

# A no-win foreign policy

One might conclude from the past week's initiatives taken by Foggy Bottom and the National Security Council, that the Washington administration was determined to show the world it cannot learn from past mistakes.

Take Western Europe, for example. A year ago, as *Executive Intelligence Review* documented in a cover story on "Why Helmut Schmidt wants to save the dollar," the Bonn government blasted U.S. National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski for his "insulting" statement that the Federal Republic of Germany was "finlandizing itself" by seeking peaceful economic cooperation with Moscow. This October, Brzezinski, thwarted in his efforts to push a NATO arms buildup down the throat of Chancellor Schmidt's government, lobbied with a state-level leader of the opposition Christian Democratic Union to create domestic political pressure on Schmidt to change his policy.

As a result, the Bonn cabinet took an official policy decision not to regard Zbig as a spokesman for the U.S. government. Chancellor Schmidt reiterated his commitment to negotiating with the Soviet Union to attempt to prevent any need for the arms "modernization" Washington and its erstwhile mouthpiece, Henry A. Kissinger, are so earnestly pushing.

Then there is Latin America, and the developing sector in general. It is a widely reported truism that U.S. influence in the so-called Third World has been taking a severe beating lately.

A few months ago, the U.S. State Department took an unexpected slap in the face from the normally docile Organization of American States when Secretary of State Cyrus Vance

demanding OAS rubberstamping for an intervention force to protect the hated Somoza dictatorship in Nicaragua from its own population. Moderate governments in the OAS simply did not swallow the State Department line that the Nicaraguan revolution was the product of a Cuban-instigated "red menace." In fact, as *Executive Intelligence Review* detailed in a cover story last June, Nicaragua's new leaders simply wanted to industrialize their country and educate their population on the model of the Mexican revolution—in turn inspired, ironically enough, by the American Revolution.

Now the Carter administration has made public that its policy in the Caribbean will follow Presidential Directive 52, geared to "discredit" and "isolate" Cuba internationally, step up "military exercises" in the Caribbean, and cut off aid to poor countries that accept Cuban assistance. The object of this policy shift is purportedly to block the spread of Cuban influence internationally. Is this likely to work any better than the above cited blunders? Cuban prestige in the Third World is at an all-time high.

The Western Europeans know this. They view current Washington policies as doomed to antagonize the countries below the Tropic of Cancer, shift the policy in Moscow away from president Brezhnev's commitment to detente with the West, and poise the world on the brink of thermonuclear holocaust.

Chancellor Helmut Schmidt in a radio interview broadcast in West Germany on Oct. 14 challenged the United States to fulfill what he termed a "continuity of policy in America," citing past initiatives by Presidents Nixon, Ford and Carter to realize detente and reject the strategy represented by Brzezinski and gunboat diplomacy. Among other things, Schmidt stressed: "The chief impression I have is that Brezhnev, with great persistence and energy, is concerned to assure that his life's work, his life's work of the Western policy of the Soviet Union, the Soviet detente policy, is not placed in question."

The answer to that question lies with the Western capitals. Bonn wants to know: is there anybody sane listening in Washington?

—Nora Hamerman

## The Week in Brief

**The West German government is so outraged at the unheard-of pressures U.S. National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski has exerted on Bonn to accept his military policies, that it has made it known that Brzezinski's views are not considered representative of the official position of the United States government.**

Brzezinski has been trying to force West Germany to accept new

medium-range missiles on its soil and to increase its military expenditures, as part of a NATO "modernization" program.

Bypassing normal diplomatic channels, the NSC adviser met last week with Ernst Albrecht, a leading member of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), the chief opposition party to Schmidt's governing coalition. Albrecht agreed to lobby in