



# NEW SOLIDARITY International Press Service

P.O. Box 1972, G.P.O.  
New York, New York 10001  
Editorial (212)279-5950  
Customer Service (212)564-8529

LATE EVENING NEWS ROUND-UP  
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## I. PRIORITIES

### DEFENSE DEPT, NSC AGREE MIDEAST WAR DANGER IS GRAVE

WASHINGTON D.C., APRIL 15 (IPS)--Aides to high-ranking government officials with the Department of Defense and the National Security Council today agreed that there is a grave danger of war in the Middle East in discussions with U.S. Labor Party briefing officers. Aides to the highest ranking officials in the Defense Department took notes on the briefings for inclusion in memoranda to the Secretary or other high-ranking defense officials. An NSC official requested copies of the Labor Party's Middle East resolution - which calls for Arab-Israeli reconciliation on the basis of joint, region-wide technological development - and other materials on the international strategic situation.

### LEFT CONTINUES RESISTANCE TO SYRIAN INVASION IN LEBANON

APRIL 15 (IPS)--Lebanese leftists organized by the Lebanese Communist Party demonstrated in Bierut today against the continued Syrian military occupation of the country, according to Italian radio today. Today's Beirut demonstrations follow demonstrations yesterday throughout south Lebanon.

The demonstrations coincide with the issuance of a joint peace plan put forward by leftist leaders Kamal Jumblatt and Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yassir Arafat. The first point of the plan calls for the immediate withdrawal of all Syrian troops from Lebanon.

Meanwhile fighting between Muslims and Falangists is reported to be intensifying in the Beirut area today, claiming 130 lives according to Associated Press. There were no reports of Syrian involvement in the fighting.

MCGOVERN SAYS KISSINGER MIDEAST NEGOTIATING TACTICS AT "END OF THE LINE"

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 15 (IPS)—Senator George McGovern (D-SD) said on Capitol Hill today that "the end of the line has been reached on (Secretary of State Henry) Kissinger's step-by-step negotiations" in the Mideast.

SENATE AID WARNS OF NUCLEAR WAR THREAT IN MIDEAST

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 15 (IPS)—An aide to Senator Pearson (R-Kansas) said today that "the Mideast situation is horrible...I agree that there is a possibility of nuclear war." The aide said he would transmit a U.S. Labor Party briefing on the Mideast war danger to the senator in his district office.

KENNEDY AIDE SAYS SENATOR MAY ISSUE STATEMENT ON THE MIDEAST

WASHINGTON, D.C. April 15 (IPS)—An aide to Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MASS) today mooted the possibility that the senator may soon issue a statement on the Mideast situation in the near future. Briefed by the U.S. Labor Party on the danger of thermonuclear war arising from the tense Mideast situation, the aide asked, "What kind of time frame are we talking about? What is the internal stability of the Israel regime?"

STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL SAYS ASSAD COULD BE OVERTHROWN BY RIGHTISTS; U.S. ENVOY AIMS TO GUARD ASSAD'S REGIME

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 15 (IPS)—According to a State Department official who is closely associated with the mission of U.S. envoy L. Dean Brown to Lebanon, the threat of a coup against the government of Syrian leader Hafez Assad does not necessarily mean a more left-wing replacement to govern Syria. The "possibility of a right-wing coup is always there," he said.

The same source reported that the Saudis and the Kuwaitis are very active inside Egyptian and Syrian politics. The "Saudis are doing everything in their power to stabilize Assad, and if the Assad solution does not work, the fight in Syria is going to be determined by the internal struggle inside Assad's government," he said. "The Saudis are going to play a tactical role in this fight." He also revealed that the Saudi involvement in the Syrian politics is part of "a coordinated plan" by U.S. and Saudi Arabia for the "Middle East Front."

If the right comes to power in Syria, he said, "you can forget about Lebanese Leftist leader Jumblatt, the Lebanese left and the Iraqis." If the left comes to power, "This would not necessarily provoke an Israeli military intervention," he stated. "Everything is going to be determined by how far the new Syrian government is going to go into Lebanese politics." However the State Department official made clear that the Brown mission has a "major assignment" which is to "make sure that the government of Hafez Assad does not fall."

POLISH PARTY PAPER FIRST EAST BLOC PAPER TO REPORT ACTUAL SYRIAN  
ROLE IN LEBANON

April 15 (IPS)--"In the last few days," Trybuna Ludu, the party newspaper of the Polish Communist Party, reported April 13, "the pro-Syrian Saiga commando group has been involved in struggle against the progressive left which cooperate with the Palestine Liberation Organization."

Trybuna Ludu reported as well statements by leftist leader Kamal Jumblatt, calling for the superpowers to intervene into the Lebanese situation because of the conditions created by this week's Syrian invasion. Jumblatt has strongly opposed the Syrian intervention all week, charging that it was carried out "with American connivance."

This is the first account from any East Bloc source which accurately reports the Syrians' attacks against the left in Lebanon.

DEMOCRATS IN MAJOR DEPLOYMENT TO MIDEAST

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 15 (IPS)-- Leading Democrats have made a major deployment to the Middle East concurrent with the grave war danger in the region. Senators James Abourezk (D-SD) and Thomas Eagleton (D-Missouri) of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee have been sent to the Mideast, and Peter Rosenblatt, a member of the Democratic Party Mideast Study Group left today for Israel to hold what are described as "political talks." Also on his way to Israel is Rep. Benjamin Rosenthal (D-NY), while Democratic policy specialist Paul Warnke is now in Algeria.

Two other democratic Party foreign policy makers are also abroad. Democratic Party Foreign Policy Task Force co-chairman Alex Seith is in Moscow, while the other co-chairman of the task force, Averell Harriman, is in Europe, ostensibly to promote sales of his new book.

WASHINGTON POST CALLS FOR PLO-ISRAELI ACCOMODATION ON WEST BANK

April 15 (IPS)-- The municipal elections which were held last week on the West Bank and resulted in an overwhelming victory by Palestinian Communists and leftists, have "paralyzed" Israel, according to a Washington Post editorial today. The Israelis, writes the Post, "can agree among themselves neither on how to hold the West Bank... nor on how they might relinquish at least some part of it." As a solution, the Post calls for Israeli cooperation with Palestinian Liberation organization (PLO): "In the past, American officials have tended to favor the idea of an Israeli-Jordanian West Bank deal. More recently, another policy current has emerged: to try to nudge Israel and the PLO to move towards acceptance of each other as eventual partners in a quest for accomodation."

#### PCF'S MOREAU HITS AT KISSINGER'S LITTLE WARS STRATEGY

April 15 (IPS)--In a major article in today's French Communist Party daily L'Humanite, Yves Moreau attacks U.S. Secretary of State Kissinger for pursuing a policy of heating up local conflicts to contain the Soviet Union while at the same time paying lip-service to peaceful coexistence. American leaders, even the most "realistic" see the "coexistence to which they are constrained much less as peaceful coexistence than as the pursuit of extremely harsh confrontations," Moreau writes. "Aside from this concession in form, the perspectives which they envisage maintain an essentially imperialist character. Thus, they propose to stop Soviet power around the world through a conjuncture of political, military and economic means." "Kissinger," Moreau concludes, "speculates on the equilibrium of strategic forces in order to exercise pressures on a given area."

Sections of the Moreau article were circulated by the Cuban press service wire Prensa Latina today.

#### LE MONDE MOOTS POSSIBILITY OF STALINIST COUP IN USSR

April 15 (IPS)--Andre Fontaine, chief foreign affairs commentator for the French newspaper Le Monde, writes today that the death of a long-time leader in any East Bloc country is usually followed by "a tremendous power vacuum and power plays. Great changes at the head of the party or the state have more often resulted from 'plots' (read coup d'etat attempts), rather than from the game of constitutional normality...Has the threat of a new 'Bonapartism,' present throughout the history of communism and so often denounced both by Stalin and Trotsky, completely disappeared? From Tukhachevsky to Jukov, how many military leaders have lost their lives, or at least their posts, because of fear of their stature and popularity within the Kremlin?"

Next to the article by Andre Fontaine, today's Le Monde reprints speeches given last December by U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and his assistant Sonnenfeldt on the "spheres of influence doctrine" to contain the Soviet Union.

#### ZUMWALT ATTACKS RICKOVER, TRADITIONALIST NAVY

April 15 (IPS)--Retired Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, former chief of Naval Operations and an advisor to Sen. Henry Jackson, attacks Vice Admiral Hyman G. Rickover as a "malady that afflicted and continues to afflict the whole Navy" in his recent book "On Watch." Zumwalt attacks Rickover for using his influence to gain funding for a large nuclear-propelled surface-ship Navy of the sort that would be used in conventional, non-nuclear war.

New York Times columnist John Finney, who reports Zumwalt's attacks on Rickover in a Times news article today, states that "Privately, former Defense Secretary James R. Schlesinger used to complain about the political influence of Admiral Rickover." Finney concludes: "A political power struggle is now developing between Admiral Rickover on one side and the Navy command and the Defense Department on the other."

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NEW YORK TIMES COLUMNIST: "U.S. BOLSTERING NUCLEAR FORCE TO SURVIVE SOVIET ATTACK"

April 15 (IPS)--New York Times military specialist Drew Middleton writes today that the U.S. "has begun a far-reaching program...to improve the chances of the survival of the ICBM (U.S. intercontinental missile force) system in a nuclear war...Silos are being modified with isolators such as foam blocks and springs to sustain shock," reports Middleton. Strategic Air Command officers, according to Middleton, also regard the development of the proposed MX intercontinental missile "urgent in view of Soviet missile progress." The MX is a heavier missile whose mobility SAC hopes will protect it from Soviet attack. Middleton also reported SAC programs to improve striking power and targetting of its ICBMs, and plans to develop the B-1 bomber.

DOLLAR CRISIS ESCALATES

NEW YORK, April 15, (IPS)--There has been a sharp escalation in the dollar crisis over the past two days despite the shutdown of major European trading centers due to Easter holidays. Yesterday, in a lackluster trading day, there was still enough dumping of dollars to force the Swiss central bank to intervene with a purchase of 300 million dollars--all in a matter of an hour. In addition, both the West German and Japanese central banks were reported to be supporting the worthless greenback with undisclosed amounts of purchases--all this despite a massive campaign by the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank to assure foreign traders about the "basic strength" of the U.S. dollar.

A trader at a British clearing house bank (one of the five major British banks) in New York said: "There has been a particularly heavy inflow of funds from dollars into Swiss francs over the past two or three days. When people are ready to forego their dollar holdings and go into Swiss francs to earn a negative interest rate, then you know things are pretty rough." He further stated that the pound crisis has not even started yet, and agreed that wholesale dumping of pounds and dollars could develop within weeks.

Speculators are now hopeful that Switzerland will introduce a two-tier system--a controlled rate for trade transactions and a freely floating one for financial transactions--thereby providing a safe haven for the unfortunate dollar holders of the world, today's Journal of Commerce reports.

Today, markets were shut down in most of Europe and very quiet in New York, but still there was Bank of England support for the pound and some support for the dollar by the West German central bank, the Bundesbank.

ONTARIO STEELWORKERS STRIKE AGAINST WAGE CONTROL BOARD

April 15 (IPS)--Over 750 members of the United Steelworkers of America have gone on strike at Elliot Lake, Ontario, to protest a roll-back in their negotiated wage settlement with Denison Uranium Mines. The roll-back was ordered by Canada's Anti-Inflation

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Board (AIB) which reduced a 17 percent wage hike to 10.9 percent. 4,000 other Steelworkers in Ontario and Manitoba were also affected by the AIB decision. To date the Board has ordered over 170 such cuts in negotiated wage settlements, including over 15 teachers' contracts in Ontario. The Elliot Lake strike is the first direct response to the roll-backs.

In related developments, Quebec's Attorney General Gerard Levesque has announced that the province has begun legal actions against about 100 teachers unions after nearly 95,000 Quebec teachers staged a one-day strike in direct defiance of recent anti-strike legislation. The teachers were joined by 50,000 hospital workers in the March 13 strike action. Leaders of the Common Front representing teachers, hospital and other public service workers in the province, have indicated that they will continue strike activity if the government does not produce "workable" contract offers over the holiday weekend. The Common Front is seeking a 165 dollar per week minimum wage and 44 percent in wage increases over one year. The government has not budged from a 10 percent wage offer over the last nine months of negotiations.

The news was widely reported in yesterday's Canadian press.

End of Priorities

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