

## Zaire Intervention Also Aimed At Gaullists

### FRANCE

French President Giscard d'Estaing's sudden intervention into the internal affairs of Zaire this week was decided upon in Washington, D.C., and many people in France are saying so. But the most anti-Washington political force in France, the Gaullist "Barons," have not said so, and it is their political demise that is the leading domestic objective of Giscard's action in Africa. If the Gaullists support — or even merely tolerate — Giscard's ugly games, the Carter Administration will have successfully combined its campaign to create "hot spots" in the Third World with a total destabilization of the French political situation.

Specifically, the Carter Administration has created a potential Waterloo for the anti-Carter Gaullists. Cyrus Vance hopes that, faced with the 'fait accompli' of Zairian entanglement, the Gaullist leaders will react on the basis their conservative nationalist profiles would indicate, blindly accepting Giscard's tale about "independent" French action to safeguard national interests in Africa. If so, the Barons would be entrapping themselves in an "imperialist" posture, cutting themselves off from their popular supporters — who would flee at the spectacle of leading proteges of Charles DeGaulle becoming abject stooges for Atlanticism. France would quickly be engulfed in the chaos of "right-left" confrontation manipulated by the otherwise weak Giscard and the U.S. State Department.

This plan went into effect on Monday, April 11. An official statement issued from the Elysée palace announced that, following a decision by President Giscard d'Estaing, French military cargo planes were engaged in an airlift of Moroccan troops into Zaire. The public, the Parliament, and apparently even the government of Prime Minister Barre and the French Ambassador to Washington, had been kept in complete ignorance of the planning and execution of the operation. It was announced that the President would explain his decision in a nationally televised address the following day.

As Vance's *New York Times* and other U.S.-press trumpeted over the alleged 'cowardice' of the U.S. and the 'courageous' example set by France, Giscard went on TV to proclaim a number of untruths, each designed to encourage the hesitant support the Gaullist Barons such as Couve de Murville initially gave to the intervention.

For the edification of Gaullist fantasies, Giscard stated that: 1) France made a unilateral decision to send military planes in response to a request from friendly Morocco; 2) The U.S. was not consulted on the matter (Giscard even went so far as to highlight his "disagreement" with U.S. Ambassador Andrew Young's state-

ment at the UN that the U.S. could not insure Mobutu's security; 3) France was "actively participating in the construction of Europe," acting as the spearhead of an "independent European policy."

Attempts to smear his anti-Carter European colleagues took up the greatest part of the President's speech.

Giscard's masquerade as a Gaullist fooled RPR (Gaullist Party) Organizational Secretary Guéna, RPR Parliamentary leader Labbé and several others into stating that the RPR was backing the President's action in Zaire! As a Washington, D.C. thinktanker cynically commented to a journalist, "Isn't it puzzling that of all people the Gaullists would support it? ... They haven't learned the lessons of Vietnam."

There is no doubt that the "rotten wing" of the RPR represented by such figures as Jacques Foccart, an expert organizer of coups d'état on the African continent, and African specialist Journiac, linked to both Foccart and new Paris mayor, RPR President Jacques Chirac with his Rothschild entourage, are cooperating with Giscard to better force the hand of pro-development circles in the Gaullist movement. It goes without saying that if traditional Gaullist leaders such as Michel Debré go on abstaining (though reportedly personally "displeased.") from the needed condemnation of Giscard's Africa intervention, their movement will lose all political credibility as an alternative to the miserable Socialist-Communist "Union of the Left." At least the left has not hesitated to attack Giscard and call for an immediate Parliamentary debate.

Giscard's claims notwithstanding, it was obvious to left spokesmen, including independent left Gaullists, that the Zairian intervention was actually planned during talks between U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Giscard about two weeks ago; in fact, the 'African situation' had been officially reported as the main topic of those talks.

Admiral Antoine Sanguinetti, whom Giscard removed from active military duty in 1973 because of his Gaullist attack against Paris subservience to Washington, told NSIPS: "Again a coincidence. After Vance's trip to Paris, Giscard d'Estaing launches an operation into Zaire. This intervention goes beyond the Constitutional powers of the President of the Republic. France acts on behalf of the U.S. at a time when West Germany asserts its independence for the first time in a long time. France is selling herself cheap to the U.S..."

The Socialist Party and Communist leaders in Parliament also have put the government on trial. The communist-led CGT union federation plans a nationwide mobilization of workers against the French interference in Africa and the danger it poses to world peace.

*Left vs. Right*

The Gaullist movements' attitude towards Giscard's

gunboat diplomacy — the support of some, the silence of others — poisons the national political climate and threatens to drag the country into a chaotic and diversionary left-right confrontation, accompanied by mounting Interpol terrorism, analogous to what is occurring in Italy. Giscard's team is preparing for precisely this kind of scenario, constituting itself as a "crisis management staff (involving the military, and French SDEC Intelligence) according to the right wing paper *L'Aurore*. The Belgian press reports that French officers sent to Zaire are led by Colonel Franceschini, a former Secret Army

Organization terrorist involved in anti-Gaullist subversion 15 years ago.

It is now rumored in Paris that Giscard might soon choose to invoke Article 16 of the Constitution, which empowers the executive to rule by decree in case of grave threats to national security. Because of Giscard's unpopularity, such a move would cause an uproar, and class war — type chaos in France's extremely tense social situation, now marked by a multiplicity of on-going metal industries against depression levels of austerity and unemployment.

## Moscow-Rome Continue Talks; Will Italy Solve Debt Problem With The Transfer Rouble?

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### ITALY

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Negotiations between Italy and the Soviet Union for a transfer rouble agreement to finance East-West trade, together with the inevitable economic implications of such an arrangement, are the main topic of heated political debate at the highest levels of Italian government and political circles.

Negotiations for the transfer rouble were further advanced this week with an invitation to Italy extended to a Polish banking delegation by the Banca Commerciale Italiana — the largest Italian bank outside the central bank itself — and the unscheduled visit to Italy by Soviet Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Komarov. This will be followed with a visit to Moscow by Italian Foreign Trade Minister Ossola later this month.

The Polish delegation has been meeting with Italian banking circles who are involved in easing the way for the transfer rouble, such as the large Bank of Sicily. Komarov's current discussions with Italian officials — a group that prominently includes Premier Giulio Andreotti — is to work out the preliminary arrangements for the transfer rouble, according to well-informed sources. Should the necessary arrangements be worked out, the transfer rouble will be put into an operational phase by the agreed midsummer target schedule.

Amid universal recognition by the Italian press that the International Monetary Fund has not one penny to grant even the miserable \$530 million loan it has promised to Italy, the Italian Communist Party paper, *L'Unità*, has been conducting a campaign on behalf of the transfer rouble and for the reorganization of the foreign trade ministry.

*L'Unità* featured an article April 11 attacking the IMF's system of refinancing by imposing levies on allied countries — "allies unwilling any longer to play that

game." For the first time, *L'Unità* raised the question of the transfer rouble as the way to come out of the "IMF's monetary games" into a monetary system oriented toward development and peace.

#### *Financial Reorganization*

The fact that the Italian government is considering undertaking major financial reorganization was hinted again today by *L'Unità* and by Italian Treasury Minister Gaetano Stamatì. PCI Central Committee member Cardia, a known supporter of the new world economic order and a party foreign affairs specialist, revealed government plans to submit a bill to Parliament that will reorganize the Foreign Trade Ministry so as to create a new institution for coordinating all foreign economic activity. Under the direct control of both the government and Parliament, the new institution will act as a mediator for trade with Third World and Soviet bloc countries. At the same time it will provide a global, coherent approach to Italy's trade with these sectors, an operation now fragmented into myriad agencies.

Treasury Minister Stamatì's proposal to establish a "lira pesante" (heavy lira), put forward yesterday would be a key aspect for reorganizing Italy's economy. A "heavy lira" by decree would change the pegging of the lira to the dollar by issuing new currency and giving it the value that Italian authorities consider the most appropriate. Although by itself — depending on the value given to the currency — this could be hyperinflationary, the indications are that the Italians are aiming at cleaning out their books for the transfer rouble and that they probably will declare a de facto debt moratorium by up-valuing the lira. As Stamatì emphasized, the problem is not a technical one, but one of political will. Interestingly enough, the Italian daily *La Stampa* compared the measure with one taken by General de Gaulle in 1958. At the time de Gaulle established a "heavy franc" in order to stabilize France's economic development and put the country's destroyed economy on its feet again.