

Elephants and Donkeys by Kathleen Klenetsky

Fritz: Dismantle nuclear forces

Early in August, Walter Mondale startled friend and foe alike when he suddenly started posing as a champion of U.S. defense. In national radio broadcasts and at campaign stops throughout the South, Mondale railed at President Reagan for having conducted U.S. defense policy "irresponsibly."

Mondale wasn't talking about Reagan's failure to negotiate a nuclear freeze, or a ban on space weapons, but about the President's alleged neglect of U.S. conventional forces and military preparedness.

Citing a recent Congressional report claiming that U.S. military readiness has seriously declined over the last four years, Mondale is charging that this situation resulted from administration overspending on nuclear forces and "big-ticket" items like the MX missile. Mondale is promising that, if elected, he will promptly reverse U.S. defense-spending priorities by diverting resources from strategic and nuclear weapons into conventional forces.

Mondale didn't dream this line up himself, nor is the "conventional vs. nuclear" debate new. It's the product of a group of "strategic thinkers" and think-tankers in the West—many of them Mondale strategic policy advisers—who are committed to destroying the West's nuclear forces as part of a "New Yalta" deal with the U.S.S.R. The basic argument calls for building up conventional forces in Western Europe at the expense of nuclear weapons, on the specious grounds that this is the only way to prevent a potential Warsaw Pact-NATO conflict from escalating into a nuclear exchange.

This palpable nonsense was given wide currency in early 1983 by the European Security Study (ESECS), a group composed of such august fig-

ures as McGeorge Bundy, Harvard's Milton Katz, a close ally of Averell Harriman, the late Carroll Wilson, a founding member of the Club of Rome, and Prof. Michael Howard of Chatham House. The fact that Mondale is now pushing the ESECS line represents a significant stepup in the drive to dismantle NATO's already-vulnerable nuclear arsenal—at the precise time that the Soviets are threatening to attack Western Europe.

Mondale/Kissinger crew to meet with Soviets

This latest assault on NATO will be one of the key themes of a conference to be held at the University of Maryland (UM) Sept. 5-7. Entitled "Nuclear Deterrence: New Risks, New Opportunities," the conference will bring together a gaggle of strategic policy advisers linked to both Mondale and Henry Kissinger with key Soviet representatives, as well as Reagan administration spokesmen.

Conference speakers include V. V. Aleksandrov of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, who will speak on "Nuclear Winter"; McGeorge Bundy, the dean of the Eastern Establishment and a leader of the anti-beam-weapon faction; IBM's pseudoscientist Richard Garwin; J. Bryan Hehir, the Jesuit author of the U.S. Bishops' pastoral letter endorsing the nuclear freeze; Jane Sharp, a board member of the Russellite Council for a Liveable World, and others.

According to conference planner Catherine Kelleher, a UM professor who also advises Mondale's campaign on defense issues, the conference will focus on two key issues: space defense, and conventional vs. nuclear weapons.

A regular visitor to the Soviet Union, Kelleher revealed that she attended an "experts' meeting" there in

June, where these and other issues were discussed.

Kelleher, who worked with the ESECS group, told *EIR* that the Reagan administration has been "criminally irresponsible" in emphasizing strategic as opposed to conventional forces, and expressed firm support for Mondale's campaign against strategic nuclear weapons.

She also expressed optimism that the UM conference will serve as an informal arena for U.S. and Soviet representatives to discuss obstacles to arms-talks. She noted that, in addition to Aleksandrov, participants will include Reagan science adviser George Keyworth, Pentagon representatives, the head of the Peking Institute for Strategic Studies, and Helmut Sonnenfeldt, a clone of Henry Kissinger.

Other sources have revealed that one key aim of the conference is to kick off an international operation to pressure Reagan into adopting the ESECS approach in his second term.

Kelleher disclosed that there already exist a number of study groups in Western Europe working on the conventional vs. strategic forces question, including one being run out of Chatham House in London.

In addition, *EIR* has learned, a longtime Mondale backer named Bernard Weissbourd is also planning a post-election international confab to promote the fraudulent conventional build-up push. The conference will be held under the aegis of Business Executives for National Security, a peacenik group which maintains close ties to the Soviets. Weissbourd, a board member of the *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists*, has just penned an article for the August/September issue of the magazine which claims that "nuclear weapons are obsolete" and demands that the nuclear umbrella over Europe be replaced with a conventional defense.