

## Kissinger Watch by M.T. Upharsin

### The 'sons of Kissinger' and Europe's new Potsdam

It may sound like the title of the newest, and most horrifying, monster movie, but the story is unhappily true, and indeed most monstrous: the "sons of Kissinger" are coming to Europe.

We are not referring to the unfortunate who goes by the name of David Kissinger, who travels through Europe pretending to be the only begotten child. What we are referring to is the consequence of the decision, taken by an 88-10 U.S. Senate vote July 16, to confirm Richard R. Burt as U.S. ambassador to West Germany.

A day later on July 17, West Germany's Deutschlandfunk radio commented wryly that Burt, until then U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs, had headed the "New York Times Bureau of the State Department."

But, on May 16, 1985, the *New York Times* itself had referred to Burt's division of the State Department as, in effect, the true-blue *Henry Kissinger division of State!* In a piece entitled, "State Department: Who's Who Now the Old-Boy Network is Dead," the *Times* identified Burt underlings R. Mark Palmer and James Dobbin as two of the key individuals in "the most insular" of State Department networks, "the European one. The group congealed," the *Times* continued, "when Mr. Kissinger was Secretary of State from 1975 to 1977. Unlike the other networks, the Kissinger hands stuck almost exclusively to the European area, and particularly to Soviet-

American relations. Almost all of them were protégés of two key Kissinger aides, Helmut Sonnenfeldt . . . and Lawrence S. Eagleburger, now president of Kissinger Associates."

In the autumn of 1982, when Burt's confirmation, then, as Assistant Secretary of State was being challenged, one of the scandals that surfaced, was that Burt had already appointed, prior to being confirmed, three individuals as his assistants: Mark Palmer, James Dobbins, and Robert Blackwell.

Now, in the summer of 1985, as Burt prepares to come to Bonn as U.S. ambassador, the following line-up emerges:

- Dobbins is already moving into the Embassy, to prepare for Burt's arrival. He will serve as Burt's closest aide, particularly on "arms control" issues, for which he was specially trained by Kissinger and co.

- Blackwell is assuming the role of U.S. ambassador to the Mutual and Balanced Force Reduction (MBFR) talks in Vienna, which serve as a key arena of U.S.-Soviet back-and-forth. In fact, the new Soviet ambassador to Austria will be Leonid Zamyatin, former head of the information department of the Soviet Communist Party. Insider sources in the European "green/peace" movement report that Burt and Zamyatin developed "close working relations" during a strategy conference of the Protestant Church's Tützing Academy in March 1983, and that the Vienna-Bonn axis is now expected to become a key focus of U.S.-Soviet "back channels."

- John Kornblum, until now head of the Central European desk at State, in Burt's division, is the new head of the U.S. consular office in West Berlin, from which vantage-point sensitive East-West negotiations, especially in a time of growing Soviet war provocations, take place. Kornblum is greatly admired by the hardcore

"green/peace" groups in the Federal Republic.

### The name of the game

The strategic thrust of Burt's "sons of Kissinger" is most obvious, and could variously be referred to as "New Yalta," a new "1815 Congress of Vienna," or, as most recently stressed by the East German press, "New Potsdam," in commemoration of the July 1945 signing of the allied powers' Potsdam Accords, certifying the division of Europe earlier worked out at Yalta.

The current fad in British strategic circles is to offer what one Sussex source labels "flexible carve-ups" to the Soviets, as part of a "global crisis-management system." This source claims that the Soviets have offered, via the British, a deal, whereby the Soviets "rein in terrorists," in exchange for U.S. concessions on the Strategic Defense Initiative policy.

British Prime Minister Thatcher is deploying at least four major delegations to Moscow, between now and the end of the year, to organize a Thatcher summit with Soviet leader Gorbachov. Ten British parliamentarians spent nine days in Moscow, through July 16, cooing about a "marked improvement" in relations between the U.S.S.R. and the British upon their return.

Throughout the June-July period, Burt's State Department division has been involved in a whole range of East-West deals, including spy exchanges with East Germany; crisis-management with the Soviets over Soviet provocations against Americans in East Germany; and preparations for a Reagan-Gorbachov summit, which were in significant part carried out by Palmer, often in association with octogenarian KGB billionaire Armand Hammer.