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I. Priorities

NEW NSC SLANDER ATTACKS LAUNCHED AGAINST EUROPEAN LABOR COMMITTEE

STOCKHOLM, March 27 (IPS) — A new wave of National Security Council-directed slanders has been launched against the European Labor Committees with the appearance of a major slander attack today in the Malmoe, Sweden, Social Democratic paper *Arbetet*. Implying that the ELC is connected with the CIA, the *Arbetet* piece states that the ELC gathers information on workers in factories in major Swedish cities and other data, feeds the information into a computer in Stockholm, and then transmits the data to New York City.

The article singles out ELC leader Clifford Gaddy as one of the "managers" of the "operation," identifying Gaddy as an "American" and accusing him of attempting to strangle one George Lennox, whom the article identifies as "a reporter who infiltrated the ELC." Lennox, who attempted to infiltrate the ELC recently, has been identified as a member of an intelligence network connected with the U.S. National Security Council and the British Army crack counterinsurgency units, the Special Air Services.

Arbetet portrays the ELC as a violent organization, and claims that the group plans to "act as provocateurs" in the current Swedish electoral campaign by disrupting every Social Democratic and Communist Party election meeting.

Sources at the Stockholm Social Democratic daily, *Aftonbladet*, said today that a similar slander article on the ELC is now in the hands of editors at that paper, but that the paper has not yet decided whether to publish it. The sources said that there was major controversy over the article at the paper.

WEST GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTER PLEADS FOR EUROPE TO STICK TO ATLANTICISM

STUTT GART, W. Germany, March 27 (IPS) — West Germany's Democratic Party Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher claimed yesterday that "the European bloc will not be neutral...the most important constituent will be the Atlantic partnership (NATO—ed.)..." Speaking at a meeting here of the "Liberal International," a federation of 14 liberal European Parties, Genscher also demanded that the Tindemans Plan for militarization of Western European economies "should not be kept on paper; it should be realized immediately."

Following Genscher, FDP leader Martin Bangemann stated that he sees two dangerous currents in present European policy, one, corporatism, and "the other is the utopian belief in creating a better society. Now, at the end of the worst economic crisis man has ever seen," Bankemann warned "it is clear that the left currents have achieved a certain hegemony."

SCHLESINGER SAYS LINE OF CONFRONTATION IS EUROPE

EASTON, Pennsylvania, March 27 (IPS) — Former Defense Secretary James Schlesinger said here yesterday that the real object of Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's warnings about Cuban involvement in Southern Africa is Europe. Speaking at Lehigh University, Schlesinger stated that "Kissinger is rhetorically drawing the line in Africa, but the real line has been drawn in Europe."

Referring to the immediate potential for a U.S.-Soviet confrontation, Schlesinger stated that "The Middle East (now) is like the Balkans before World War I." While the former Defense Secretary maintained that it is necessary to avert nuclear war, he touted the U.S. new weapons program, characterizing the cruise missile as

"the most exciting development in technology in ten years, which would greatly enhance our capacity to beat the Warsaw Pact."

NEW YORK TIMES COLUMNIST HITS SON- NENFELDT "SPHERES OF INFLUENCE" PROPOSAL

March 27 (IPS) — New York Times columnist today assailed a proposal put forth by State Department counselor Helmut Sonnenfeldt to grant the Soviets an "organic" relationship over the nations of Eastern Europe provided they agree to keep hands off Western Europe.

"Are we pressing Eastern Communists toward Moscow while hoping that the Soviets will turn a blind eye if we try to stamp out western Communists?" asks Sulzberger. "Is this the kind of spheres of influence deal between the two superpowers that many Europeans have for long suspected?" Sulzberger also warns that Sonnenfeldt's proposal will upset U.S. relations with China.

Terming Sonnenfeldt a "mini-Metternich," Sulzberger asks if "maxi-Metternich" Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, Sonnenfeldt's boss, is "satisfied with Mr. Sonnenfeldt's triple talk on this vital subject?...Who's looney now, as they used to ask in New Jersey?"

JERUSALEM POST: LEBANON IS FALLING TO LEFT

March 27 (IPS) — Yesterday's Jerusalem Post reports that leftist forces have "tightened their grip on Beirut and other areas of Lebanon, sparking off fears of a possible Marxist takeover." The article states that the Lebanese conflict is "no longer a Christian-Moslem conflict but a confrontation between radicals and conservatives."

The paper says that the leftist seizure

of Beirut "was similar in many aspects to the MPLA's takeover in Angola," and states that the "most puzzling phenomenon (of the takeover) was Syria's standing on the sidelines" while the left defied all Syrian warnings against "further military activity."

US PRESS PREDICTS SYRIAN CRACKDOWN ON LEBANESE LEFT

March 26 (IPS) — The Washington Post said today that Syrian President Hafez Assad is not expected to "sit by idly" while he loses political ground to the resurgent leftist forces in Lebanon. "No matter how unpopular cracking down on the leader of the left, Kemal Jumblatt and the Palestinians could prove to be in the Arab world," the Post states, Assad is prepared to do so if that is necessary to preserve Syria's control over the situation.

At the same time, WINS radio in New York said this afternoon that Syria is considering a military intervention into Lebanon in case "an imminent leftist takeover" materializes, or if warring factions partition the country into two religious states.

The Post also reports that Jumblatt has arrived for talks in Damascus under strong Syrian pressure. The Post states that the meeting could turn "into an unfriendly confrontation"...since Jumblatt's refusal to go along with Syrian efforts to impose a settlement here has badly compromised Assad's image in the Arab world.

UNREST IN EGYPT

March 27 (IPS) — Yesterday's Jerusalem Post reports that several hundred Egyptians staged a "peaceful demonstration in the centre of Cairo complaining of the high cost of living." The demonstrators urged the government to take effective measures to aid "low income categories," the Post reported.

ESCHEVERRIA URGES AMNESTY FOR STUDENTS LEADERS OF '68

March 27 (IPS) — Mexican President Luis Echeverria two days ago sent a bill to the Mexican Congress which

would provide amnesty for some 250 students who have been brought to trial for their role in the student and police disturbances of 1968. It is expected that the law will pass through Congress without difficulty and become law within a month. Although many of the 250 have served partial sentences, all are currently out of prison pending review and appeal procedures. The request for amnesty was widely reported in the Mexican press yesterday.

On March 22, a circuit judge in Mexico City revived the 1968 cases for "final disposition," a move which was widely regarded as a right-wing effort to embarrass Echeverria and to incite ultra-left groups to mount renewed charges of government "repression."

SWEDISH ATLANTICIST BANKER CALLS THIRD WORLD DEBT MORATORIUM NECESSARY

STOCKHOLM, March 26 (IPS) — Tore Browaldh, chairman of the Swedish Handelsbanken, board member of the Hudson Institute, came out last night at a public meeting in Stockholm calling for a third world debt moratorium. The third world countries "will not," Browaldh told the audience, "be able to pay their 130 billion dollars in debts and they should have a debt moratorium."

SENIOR HOUSE BANKING COMMITTEE MEMBER MAY SUPPORT DEBT MORATORIUM

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 27 (IPS) — An aide to a senior Congressman on the House Banking Committee said yesterday that the Congressman was going through an "evolutionary process" toward supporting debt moratorium for the Third World. "If you want to interpret the Congressman's actions as anti-Kissinger economic policy, he wouldn't be too upset about that."

GROMYKO PROMISES TO BOOST ANGLO-SOVIET TRADE

March 27 (IPS) — Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko, who left London yesterday after a four day visit,

gave a "firm and unequivocal assurance" that the whole of the 2 billion dollar line of low-cost credit extended by Britain to the Soviets last April to boost Anglo-Soviet trade would be "taken up in the very near future." Talks are now proceeding in the aviation, oil exploration, chemical fertilizer, nuclear energy and engineering fields, reports yesterday's Financial Times.

Gromyko's visit to Britain included several meetings with Foreign Secretary James Callaghan as well as Prime Minister Wilson during which concrete proposals to insure stability in Africa as well as a British role in guaranteeing a peaceful Arab-Israeli settlement were discussed.

In a reference to U.S. Secretary of State Kissinger's recent warnings against Cuban or Soviet involvement in Africa, Gromyko stated at a press conference that "as for all these warnings and statements, I can only say, the less there are such warnings and statements, the better."

BRITAIN EYES NEW NORTHERN IRELAND SECURITY MEASURES

March 27 (IPS) — The British Government yesterday announced its latest plans to protect the commercial shopping area of Belfast, Northern Ireland, against Irish Republican Army bombers. Starting next week, the center of the city will be turned into a traffic-free "fortress" surrounded by 10-foot high steel fences and elaborate security gates, described as "multichannel pedestrian search gates," according to yesterday's London Times.

The two mile square fenced-off "security precinct" as it is being called, will have 17 entrance gates where shoppers and pedestrians will be searched by a force of more than 300 newly-recruited "civilian searchers."

The London Times reveals that authorities on the British mainland, "mindful of the threat of a Provisional IRA campaign, have been closely watching security ideas pioneered in Belfast." The latest innovation, though presented as a plan to protect shoppers, "is known to have been introduced at the request of the (British) security authorities."

SWEDISH EDITOR ADMITS FAILURE OF EARLIER SMEARS AGAINST ELC

STOCKHOLM, March 27 (IPS) — An editorial spokesman for Dagens Nyheter, a large Swedish Liberal daily, stated in an interview today that previous attempts by that paper and the Stockholm Social Democratic paper, Aftonbladet, to discredit the European Labor Committees as a "CIA-funded" organization had "failed totally." He added, in an interview with an ELC representative, "You are a really hard nut to crack. The worst one we had."

SENATOR NUNN ANNOUNCES WITCH—HUNT AGAINST TEAMSTERS

March 27 (IPS) — Senator Sam Nunn (D-Ga) announced that the Senate Government Operations Committee will begin a massive investigation next week to smoke out alleged fraud and corruption in the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. The Teamsters are in the midst of nationwide contract negotiations to replace a contract which expires Wednesday, March 31. The investigation, which Nunn announced yesterday at a press conference, will be run on the same scale as the notorious McClellan hearings of the late 1950's which were used against Teamster leaders Dave Back and Jimmy Hoffa. According to NBC radio, Nunn will hire several hundred investigators, if necessary.

In an editorial today titled "Keep Rolling," the New York Times warned that if the 450,000 over-the-road truck drivers affected by the negotiations strike when their contract expires next Wednesday, it would have a "devastating effect on the economy's climb out of the recession. A nationwide cutoff in over-the-road truck movement would swiftly force many businesses to close and add a vast new army to the 7 million unemployed," the editorial states.

SCOOP: "DIG TUNNELS DEEP"

March 27 (IPS) — Standing in the middle of an unfinished multimillion dollar storm sewer in South Ozone Park in the borough of Queens, New York City yesterday, Senator Henry M. "Scoop" Jackson (D-Wash), who is campaigning for the April 6 New York presidential primary, said that his first act as president would be to pass a 20 billion dollar public works appropriation to complete the sewer and other projects. "I am told that Queens alone needs about 70 million dollars, including 4.2 million dollars to complete this sewer, to build badly needed storm sewers throughout the borough," Jackson said, according to today's New York Daily News. "If I am nominated and elected, this public works bill will be my first priority."

Charging that President Ford was opposed to the proposal, Jackson also said that the unfinished sewer project was "a good example of the need for a government public works program to put people back to work."

According to the News, local residents on the scene related to the Senator how the unfinished sewer had flooded last fall, causing thousands of dollars of damage to homes. Jackson, "who listened sympathetically to the tales of woe," told the residents that a recent flash flood in his hometown of Everett, Washington, had cost the lives of 2,500 milk cows, costing farmers a total of 1,750,000 dollars. The News added that Jackson "posed for pictures while staring into the murky green stagnant waters which have accumulated in the unfinished sewer work halted last fall" (due to the city budget crisis — ed.).