

Europe, Latin America, Asia ...

by Garance Phau

In their initiatives to stabilize the southern hemisphere through economic development, France and West Germany have concentrated on those nations already primed for industrial takeoff, especially Mexico, Brazil, and India.

French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing was the first Western head of state to visit Indira Gandhi upon her reelection this spring. Europe is working closely with the Gandhi government to circumscribe the Afghanistan problem.

Western Europe's Latin American policy presently centers on Mexico, whose foreign policy outlook parallels Giscard's. As Mexican President López Portillo summarized it during his trip to Bonn and Paris last May, there exists a principled agreement on the need to bring high technology to the developing sector and to introduce international monetary and credit policies appropriate to that effort.

Brazil, with longstanding trade and investment ties to the Federal Republic, has become the second Franco-German partner, one that could challenge Washington's conception of the continent as its own privileged territory. Last week's statement by French State Secretary for Latin American Affairs Olivier Stirn characterizes the French thrust in the area.

Back from a tour of Latin America, Stirn emphatically announced that France is abandoning "piecemeal" policies toward the continent and instead has endeavored to implement a "constructive and well thought out" policy for the region as a whole, with Brazil and Mexico, "two great countries with whom we have ongoing exchanges."

López Portillo's trip to Brazil provided an opportunity for the French daily *Le Figaro*, often a government spokesman on such matters, to hail Mexico for "imposing herself on the international scene." "Portillo's tour confirms Mexico's will to move away from a passive and dependent foreign policy role vis-à-vis the U.S., and to act on behalf of the new world economic order," said *Figaro* on Aug. 1.

The West Germans have longstanding ties to Brazil, to which they began in the early 1970s to supply nuclear

power plants, despite Washington's objections. At the end of May, Brazilian Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro visited Bonn, where Schmidt and Foreign Minister Genscher proposed that Brazil "play a more active role in international affairs," according to the Brazilian daily *O Estado*. At a press conference, Genscher stated that because of its level of economic development, Brazil should exercise increased weight not only in Latin American affairs but also in efforts to "stabilize Africa."

As of this spring, the French were edging toward a new relationship with Brazil, involving a still unresolved proposal to buy 35 Brazilian planes in exchange for civilian and military aerospace technology.

India's potential

On the diplomatic level, India, like France and West Germany, has worked toward a negotiated settlement

Third World agenda

January 25-29: Giscard d'Estaing in India.

May 17-21: Mexican President López Portillo in Paris, then in Bonn.

May 24: Olivier Stirn, French foreign affairs secretary and Latin American specialist, in Cuba.

May 28: France proposes to buy 35 Brazilian planes.

May 29: Brazilian Foreign Affairs Minister Guerreiro in Bonn; meets Chancellor Schmidt.

June 3: Argentine Finance Minister de Hoz in Bonn and Paris; meets Schmidt, negotiates nuclear agreements with France.

of the Afghanistan problem. In general, since Giscard's visit to Mrs. Gandhi this February, the French have helped India extend its political and economic weight in South Asia. In May, France enlarged its original economic cooperation deal and offered to assist India's energy resource development program in a big way. The proposal included development of India's large coal deposits; a mammoth aluminum project; large-scale nuclear development plans enlarging current joint nuclear work; and assistance in oil exploration, development, and research.

This was discussed during the Paris trip by the Secretary to the Foreign Affairs Ministry, Mr. Name Bhandari, who met with top officials from the French energy and economics ministries as well as with French Foreign Minister Jean François-Poncet. This fall a French economic and technical delegation will follow up with a visit to India.

Two weeks ago, British newspapers leaked the news that the Dassault firm is offering India the latest in French military technology: the Mirage 2000, which the French army itself will not receive before 1985. The Mirage deal, if consummated, would supersede an agreement made by the Janata government to buy inferior Franco-British planes. The Mirages could be manufactured in India, providing advanced training to Indian personnel. Meanwhile, on July 12 it was announced that West Germany will construct two submarines for New Delhi at a cost of \$100 million.

June 18: Head of Pakistan diplomacy Aga Shahi in Paris, following visit to Bonn; meets French Foreign Minister François-Poncet.

June 26: South Korean Vice Premier Kim Woun Gie in Paris; meets Premier Barre. negotiates for two 900 megawatt nuclear plants.

June 28: Argentine Foreign Minister Pastor in Paris.

July 10: French High Commissioner for Nuclear Energy Teillac in Indonesia to promote nuclear cooperation.

July 12: Indian government announces it is buying two submarines from West Germany for \$100 million.

July: France announces proposal to sell Mirage 2000 planes to India.

...and the Soviets

by Susan Welsh

The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in January marked a turning point for Franco-German policy toward the Warsaw Pact—not because it proved the inherent expansionism of the Russians. As French Ambassador Raymond Offroy and others have emphasized, it demonstrated that the U.S.S.R. would not passively tolerate insurgencies on its borders and an increasingly open U.S.-Chinese military alliance, combined with NATO's December decision to station intermediate-range missiles in Western Europe, three minutes from Soviet territory.

Europe has therefore moved to stabilize other potential hot spots around the U.S.S.R.'s perimeter—including Poland—and to renegotiate the Euromissile question.

By the time the Madrid Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) convenes Nov. 11, European heads of state hope to have in place and ready for signing, a series of military and economic agreements. The plan is to create a "safety net" for European East-West relations, regardless of who wins the United States presidential elections in November.

French President Giscard places great stress on the Madrid conference, where he will present proposals for a Europeanwide disarmament conference. France does not want a "purely ritualistic meeting in which everyone presents their own views," Giscard stated at a reception in Paris for Rumanian President Nicolae Ceaucescu on July 25.

Renegotiation openings

Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev backed the French call for a disarmament conference in an interview with *Pravda* July 30. Brezhnev appealed to Western nations to help "lessen the military threat . . . to Europe and consequently to the world." Brezhnev and Giscard discussed the possibility of a disarmament conference during their talks in Warsaw last spring.

The key "military détente" issue which must be resolved, however, in the view of both Eastern and Western Europe, is the deployment of "Euromissiles"—medium-range nuclear missiles—by the U.S. and the Soviet Union. European NATO members last Decem-