

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

Bonn for the new missiles and for an increase in defense spending.

"This modus operandi should not happen again," said an official spokesman for Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. Albrecht lacks the detailed knowledge to discuss this matter competently and should keep his hands off the whole affair, the spokesman warned.

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The Iraqi oil minister has called upon the industrialized countries to support a new world economic order and, in particular, the Iraqi proposal for a huge development fund for the Third World in the range of \$35-\$50 billion. "The proposal to set up this fund, which has been widely acknowledged by Nonaligned and OPEC countries," he said at the OPEC Energy Symposium in Vienna, "will afford the developing countries the opportunity to direct a good proportion of their economic resources toward development and uplift the standard of living of the peoples at relatively high rates."

The Iraqi minister made his proposal in the aftermath of Fidel Castro's historic address to the United Nations where he called for a new world economic order and a Third World development fund (see INTERNATIONAL).

According to the *Baghdad Observer*, Castro recently sent a message to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein about "the moves to implement the Havana (Nonaligned) summit decisions." Elaborating on the summit's calls for expanded credit and some debt cancellation, the paper reports: "One argument used by delegates from the developing countries is based on an estimate that excess production capacity in the industrialized world is at least \$200 billion. This is the capacity which existing industry would be capable of meeting if there were the demand for it. The developing countries argued that if between \$35 and \$50 billion was poured into the Third World as extra aid, then the resulting econom-

ic activity ... would create demand for goods from the industrialized countries which would help use this excess capacity."

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Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., an independent candidate for the Democratic Party presidential nomination, has announced that he intends to cosponsor a nationwide speaking tour for Mr. Nahum Goldman to make available to the internationally prominent Zionist leader a public forum to present his proposals for the solution of the Middle East crisis.

"While I do not always agree with Mr. Goldman's views on many matters," Mr. LaRouche explained on Oct. 16, "I consider his contribution vital in upgrading the level of debate on which our Middle East policy in particular ought to be discussed. Mr. Nahum Goldman's views, if presented to the American public, would contribute significantly in getting a real discussion on the Middle East going in this country.

"I also wish to invite my Republican counterpart former Governor John Connally of Texas, as well as Senator Jesse Helms, to join me in cosponsoring a nationwide speaking tour for the respected Zionist leader," Mr. LaRouche concluded.

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It's an open secret that the Oct. 14 coup in El Salvador is the first application by the U.S. State Department of Presidential Directive 52. The memorandum directs the U.S. government to "discredit and isolate" Cuba internationally, to step up "military exercises" in the Caribbean and to link Soviet military support for Cuba to the SALT accord approval.

Wrote the *Baltimore Sun*, the White House could not say "it didn't know about" the coup carried out by "conservative Christian Democrats" in order to "restore order."

The *Christian Science Monitor* called the coup "almost

predictable." The BBC simply said the U.S. did it.

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China's Premier Hua Kuo-feng is getting a cool reception in Europe. His speeches on the need to "postpone" world war are meeting with irritation from French and West German government officials who view the passage of the SALT II accord by the U.S. Senate as absolutely critical to East-West detente.

West Germany has categorically refused Chinese requests for arms and France has made it clear that no offensive weapons will make their way from France to China. Only Great Britain is expected to reconfirm its commitment to sell Harrier fighter jets to China.

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One thing is sure about the widely touted preprimary showdown between Jimmy Carter and unannounced candidate Edward Kennedy in Florida on Oct. 16: Democratic party regulars are responding to neither candidate.

Despite the expenditure of hundreds of thousands of dollars by both Carter and Kennedy forces to get voters to the county caucuses, the vote turned out to be little more than a media popularity contest. The county caucuses chose delegates to the Nov. 18 state convention which chooses a candidate slate for the March 11 state primary.

Both candidates expected 15,000 voters to turn out, yet only 5,800 attended—a particularly poor showing for Kennedy which fits a pattern of recent electoral set backs suffered by the Kennedy Democratic machine in Michigan, Ohio, Massachusetts and Connecticut (see U.S. REPORT).

Said one Miami Democrat: "People down here are ready for a fresh face, one willing to pose actual answers to burning problems such as inflation. Neither Kennedy nor Carter have done this so far. This is a joke."