. alliance against the Soviet Union.

Publishers and editors in attendance generally did not object to the controlled environment.

Freedom for what?

While the principle of "First Amendment freedom of the press" was travestied by these affairs, their real purpose is clear upon reflection. In 1971, the CFR's candidate for the 1976 presidential elections, Jimmy Carter, first appeared on the cover of *Time* magazine at the beginning of a presidential "campaign" made and run by the media. In 1976, the still barely credible Manchurian candidate Carter "won" the White House through massively rigged elections. Now the same process is beginning for 1980, with CFR-nominee Haig's picture gracing the front pages of the CFR's own controlled press, while his war ravings are delivered behind closed doors.

—Fay Sober

The real General Alexander Haig

General Alexander Haig himself ordered that his debut at the Associated Press-sponsored luncheon at the American Newspaper Publishers Association annual convention in New York City last month not be tape recorded or distributed to the press in transcription or official summaries. Our exclusive report from reporters who attended his speech reveals that Haig's comments were the outpourings of a dangerous and visibly unstable provocateur—and that press accounts of his speech are another exercise in media image-making. Some excerpts:

... I am acutely aware that this is a most influential group of informers of our public. ... At this timely convention, NATO's anniversary of 30 years of peaceful progress in Europe. ... Nevertheless I am deeply concerned about our future....

When I met with Zhou Enlai in the Great Hall in 1972, my strong impression was that Zhou was telling me: the United States should not get out of Vietnam ... the United States must remain a great power in Asia. Zhou said there was a threat we did not understand. ... When I reported this to people in Washington, many said I had lost my senses. And many said when the Vietnam-Cambodia conflict began that this was a local border conflict....

But now, with Vietnamese troops occupying Cambodia, how does one refute the evidence that Soviet desire for regional hegemony is the wellspring of conflict in Asia....

To maintain American power and political-military-economic balance in the face of the Soviet threat ... we must be guided by two principles ... one, we must get a quid pro quo for every point in an agreement; two, we must remember that a *fundamental* change has taken place in Peking, away from preoccupation with dogma to a new pragmatism. Peking is concerned, deeply concerned about Western reliability, unity and response to global events. How long can we continue to risk disappointing them, before they reassess their policy?

A second aspect of the multipolar world is the centrifugal pressures in the Soviet empire itself. Nationalism, global in scope, is impacting on the nations of Eastern Europe ... and even in the Soviet republics themselves. Here too, the unity, consistency and above all, the moral quality of Western response will influence the course of events....

We must assess the situation in the Third World as well. ... Dialogue with the Third World has been replaced by the reality of Soviet intervention.

...I agree with Joseph Luns, the Secretary-General of NATO, that Soviet intentions are *irrelevant*. As a military man, I can think only about Soviet capabilities. Look at the facts: one, *relentless* Soviet military growth ... the [Soviet] military-industrial complex against China and deploying in Africa especially in the Third World; two, the balanced growth and systematic buildup of nuclear, regular nuclear, and conventional forces; and three, the change in character of force. Balanced forces in Europe are no longer balanced ... we are threatened. Our response must be global against global and restive Soviet power....

Some say I want to return to 19th century bloc politics. No. My vision is for a West united under an accepted rule of international law. ... A new post-American, uh, post-Vietnam American leadership must not be preoccupied with our past losses. We must focus on vital Western interests and Soviet challenges and local conflicts. We can avoid a hyperactive post-World War II foreign policy. This is not McCarthyism....

Instead ... America must lead in ... Winston Churchill's century of the common man.