

Inter-Action Council mobilizes to save Gorbachov

by Mark Burdman

From May 16 to 19, the Inter-Action Council of Former World Leaders, headed by ex-West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and ex-Japanese Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda, will be holding its annual summit meeting in Moscow. The official theme of the meeting will be, "Preparing for the next century." But the focus of Western attendees in Moscow will be much less long-term: Schmidt and associates fear that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachov is "balancing over the abyss" in Soviet factional warfare, and they are conceiving of the mid-May meeting as a diplomatic effort, on the eve of the next Reagan-Gorbachov summit, to bail out their hero in the Kremlin.

Privately, Schmidt intimates reject the inexplicable euphoria of the American media and Washington-area think tanks that Gorbachov has emerged "triumphant" in the factional war with "conservative" opposition figures like Yegor Ligachov. One Schmidt associate who just returned from a mid-April stay in Moscow, reports that the factional warfare is so intense in Moscow, that different "columns of power" are not communicating with each other, as they watch and wait to see who emerges on top in the political struggles in the weeks before the All-Union Party conference beginning June 28.

Gorbachov has made short-term gains among younger academics and intellectuals and others, via his "withdrawal from Afghanistan" diplomacy and other measures, this source estimates, but the continued inept performance of the Soviet economy and worsening living standards faced by growing numbers of the Soviet population, has only fed the opposition. The latter is intensively organizing, behind-the-scenes, and is making significant political gains, although operating in such a clever, byzantine way, that what they are doing and

how they are doing it, is not always visible to the West.

"Gorbachov is really balancing over the abyss," this individual stated. "What he's doing, the closer the threat comes to his being defeated, is being quite clever in increasing the *price* for his being sacked. He's making clear to his adversaries, that there will be a total loss of international confidence in the U.S.S.R. if he's out. He is meeting four, five, six politicians a day from abroad. He met Arafat, he met Willy Brandt, and all the big shots of the Federal Republic are intending to go to Moscow, [Hans-Jochen] Vogel [chairman of the Social Democratic Party parliamentary fraction] in early May, [Economics Minister Martin] Bangemann some time in late May or soon after that. Gorbachov is playing all his international cards, and extremely so. He's trying to realize Soviet foreign policy in all fields. He has to, with his tongue hanging from speaking so much, hasten from foreign policy success to success."

The conclusion that the Inter-Action Council draws from its evaluation of Gorbachov's troubles, is that a major effort must be made to help him. Stated this Schmidt intimate: "Some people think that a strong Soviet Union, if Gorbachov prevails, would be a threat to the West. The majority view in the Inter-Action Council is, why not have more chances to cooperate with Gorbachov, if that will make things more stable than now? The Inter-Action Council backs the idea of developing the Soviet economy. And the Soviet authorities reached agreement with us, that the meeting in Moscow would be a marvelous opportunity for arranging the stage for the summit with Reagan. Gorbachov, we think, will take his chances, and will use the meeting as an instrument to give the Western public some new initiatives. We would be flabbergasted if he doesn't see the meeting as an excellent op-

portunity to make a policy statement.”

The Red carpet treatment

Gorbachov's mafia is doing everything to reciprocate Inter-Action's favors. Thanks to intervention by the Supreme Soviet, Inter-Action participants will be housed at the Sovietskaya Hotel, heretofore reserved exclusively for delegations representing fraternal communist and socialist parties from abroad. The meeting itself will be held in Moscow's Dom Soyuz, the second-most important edifice in the Soviet capital after the Kremlin.

Approximately 110 individuals, including staff, will be in attendance. Former leaders and government officials scheduled to attend, in addition to Schmidt and Fukuda, include Britain's former Prime Minister James Callaghan, France's former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing and Prime Minister Chaban-Delmas, Italy's former Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, Switzerland's former President Fürgler, Spain's former Prime Minister Adolfo Suárez, the former U. S. Secretary of State William Rogers, and China's former Foreign Minister Huang Hua, among others. Council sources report that Soviet participation has been upgraded, from the level of former ambassadors and representatives of the diplomatic corps, to certain of the top specialists and architects of the Gorbachov-era economic reforms—leaving aside the question of whether and how Gorbachov himself participates.

The intention of the Council organizers, is to produce a final document that outlines how the Soviets could be made partners in the “global economic and security system” going into the next century. Questions to be posed to Soviet officials include: Are the Soviets prepared to enter the International Monetary Fund? Will they change part of their currency into an international currency? Will they enter into a COMECON-accounting ruble?

Also, the Inter-Action group will place on the table the findings of the meeting of the Inter-Action Policy Board in Harare, Zimbabwe, which took place from March 19-21 of this year. That meeting had discussed the economic situation in black Africa, and the regional crisis situations in southern Africa and in the Sudan. Schmidt et al. seek to offer the Soviets a “co-management” role in Africa and, potentially, in other areas of the world. The Schmidt aide just returned from Moscow stated, “The Soviet Foreign Ministry now claims, privately, that there is *no difference in judgment* between them and the United States on crisis areas in the Middle East as well as in southern Africa. They want to get into agreements and to get involved. They want to become partners in negotiating different issues, presupposing a reaction from the American side. . . . Gorbachov needs foreign policy successes so much, that he is negotiating from weakness, and is really willing to pay.”

Neomalthusian ‘global system’

What this all amounts to, in practice, is attempting to

reach an East-West “global system” premised on neomalthusian population-reduction policies in the Third World, austerity, and neo-corporatism in the advanced sector, and the bringing-into-being of a federalist world government. Since its founding in the 1982-83 period through initiatives taken by the U.S.'s Bradford Morse out of the offices of the United Nations Development Program in New York City, the Inter-Action Council has assumed a central role on the international political stage, in trying to implement a neomalthusian world-federalist order. Since mid-1983, Schmidt, Fukuda et al. have exerted pressure on India, Malaysia, and the nations of Africa and Ibero-America, to reduce their populations. They have tried to weaken the Vatican's commitment to population growth and economic development, and have allied with those powerful factions within international rentier-finance circles, who have tried to use denial of credit instruments, as a means of reducing nonwhite populations in the world. Essentially, the Inter-Action approach to the Soviets is to enlist the U.S.S.R. in a longer-term project for East-West cooperation in carrying out this aim.

For the immediate term, what Schmidt et al. are doing to save Mikhail Gorbachov, is one part of a general mobilization of the Western partners in the “Trust” to rescue him from political defeat.

Speaking for this viewpoint, West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher told the daily *Die Welt* April 28 that it was “in Germany's interest” that Gorbachov succeed, and predicted that Gorbachov would prevail at the All-Union Party Conference beginning June 28.

From the West's economic/banking side, top-level delegations from the powerful Deutsche Bank have twice been to the U.S.S.R. during the month of April. On April 26, bank director and Soviet expert Axel Lebahn told *Die Welt* that German industry should be interested in developing whole “regions” in the Soviet Union. He pointed, as an example, to the Kola Peninsula, world-renowned for its awesome concentration of Soviet military power.

On April 25, in Washington, James Giffen, the head of the U.S.-U.S.S.R Trade and Economic Council, told a congressional hearing that trade between the United States and the Soviets could rise by 15 times, from its current \$1 billion, to \$15 billion per year, and that trade should be used as a “carrot” to change Soviet policies, instead of using “sticks.”

Seagram's liquor magnate Edgar Bronfman advised the same committee, that trade restrictions to the Soviets should be eased if they started acting like members of “the club.” In his capacity as head of the World Jewish Congress, Bronfman has been attempting to parlay larger numbers of Jews emigrating from the Soviet Union, into trade concessions to the Russians (and, of course, to himself). During the week of April 25, Bronfman co-thinker Armand Hammer told the Israeli newspaper *Yediot Aharonot* that Gorbachov had promised him personally that any Jew who wanted to leave the

U. S. S. R. would now be allowed to go.

'Dobrynin told me so!'

During mid-April, Giffen and U. S. Commerce Secretary C. William Verity had led a giant delegation of over 500 American businessmen to the U. S. S. R., to discuss joint ventures, and the establishment of U. S.-Soviet working commissions, in the field of energy and other areas. On April 26, Verity told a conference in Washington sponsored by the Committee for National Security that Gorbachov "enjoys the backing of the Army, the KGB, and the Politburo," and had prevailed in the Soviet politburo over Ligachov. According to Verity, the source of this information was former Soviet ambassador to the United States Anatoly Dobrynin! "Dobrynin might have been saying this for our consumption only, but I don't think so," Verity intoned.

Evidently, Dobrynin, who spent 25 years in Washington learning how to manipulate American "useful fools," is an important source for the disinformation that began to pour out of American media sewers, beginning in mid-April, about Gorbachov's "triumph" over Ligachov.

Other "Trust" channels now activated include the Anglo-Soviet Roundtable and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) in Laxenbourg, Austria.

The Roundtable held its annual series of meetings from April 11-13, at the Royal Institute for International Affairs, also known as Chatham House, in London. The Soviets brought over a high-powered delegation, led by Yevgeni Primakov, now head of the influential IMEMO think tank in Moscow. Primakov let his British interlocutors know that the Soviets would be eager to reach new Afghanistan-like regional deals and to move closer to a "superpower condominium" approach to world crises, in part through the agency of a United Nations Security Council that would be upgraded in status.

As for IIASA, its Vienna-based affiliate, the New Initiatives Committee for East-West Trade, will be holding a meeting on expanding East-West trade opportunities on May 16-17, in Vienna, simultaneous with the Inter-Action meeting in Moscow. With participation from Goldman Sachs of New York, Italy's Banco da Roma, France's Crédit Lyonnais, Britain's Barclays, Austria's Kreditanstalt, and others, and participation from the Soviets' Gosbank and Poland's Handlowy Bank, the two-day session will discuss themes like, "The integration of COMECON into the world financial system," "Western financial integration and its consequences for East-West trade," and "New possibilities for financing joint ventures." As is the case with IIASA, the co-founder and *éminence grise* of the New Initiative Committee is Dzhermen Gvishiani, the chief of the Global Systems Analysis program of the U. S. S. R. For two decades, Gvishiani has specialized in manipulating the West's liberal establishment and neomalthusian organizations, to help destroy the West from within and further Soviet Russian imperial aims.

The lid will shortly the succession fight

by Konstantin George

It's the pre-summit "New Yalta season" in Moscow. The Reagan administration has already sold out Afghanistan and Pakistan, via the April 14 Geneva "agreement." The Moscow talks held between Secretary of State Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze April 21 and 22 will go a long way toward defining the scope of the next round of expected American capitulations—START, ABM-SDI, the Middle East, and the Gulf—during the May 29-June 2 Reagan-Gorbachov summit.

This is true irrespective of whether or not a formal START treaty is signed at the summit. The Reagan administration's policies are doing a superb job of crippling the SDI and other vital programs, without the help of "arms control" agreements. Regarding the summit, there is a distinct danger that minus a START treaty, a superpower "understanding" on ABM could be just as deadly.

Beneath the picture of hasty pre-summit diplomacy, there is the brawl of the Soviet succession fight. This involves not only selecting a replacement for Mikhail Gorbachov, a purely secondary feature of the process, but forming the institutional combination that will *successfully* implement the war buildup policies code-named perestroika for the remainder of this decade and into the 1990s, a "period" Moscow believes will culminate in Russian world domination.

May will be an extremely important month in Moscow, but contrary to popular opinion, the most important event in Moscow during the month of May will *not* be the Reagan-Gorbachov summit.

Radio Moscow announced on April 24 that the Supreme Soviet (parliament) will convene on May 24. Sessions of the Supreme Soviet are almost invariably preceded by a Party Central Committee plenum. This one will be the last Central Committee plenum before the June 28 special Party Conference, making it of decisive importance.

The Supreme Soviet membership includes the Central Committee membership, who will thus all be present in Moscow for several days. This will give all the "mafias" of the Soviet *Nomenklatura* more than ample time to fine-tune the policy shifts in the making, and, should a decision on the leadership succession be made, organize the appropriate con-