

THE SHADOW

Oct. 30 (IPS)--The United Electrical Workers local at the Electro-Voice, Inc. plant in Newport, Tennessee has just won a new paid holiday: February 2, Groundhog Day. Rumor has it that when the worker staggers out of his plant on that day, if does not see his shadow, he gets laid off. If it is sunny and he sees his shadow, he goes back inside the plant to work and does not emerge again until Spring.

WEST GERMANS PURSUE DETENTE PSYWAR IN SOVIET UNION

Oct. 30 (IPS)--Three major delegations from West Germany visited the Soviet Union last week for economic and psychological warfare purposes. Accelerating the anti-Soviet offensive which began with Nelson Rockefeller's San Francisco speech to UPI editors Oct. 3, they exacerbated the Soviets' grave confusion about the detente policy on which to date they have foolishly staked their existence.

Three Delegations

Otto Wolff von Amerongen, member of Rockefeller's Trilateral Commission and the executive board of Exxon, led a delegation to Tbilisi, Georgia for a USSR Academy of Sciences symposium on economic cooperation between the Soviet Union and West Germany. In the past month, Amerongen has been a leading field organizer for the Rockefeller interests vis a vis Eastern Europe, travelling to Poland and the USSR. In both places, he held out the promise of West German credits only to back down when it came to concrete agreements on joint projects.

On this mission, Amerongen brought along a gaggle of German industrialists, scientists, and a trade unionist from his own German Society for the Study of Eastern Europe. Among them was Richard Loewenthal, long-time counterinsurgent from the Second (Social Democratic) International and associate of the American anti-communist quack, Sidney Hook.

The Soviet newspaper Izvestia meekly billed the visit of this enemy squadron as a "scientific conference."

Outside Moscow, a group of German bankers met with Soviet trade organizations to discuss the financing of a Soviet purchase of trucks. An insignificant arrangement compared with the major projects that are being held up, this kind of deal serves to fuel the illusion of progress in detente through East-West trade.

West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt got great fanfare for his trip to Moscow, but little more than that. Schmidt kept up the appearance of detente with sincere-sounding praise for the four-year-old Moscow Treaty, the cornerstone of former Chancellor Willy Brandt's

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Ostpolitik, actually blocking agreements with the Cold War issue of West Berlin. Concerning the fission power plant planned for Kalinin-grad, for example, Schmidt repeated Amerongen's demand from two weeks ago that its power grid must include West Berlin.

All the Soviets bought through Schmidt was 1.5 billion marks worth of steel pipeline on credit. It is possible, although unconfirmed, that this pipe will carry Iranian oil through the Soviet Union to West Germany.

According to the West German newspaper Frankfurter Rundschau, Schmidt waited until after dinner on the last day of talks to toss a psywar barb at Soviet party chief Leonid Brezhnev. Brezhnev commented that Franz-Joseph Strauss, who has just seriously defeated Chancellor Schmidt's Social Democratic Party in regional elections (see IPS below), is a Cold War revanchist. Schmidt, the newly self-proclaimed champion of Ostpolitik then defended the fascist Strauss!

The chill this sent through Brezhnev points to the truth: There is no possibility of detente as the Soviets conceive it. Continuing to block out this reality, they are sitting ducks for Rockefeller.