



NEW SOLIDARITY International Press Service

P.O. Box 1972, G.P.O.
New York, New York 10001
Editorial (212) 279-5950 TWX 581-5679
Customer Service (212) 564-8529

NEW SOLIDARITY INTERNATIONAL PRESS SERVICE (IPS)
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NATO TO "STAGE" INVASION OF ITALIAN SARDINIA

ROME, April 28 (IPS)--Sources high up in the Italian Defense Ministry here yesterday leaked that a NATO maneuver next month will include "a simulated invasion of the island of Sardinia" by elements of the U.S. Sixth Fleet and the Italian Navy. The maneuver is in addition to two others already planned for Italy and the surrounding area.

This scenario is similar to an exercise held last year in the Mediterranean called Operation Dawn Patrol, a yearly exercise which a Pentagon source in Washington today confirmed would be held "in the very near future."

GDR SIGNALS CONCERN OVER ITALY COUP DANGER

April 28 (IPS)--The German Democratic Republic ruling party's (SED) daily, Neues Deutschland, today covers Italian Communist Party (PCI) statements calling on "all democratic forces" to be vigilant against right-wing moves. The SED paper normally carries little or no coverage of the NATO-controlled PCI's statements, and this article reflects the SED's awareness and concern regarding the changed situation within Italy and the threat of a NATO-directed coup d'etat.

Earlier this week, the official Soviet government paper, Izvestia, warned directly that there is a fascist threat in Italy.

MASSIVE DEPLOYMENT OF CARABINIERI INTO ROME

ROME, April 28 (IPS)--Italian police and carabinieri have been mobilized into Rome for full-scale search and seal operations to uncover the hideouts of the so-called terrorist Armed Communist Formations. The terrorist group is claiming credit for four bomb threats against the police and carabinieri in the past 48 hours, according to Il Fiorino today.

STATE OF EMERGENCY CALLED IN MILAN AS COUP PREPARATIONS CONTINUE

MILAN, April 28 (IPS)--Minister of Interior Francesco Cossiga declared a "state of alert" here today in preparation for tomorrow's

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planned demonstrations commemorating the death of a fascist youth. The Milan daily Corriere della Sera reports today that "Autonomia Operaia," the above-ground organization of the NATO-controlled terrorists, the Red Brigades, will hold a counter-demonstration to the already announced demonstration by the fascist party, the MSI. Clashes between the two groups are inevitable, Corriere reports. Rumors that fascists are coming from across the country abound. But Cossiga has promised that the "state of emergency" will provide enough troops to be deployed to maintain order, the paper concludes.

SADAT CALLS ON DANES TO
"PLAY ROLE IN A GLOBAL PEACE INITIATIVE"

April 28 (IPS)--Egyptian President Anwar Sadat has called on Danish Social Democrat and Prime Minister Anker Jorgensen, currently in Cairo, to "take an active role to find a peaceful settlement in the Mideast."

According to an April 26 front-page article in the leading Copenhagen daily Berlingske Tidende, Sadat told Jorgensen and press of his strong wishes for peace and "underlined strongly that he accept the existence of Israel....Denmark can play a role through its membership in the EEC (Common Market) and through its very good relations to Israel."

The Berlingske account further quotes the Egyptian President as saying, "Yes, I ask myself if Denmark cannot play a role in a global initiative....The best would be to call a Geneva Conference. All here in the Middle East want peace; and the place to have it is in Geneva, where all parties can meet....Also, the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization) must be there because the Palestine question is the most important, not Sinai or something else."

SWEDISH SOCIAL DEM PRESS SAYS
"ISRAEL'S ONLY CHOICE: NEGOTIATIONS WITH PLO"

April 28 (IPS)--An April 26 lead editorial in the major Swedish Social Democratic daily, Arbetet, proposes a negotiated settlement of the Middle East crisis, stating that as a result of recent Second International discussions with members of that region, "Peace in the Middle East is perhaps, in spite of all, possible." Arbetet and the European Second International offer the following two point program:

"All the Arab countries--except perhaps Libya, which is not very important in this respect--accept today the existence of Israel within the 1967 borders.

"The PLO has moderated its position substantially and will probably accept a Palestinian state on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip."

The Arbetet editorial, widely regarded as an unofficial conduit for the ruling Swedish Social Democratic Party, concludes with a warning: "Continuous refusal from Israel to negotiate with the PLO

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increases the danger of war....Today it is possible to talk with the PLO; it is by no means certain it will be possible tomorrow."

SOVIETS WARN OF MIDEAST EXPLOSION,
CALL FOR GENEVA CONFERENCE

April 28 (IPS)--The official Soviet news agency, TASS, today issued a strongly worded Soviet declaration warning of "danger of a new explosion" in the Mideast and blaming U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger for aggravating the situation. The statement calls on all countries to seek a solution to the crisis.

The Soviet statement calls for immediately convening the Geneva Mideast Peace Conference and proposes a three-point peace and development program for the region:

- 1) that Israel go back to the 1967 border lines;
- 2) that the Palestinian people be allowed to establish their own state;
- 3) that there be international guarantees for the security of the frontiers of all countries in the Mideast and their right to develop independently.

The TASS release puts the blame for the dangerous situation in the Mideast directly on Kissinger, saying that "while partial accords of last year (negotiated by Kissinger--ed.) created the illusion, in some circles, of a tendency toward peace in the Mideast, now everyone sees that they circumvented the cardinal questions of a Mideast settlement and not only failed to solve the situation, but aggravated it."

STEVENSON MIDEAST REPORTS CALLS FOR
"JOINT U.S.-SOVIET SEARCH FOR PEACE" IN THE MIDDLE EAST

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 28 (IPS)--Sen. Adlai Stevenson (D-Ill) released a report yesterday that calls for joint U.S.-Soviet "formulation of a negotiating process and the principles to govern an overall settlement" in the Middle East. Stevenson's report, "Middle East: 1976," argues that the "internal development" of the region is the "way...to harness the common interests of all of the people of the Middle East to the search for peace." Stevenson warns that "time is running out--again," that "another Arab-Israeli war risks the danger of war with the Soviet Union and virtually assures a depression in the West."

In an unusual move, Sen. Howard Baker (R-Tenn) introduced the report on Stevenson's recent two-week diplomatic tour of the Middle East into the Congressional Record. Sen. Baker, a moderate Republican, is not a member of Stevenson's Senate Banking Subcommittee on International Finance.

In conclusion, the report attacks U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's "step-by-step diplomacy." "Step-by-step diplomacy has run its course. The impasse has resumed....One of the end-products

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of step-by-step diplomacy has been to raise the level of American commitment in the area and to limit the options as tensions heighten," the report charges. "A new order of statesmanship is required from both the Executive and Legislative Branches. For too long Congress has meddled or gone along without any real understanding of Middle Eastern politics."

The Senator stated that under a U.S.-Soviet "joint search for a settlement...it should be possible to develop an agreement on general principles of such a settlement and the multilateral process for reaching it. If a return to a Geneva conference should be blocked by quarrels over Palestinian representation, then the questions of representation might be left to negotiation. But the other elements of a settlement, including Israeli withdrawals and guarantees of territorial integrity, are capable of rough definition in principles for negotiation."

SYRIA'S ASSAD ENDORSES GENEVA CONFERENCE FOR MIDEAST

April 28 (IPS)--Syrian President Hafez Assad is "indirectly" quoted in the May 3 issue of Newsweek magazine as giving his backing to a Geneva conference on the Mideast crisis which would include participation by both Palestinians and Israelis, a move that apparently marks a softening of his intransigent line against negotiations with Israel. According to Newsweek, Assad's backing for Israel is part of a four-point program which also includes a compromise in Lebanon, U.S. pressure on Israel to accept a Palestinian state, and the establishment of a specific timetable for reaching an overall settlement.

Assad's reported backing for Geneva follows Egyptian president Anwar Sadat's strong reiteration of his call for the reconvention of the Mideast Geneva conference this weekend.

REPORT COUP ATTEMPT AGAINST ASSAD

April 28 (IPS)--The Egyptian newspaper Goumeriyha reports that there was a major coup attempt against Syrian President Hafez Assad two weeks ago at the time of Syria's full-scale invasion of Lebanon, in which 4,000 people were arrested. At the same time, rumors are circulating throughout European press sources that Assad is planning a purge of his Foreign Minister, Abdel Halim Khaddam, and Saiqa guerrilla chief Zuhair Mohsen, both known for their extremist views on Israel.

ARAFAT WARNED ASSAD ON CEASEFIRE, CALLED SAIQA CHIEF U.S. AGENT

April 28 (IPS)--The French language newsweekly Afrique-Asie reports this week that during heated negotiations last week between Syrian President Hafez Assad and Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasser Arafat to set up the most recent Lebanese ceasefire, Arafat unexpectedly warned that if Assad did not go along with the terms he proposed he would renounce outspoken Saiqa (Syrian-controlled section of the PLO) chief Zuhair Mohsen at the upcoming PLO national leadership meeting. Arafat accused Mohsen of being a

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"provocateur" and an "agent of the Saudis and the U.S." Mohsen has often been named as Arafat's most likely replacement.

ISRAELI ARMY ON ALERT IN FACE OF WORSENING LEBANESE CRISIS

April 28 (IPS)--High-ranking officials of the Israeli Defense Ministry report that Israel's army is in a state of alert in the face of the deterioration of the Lebanese situation, the conservative Mexican daily, the Herald, says today. The Defense Ministry's Director of Foreign Affairs, Jacob Barmor, is quoted in the exclusive interview as saying, "We are not going to lose Jewish blood in foreign wars. But, neither can we remain distant to the danger that is embodied in Syrian intervention to convert Lebanon into an extremist country." He further warned that the diplomatic deadlock in Lebanon necessitated major Israeli military fortifications along the entire Lebanese-Israeli border.

Neues Deutschland, the German Democratic Republic daily, reports today that Israeli troops have massed on the Lebanese border and were involved in heavy shelling of positions inside Lebanon last night.

ISRAELI DEFENSE MINISTER PERES WARNS OF THREAT FROM SYRIA

April 28 (IPS)--Israeli Defense Minister Shimon Peres, a close ally of former Defense Minister and warhawk Moshe Dayan, yesterday publicly warned that Syria wants to absorb Lebanon to have a new staging ground for an attack against Israel. Peres' statements, made in an interview with Israel's Defense Forces Magazine, are accompanied by similar public statements from Israel's right-wing circles expressing "renewed concern" over Syria's role in Lebanon.

LEBANESE ELECTIONS THREATENED BY DETERIORATING SECURITY

NEW YORK, April 28 (IPS)--Renewed fighting in Lebanon that "no one can stop" may preempt the scheduled parliament meeting on Saturday to elect a new president, says WINS radio here today. Both leftist leader Kamal Jumblatt and rightist Interior Minister Camille Chamoun are hedging on endorsing the elections and speculation throughout Beirut is that the fighting, which is largely provoked by the U.S. National Security Council-controlled Falange extremists, is aimed at specifically to sabotage the elections, the Westinghouse radio station reports.

EGYPT COMPLIES WITH IMF DICTATE TO DEVALUE ITS CURRENCY

April 28 (IPS)--Egyptian Minister of Economy Mohammed Shafai announced this week that Egypt is planning a major overhaul of its entire currency system, including floating the Egyptian pound, complying with the long-standing "recommendations" from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). This demand has been long opposed by broad layers of the Egyptian government bureaucracy. Yesterday's Financial Times of London reports that Egypt will retain its official exchange rate for imports of essential consumer goods while the tourist rate of 64 piasters to the dollar will be replaced by a floating system managed by the Egyptian Central Bank.

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Still to be decided, says the Times, is whether foreign investors will be allowed to bring their money into Egypt at the new floating rate or the official rate, according to IMF officials.

KISSINGER ANNOUNCES "NEW" POLICY

April 28 (IPS)--In the major policy speech of his African tour, Secretary of State Henry Kissinger announced in Lusaka, Zambia, yesterday a program for insuring "black majority rule" in Rhodesia. he declared also that apartheid--the policy of racial separation in South Africa--must end and pledged the U.S. government to "encourage" and "urge" the government of South Africa in that direction, according to the New York Times this morning.

According to the Times, Kissinger said, "The United States is totally dedicated to seeing to it that the majority becomes the ruling power in Rhodesia," no later than two years after the conclusion of successful negotiations. Kissinger also said that the administration would urge Congress to repeal the Byrd amendment "this year," thereby prohibiting the import of Rhodesian chrome ore, ferrochrome and nickel, and is "ready to join with other interested nations in a program of economic, technical and educational assistance, to enable an independent Zimbabwe (Rhodesia)." He said aid will also be provided to neighboring countries which close their borders against Rhodesia and that 12.5 million dollars in aid has specifically been pledged for Mozambique, which, like Zambia, has already done so.

SULZBERGER OF NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIAL BOARD SAYS KISSINGER "CANNOT POSSIBLY" DO IT

April 28 (IPS)--C.L. Sulzberger of the New York Times editorial board writes that Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's new Africa policy won't work in an Op-Ed piece called, "Something Out of Nothing", carried in the New York Times and International Herald Tribune today. "The job is really to make something out of nothing...The U.S. has never had a cogent policy for sub-Saharan Africa since the latter gained its freedom...And it has not escaped black leaders that U.S. investments in white-dominated South Africa have more than doubled over the past 5 years... The U.S. really messed up Angola. Not that Washington was entirely wrong politically...But we allowed Russia to move into the vacuum of our uncertainty...Finally we encouraged South Africa, bogeyman of every black state, to march 1,500 regulars northward."

"No matter how much Mr. Kissinger is able to accomplish in arighting the policy imbalance, in pressing Rhodesia toward majority rule, and in urging south Africa to accelerate its advance toward racial justice...how much promised economic aid and political support can he actually deliver to black nationalists?"

Sulzberger concludes: "Now is the time for Washington to realize that it must abandon retrograde concepts of the past in helping the Africans to solve their problems. It might also do well to listen to the counsel of other non-African nations, many of which have more African experience than we. Surely these include the European Community and also China."

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**GHANA CANCELS INVITATION TO KISSINGER;
REJECTION OF KISSINGER WIDESPREAD ELSEWHERE**

April 28 (IPS)--The government of Ghana cancelled its invitation to U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger last night, according to the New York Times today. Kissinger's scheduled arrival in Accra, Ghana, tomorrow, had been preceded with widespread protests in Ghana against the visit, the Times said. The State Department spokesman in Kissinger's party, Robert Funseth, blamed "many pressures...from foreign sources" for the cancellation, and the Times reported another U.S. official in the party as claiming these foreign sources were the Soviets and Nigeria.

Other African countries have expressed displeasure with the Kissinger trip. Nigeria had earlier cancelled a planned visit by Kissinger, and after his arrival in Tanzania, the Nigerian newspaper New Nigerian ran a headline: "He Is Bluffing," according to the West German Daily Sueddeutsche Zeitung April 26. According to the same source, the government-controlled Daily News of Tanzania commented, the day after Kissinger's departure from Tanzania, that each time the African people were struggling for their liberty, Kissinger and the U.S. were supporting the oppressors. Kissinger was greeted by a substantial anti-American, anti-Kissinger demonstration upon his arrival in Lusaka, Zambia, according to the Sueddeutsche Zeitung.

**DIE ZEIT NOTES USLP PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE'S
POLICY ON WEST GERMANY**

WIESBADEN, W. GERMANY, April 28 (IPS)--The West German weekly newspaper Die Zeit published by Trilateral Commissioner Theo Sommer, this week reported on U.S. Labor Party presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche's recent policy statement on West Germany in which the candidate stated that one of his first acts in office, should he be elected President, would be to end U.S. Occupation control of the West German Federal Republic by concluding a formal U.S./West German peace treaty. Ironically referring to the "chocolate bar"/prostitution/cigarettes black market under the U.S. Military Occupation of West Germany, Die Zeit wrote that "at least one of the numerous American presidential candidates has offered the Germans a special sweet;" the paper then states that LaRouche may have in mind the "clause of military occupation which has been kept by the U.S. government which can be interpreted to mean that West Germany can be occupied by the Americans at any time."

WEST GERMAN PRINTERS STRIKE; PUBLISHERS CALL LOCKOUT

WIESBADEN, WEST GERMANY April 28 (IPS)--The national West German printers' union, I.G. Druck, went on strike today demanding a 9 percent wage increase. More than 88 percent of the 80,000 member union had voted in favor of a strike which followed the fail-

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ure of arbitration proceedings. The strike is headed for a confrontation over the government's de facto 5.4 percent wage increase guidelines, and the Federal Printers Association immediately declared a nationwide lockout.

As of this afternoon, the strike is receiving 100 percent support from journalists, non-unionized and unskilled workers. Reports from the picket lines show high morale among the printers as well as workers from other unions which have already settled for 5.4 percent.

STEEL PRICE HIKE WILL HIT AUTO-LED "UPSWING"

April 28 (IPS)--The Wheeling/Pittsburgh Steel Corporation announced April 26 that it will hike its prices for flat-rolled steel by 8-9 percent. Flat-rolled steel accounts for 45 percent of total steel industry shipments, and is used in the production of autos and home appliances. According to one Wall Street analyst, should the rest of the steel industry go along with the Wheeling/Pittsburgh price hike, it will mean a 50-60 dollar increase in auto industry costs which will be passed on to the consumer through an increase in auto prices.

BRITISH TRADE UNION LEADER INVOKES HYPERINFLATION THREAT TO TERRORIZE WORKERS

April 28 (IPS)--Arguing that British workers must accept a 5 percent ceiling on wage increases to stop the fall of the pound sterling, Jack Jones of the powerful Transport Workers' union told a London employers' dinner "Britain must never reach the crisis that Germany reached between the World Wars."

Speaking about the hyperinflation of the Weimar Republic, Jones in remarks that were aimed at British workers, said, "in hyperinflation, a kilo of potatoes was worth more to some than the family silver, a side of pork was worth more than the grand piano, a prostitute in the family was better than an infant corpse, theft was preferable to starvation, warmth was finer than honor, clothing more essential than democracy, food more needed than freedom."

Jones pleaded that workers adopt a "Dunkirk spirit" in accepting the new wage freeze. His remarks were reported in the London Daily Express and other British media.

TETHER DECRIES THREAT OF SUSPENSION OF DEMOCRACY IN BRITAIN

April 28 (IPS)--"It is unfortunate that the long-standing official policy of encouraging the use of London as an international banking center has finally created a situation wherein the behavior of the pound is apt to be significantly affected by something as unsurprising as the fact that some trade union leaders do not go all the way with proposed austerity policies," writes C. Gordon Tether in the Financial Times of London. (more).

"But would it not be wrong to suspend the normal functioning of democracy on this account?" he asks. Trade unionists, Tether says, have more of a right to decide government policy "than international bankers making their influence felt through sinister hints about what will happen if their ideas about how Britain should be run are not acted upon."

PERU UNION FEDERATION CALLS FOR DEBT MORATORIUM,
MECHANIZATION OF AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION

LIMA, April 28 (IPS)--The Secretary General of the Christian National Federation of Workers (CNT) in Peru, this week issued an 11-point programmatic statement which includes a call for a moratorium of at least one year on Peru's foreign debt, and application of scheduled payments on agricultural debt for financing mechanization of agricultural production. The CNT statement of programmatic demands produced for the May Day demonstration called by a united front of trade unions, also calls for barter of Peruvian iron ore in exchange for food and oil from socialist and Third World countries, to insure vital supplies after declaration of debt moratorium.

SENATOR HELMS ASSERTS PERU COULD BECOME ANOTHER ANGOLA

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 28 (IPS)--Senator Jesse Helms (R-NC) asserted in a Senate speech yesterday that there are 4,000-5,000 Cubans in Peru "disguised as technicians," but "prepared to switch to guerrilla warfare whenever they choose." Helms stated that the Soviet Union has "made a strong investment in supporting the military system of the left-leaning government in Peru. If the Soviets, using the Cubans as their surrogates, choose to extend their adventures into the continents of the Western Hemisphere, then Peru would be the place to start," Helms, a prominent conservative, stated.

In a further statement which feeds into the RAND Corp. "little war" scenario for Latin America, Helms observed that "both Chile and Bolivia have publicly expressed concern about the threat of Marxist invasion from Peru."

END COMBINED IPS APRIL 28, 1976