

After Carrington appointment, only beam defense can save NATO

by Nora Hamerman and Susan Johnson

The confirmation, as expected, of Peter, Lord Carrington as the new secretary general of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization at the NATO ministerial meeting Dec. 8-9, means that the only hope for holding the Atlantic Alliance together now is the potential for NATO-wide adoption of the beam-weapons strategic defense policy of President Reagan as the best option to defend Europe. Carrington, the former British foreign secretary and business partner of Henry Kissinger, favors a deal with Russia under which Europe would break with the Atlantic Alliance to find "security" under the wing of Moscow.

U.S. Secretary of Defense Weinberger extensively briefed the other NATO ministers on the Reagan strategic doctrine at a "restricted session" on Dec. 8. Nevertheless, the defense ministers' final communiqué from the meeting failed to include any mention of the new defensive weapons, and Carrington's networks were active at the very moment the ministers were gathering to demand that the United States cut its defense budget (see Economics lead).

But a new front opened in Western Europe in early December against the Carrington appeasement faction. As the Carrington appointment approached, the most powerful political figure in France outside the government, Gaullist leader Jacques Chirac, affirmed the importance of beam weapons for the defense of Europe and the Western Alliance.

Addressing the Royal Institute of International Affairs in London on Dec. 2, Chirac, the mayor of Paris, called for an European strategic defense based on directed energy weapons, stating that "there will be no strong and durable security in Europe if West Germany does not feel that its security is totally assured by its allies. I would favor a total review of the agreements made during the last 30 years, in order to modernize weapons and to adapt them to the evolution of the balance of forces. . . . Germans may not have the nuclear bomb, but they may well have the laser." According to the Paris daily *Le Figaro* Dec. 3, Chirac added that, if the superpowers decide to "sanctuarize" their countries with antiballistic missile defenses, Germans could participate in the construction of a European ABM system.

Chirac concluded by urging a "U.S.-Europe recoupling."

This challenge to the Carrington policy on its home ground was presumably in part an attempt to reinforce the anti-Car-

ington "Churchill faction," currently on the outs in Britain's Thatcher government. Chirac's dramatic statement certainly reflected transatlantic consultations. U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger during his recent visit to Paris, put forward the beam-weapons policy before the Atlantic Institute, and discussed it with French Defense Minister Charles Hernu, Italian radio reported Dec. 5. (Last month, it was Hernu who revealed to the National Assembly for the first time that France is working on beam weaponry.) It was also reported that Secretary Weinberger insisted on meeting with Chirac.

Decisions before NATO

The French government of Socialist François Mitterrand has allied with the Reagan administration on strategic issues, despite pressure to join the "decoupling" faction in Europe. Although France is not militarily part of the NATO structure, it remains a key element of the Western alliance.

The Carrington strategy appears to be that, if the Mutually Assured Survival defensive doctrine cannot be reversed, its implementation can be slowed down to the point of ineffectiveness. A former senior British Foreign Office official with close ties to Carrington and Henry Kissinger told *EIR* at the beginning of December that "Carrington will take care of the problem of U.S. beam-weapons development when he takes over as Secretary General of NATO. The Weinberger viewpoint is not the only viewpoint—there are programs and there are programs."

When Carrington attacked Reagan several months ago for using "megaphone diplomacy," that was meant as a coded warning to the United States that the British will break apart the Western alliance if Washington pushes "confrontation policies" too far, he said. On Dec. 1, the BBC ran a 10-minute feature on "Star Wars" blaming the United States for using ABM development to "destabilize" the current strategic order.

Ungovernability in Germany?

The Danish parliament has just voted against Euromissile stationing, a vote which does not affect the missiles, since none were planned for that country, but attests to the "split from NATO" pressure. For West Germany, the Carrington faction is calculating that political chaos and terrorist out-

breaks will accelerate the “neutralist” direction the country has been moving in, despite last month’s vote to approve installation of U.S. Pershing II missiles on German soil. The Free Democratic Party (FDP) of the pro-Soviet, pro-Iran Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher is threatening to leave the government coalition if Count Otto Lambsdorff, the economics minister, is forced to resign. Lambsdorff will be put on trial for bribery, violation of party funding laws, and dirty-money trafficking on behalf of the FDP (see Bonn column, page 47).

The Hamburg weekly *Der Spiegel* was the first to blow the scandal two years ago; its editor, Rudolf Augstein, is a mouthpiece for the counterculture and “green peace” movement who often meets with Henry Kissinger. Augstein is a member of the FDP, and his party made the Lambsdorff case a “test for the coalition.”

If the FDP leaves the coalition, Chancellor Helmut Kohl, a Christian Democrat, could not long stay in power with a minority government. He would have to resign and call for new elections. Given the spiraling unemployment rate, and Kohl’s announced plans for even harsher austerity, along with the rise in anti-NATO sentiment in the population, new elections could result in a victory for the opposition Social Democratic Party (SPD), a new SPD-FDP coalition, or an SPD-Green coalition.

The SPD is the party which is about to demand that West Germany leave NATO. Gerd Bastian, the former West German general who is a leader of the Green Party, has already made that demand, the first Green spokesman to do so; in Britain, the Bertrand Russell-founded Committee for Nuclear Disarmament is on the same campaign. It is no longer a question of “freeze” proposals for changing NATO policy in a “peaceful” direction, but of an outright break.

Thus if the Bonn coalition is shattered, it will make the country a wide open target for Moscow.

Weinberger’s briefing

According to NATO sources, and confirmed by the West German Defense Ministry, U.S. Secretary of State Weinberger took the defense ministers of the Alliance into a “restricted session” for the purpose of an extensive briefing on the U.S. commitment to develop and deploy beam weapon anti-ballistic missile defense systems itself, and to do so in an integrated defense design for the West European allies. As of Dec. 8, all official sources were treating Weinberger’s briefing as if it were top secret, even though various European press outlets, especially Italian ones, quoted a Pentagon official in Weinberger’s entourage saying that “NATO needs to deploy new systems of defense technologies, particularly those based on lasers.”

The NATO staff itself, notoriously permeated with the anti-technology outlook of the zero-growth Club of Rome, may have been responsible for Weinberger having to hold the briefing in “restricted session,” rather than publicly. The

chief of the NATO Military Committee, General Jaeger, is quoted in the Italian press saying that “you can’t demand of us that we throw away the old shoes before we have even seen the new ones,” which is the clearest sign that the Carrington influence in NATO will move rapidly to sabotage the European allies moving together with the United States.

Secretary Weinberger used the NATO Winter Meeting to put through an air-defense cooperation deal with the West Germans which is perfectly in line with the ultimate design of beam weapon defenses for Europe: At the present time, the main air-fields of the NATO front are, for all intents and purposes, defenseless against Soviet air-strikes with attack and fighter aircraft. The U.S.A. and West Germany have now agreed to install a combined Patriot and Rowland (German-French anti-aircraft missile system), where the United States will use the European system for its European airbases, and the Germans will use the American system.

However, military sources report that the actual deployment of these urgently needed air-defenses will be slowed down by the same “budgetary considerations” that are being used behind the scenes against beam weapons. “These systems could be in place in two to three months: Without them, simple conventional Soviet strikes against the fewer than 25 main NATO airbases just on the Central Front would leave us with fewer than 300 machines. Even in a conventional battle scenario for Europe, we would lose another 30 percent just in the first day; it’s good to have some conventional defense, but even conventionally we do not have effective IFF [discrimination between ‘friend’ and ‘foe’] in our own air-space. The systems exist—we can work them, and the Americans have them, but for the same stupid stalling reasons that it has taken us four years to get the Rowland deployed, we still can not defend our own air-space and run our own air missions at the same time without shooting down our own machines.”

The Belgians have decided to withdraw from the Central Front air-defense-belt, and will be dissolving their own Nike-Zeus batteries, and pulling back the “Hawk” batteries to defend “important targets in Belgium.” Greek Prime Minister Papandreou spent his time at the NATO meeting, also in his capacity as Greek defense minister, to spew Soviet propaganda against NATO having any nuclear weapons at all.

Manfred Woerner, the West German defense minister, gave a press conference during which he said nothing about Secretary Weinberger’s briefing on beam weapons, and instead expressed his pleasure with the NATO meeting because “it has showed that NATO is committed to only having as many nuclear weapons in Europe as are necessary to deter nuclear weapons from being used against NATO.”

Weinberger’s briefing has now put the allies on the line—he has done what “official” Western Europe has been demanding all along, he has given the “official briefing,” so that now they are fully informed about how to work to assure their own survival.