



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 EDITION
April 29, 1976

ASSAD THREATENS WAR WITH ISRAEL TO MAINTAIN SYRIAN HOLD OVER LEBANON

April 29 (IPS) — Syrian President Hafaz Assad has publically warned that "I took it upon myself to salvage Lebanon and would not retreat from this position even if this would cost me a war with Israel," according to right wing Christian Lebanese sources quoted in today's Washington Post. Assad's provocative statement immediately follows a similar warning made by Israeli Defense Minister Shimon Peres two days ago that Syria would use Lebanon as a "staging" ground for a war with Israel. Similarly fueling the propaganda campaign to keep the Mid East hot, Syria's Foreign Minister, Abdel Halim Khaddam speaking in Kuwait accused Lebanese leftist leader Kamal Jumblatt of partitioning Lebanon. Khaddam added that Syria "will take decisive action whenever it is felt that the Palestinian revolution or the unity of Lebanon is in jeopardy," quotes the Post.

LEBANESE LEFT WING COALITION VOTES FOR ELECTION POSTPONEMENT

April 29 (IPS) — The Lebanese left-wing coalition under the leadership of Kamal Jumblatt last night called for the postponement of the election of a new president by the Lebanese Parliament scheduled for May 1. During a major election strategy planning session, the coalition charged that Syria is applying both military and political pressure to secure the election of the candidate of their choice, widely known to be central Bank governor Elias Sarkis.

From Lebanon's right wing, a similar sentiment is emerging. The current ruling president Suleiman Franjeh and his Falangist ally, Interior Minister, Camille Chamoun, both cite decreasing security throughout Beirut as an obstacle to the parliament meeting. Chamoun has asked for the elections to be postponed until May 4.

CIA AGENTS FLOODING INTO LEBANON THROUGH ATHENS

April 29 (IPS) — Yesterday's Greek daily Eleutherotopia charged that "another group of twelve high ranking CIA agents has arrived in Athens, and is leaving for Beirut soon. The group is headed by Colonel Elia Sordelstrom, who was in Cyprus the day of the Turkish invasion."

Eleutherotopia further states that "This is not the first time that a whole group of CIA agents has gone to Beirut through Athens; and their appearance always coincides with a new eruption of the civil war or very important political events in Lebanon." The paper says that the departure of this latest group is connected with the upcoming elections for a new president in Lebanon.

ISRAELI GOVERNMENT CRISIS "IMMINENT"

April 29 (IPS) — A showdown over the West Bank issue within the Israeli Cabinet between those who support the recent march of fanatic religious expansionists and those who support the fanatics is "imminent," yesterday's Financial Times of London reported. Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon has suddenly cancelled his scheduled trips to the U.S. and Denmark in order to be present for the upcoming debates which have split the Cabinet down the middle, the Times reported.

SCHLESINGER; HUMPHREY TO SPEAK AT ISRAEL LOBBY POLICY MEETING

WASHINGTON, D.C. April 29 (IPS) — "Friend of Israel" James R. Schlesinger, former U.S. Secretary of Defense and leading advocate of the RAND Corporation doctrine of "limited tactical nuclear warfare," will be a guest speaker next week at the annual policy planning of the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee, the leading organization of the U.S. "Israel Lobby," the weekly Jewish Press reports this week.

Also scheduled to speak at the sessions, which will take place in May 3-4, will be Senators Hubert Humphrey (D-Minn) and Clifford Case (D-NJ), U.S. Undersecretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Joseph Sisco, and

Aharon Yariv, former chief of Israeli military intelligence who collaborated with the CIA in planning of the 1967 Israeli-Arab war.

PLANTED TIME BOMB EXPLODES IN JERUSALEM KILLS THREE

April 29 (IPS) — A time bomb allegedly planted by "Arab guerillas" exploded yesterday in Jerusalem, killing a policeman and two firemen who had rushed to the scene to dismantle the bomb, Associated Press dispatches report today.

SOVIET STATEMENT ON MIDEAST: NUCLEAR WAR OR DEVELOPMENT

April 29 (IPS) — The Soviet government issued a statement on the Mideast yesterday which is unprecedented both in the sharpness of its warning of the danger of war and in its call for economic development of the entire region, including Israel.

"The U.S.A. is supplying various modern weapons (to Israel)," the statement said, "including missiles which can carry conventional as well as nuclear warheads. It is especially alarming in this respect that Israel is creating or has already created its own nuclear warheads. It is not difficult to see what a potential danger to peace is posed by this." There have been four Arab Israeli wars, the statement said, and "it would be naive to assume that this will not happen a fifth time. It has become clear to all what consequences a new war in the Middle East would have, including consequences for the entire international situation."

The statement stressed a pro-development perspective for the region: With a peace settlement, it says, "The people of the Arab countries will be able to concentrate their forces and resources on solving the tasks of economic and social development, on allaying the backwardness which they were left in by the colonialists...A comprehensive and radical political solution in the Middle East will afford all of the people in the area a peaceful life and the possibility for blossoming development. It will create a stable foundation for peace..." -- for all people, including all Israelis.

The statement called for immediate

preparatory measures for a Geneva Conference on the Mideast, and urged other governments to support this call. "Should any government continue to set up obstacles to resuming of conference work, they will take upon themselves heavy responsibility for the consequences of such a policy."

U.S. PRESS COVERS TASS STATEMENT ON THE MIDEAST DANGER

April 29 (IPS) — Today's major U.S. press carried the Soviet government's urgent warning on the Middle East distributed yesterday by Tass news agency. The coverage accorded the statement nonetheless varied. The Washington Post retains a sense of the urgency and importance of the statement by beginning with the declaration of the danger of a "new military explosion." By contrast, the New York Times opens with the call for the resumption of the Geneva conference in two stages although the Times is the only paper to extensively quote from the statement which warns that the United States is sending Israel "various modern arms capable of carrying both conventional and nuclear warheads." Both the Washington Post and the Times report the statement's targeting of Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's step-by-step diplomact for aggravating the situation as well as the key ingredients cited by the Soviets for an overall settlement. The Baltimore Sun gives the most abbreviated coverage and omits any mention of the Soviet's peace program.

SOVIET DELEGATIONS TO VISIT ISRAEL

April 29 (IPS) — Two Soviet delegations will visit Israel in early May, yesterday's London Financial Times reports. According to the Times, one delegation has been invited by an Israel-Soviet Friendship group with close ties to the Israeli Communist Party and will participate in celebrations marking the May 8, 1945 allied victory over Nazi Germany. The other delegation will represent the Soviet peace movement.

SENATOR FROM EXXON WARNS FORD AID CUTOFFS STRENGTHN HAND OF ISRAELI WARHAWKS

April 29 (IPS) — Efforts by the Ford Administration to cut back on aid to Israel's military are tantamount to "blackmail," a foreign policy aide to New Jersey's Democratic Senator Clifford Case insisted today. According to the aide, these efforts, "if pushed too hard," will create difficulties for

Premier Yitzak Rabin, and allow warhawk Defense Minister Shimon Peres to "come in" as Rabin's replacement.

The aide further reported that former Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban, leading moderate and a leader of the peace forces in Israeli, is "less popular in Israel than he is in New York."

Case is widely known as the "Senator from Exxon" for his long years of service to the Rockefeller family's international oil interests.

KISSINGER EMBARGOES PRESS "LEAKS" ON FALANGE

NEW YORK, April 29 (IPS) — Leading investigative reporters in the U.S. have reported that their usual source of "leaks" on CIA and State Department covert operations are totally closed on the question of funding and arming of the Lebanese Falange. Whereas factional leaks were abundant on unofficial U.S. involvement with the Angolan countergangs, FNLA and UNITA, no information is available to contradict the State Department's official position that it is "not involved" with the Lebanese right. One noted reporter for a major East coast newspaper claimed, "I've been trying to get this for nine months." Another leading American journalist reported that were he to publish what "everybody knows" about the Falange, he would be fired from his job. "The Falange stinks...everybody knows it's a U.S. controlled operation, but you can't prove it."

20,000 POLICE OCCUPY MILAN; FEAR OF VIOLENCE SPREADS

MILAN, April 29 (IPS) — More than 20,000 police have been deployed throughout this city while police helicopters coordinate the control of all access roads in an attempt to block the movement of members of fascist and NATO-controlled ultraleft groups who were expected to attend demonstrations called for today. The demonstrations of both the leftwing Autonomia Operaia, the above-ground organization of the NATO-controlled terrorist grouping the "Red Brigades," and of the fascist party, the MSI, were banned at the last hour today by the policy Commissioner as rumors spread through the city of plans for an "armed confrontation." Earlier in the day, the Milan MSI Provincial Counselor was shot to death on the outskirts of the city by an as-yet-unidentified three-man hit squad.

The city's streets were reported to be almost totally deserted tonight, while people in bars, and on busses and trains expressed fear of outbreak of violence

in a civil war like environment.

Organizers for the European Labor Party of Italy today saturated major industrial centers both here and throughout Italy with leaflets warning of the danger of a NATO-provoked coup d'etat. Several meetings with key trade union leaders have been arranged to discuss plans for joint action. ELP organizers report record sales of the Party newspaper, Nuova Solidarieta.

BRANDT CONFIRMS ITALIAN COUP PLANS

ROME, April 29 (IPS) — West German Social Democratic Party chairman and 40 year CIA agent confirmed the NATO coup plans for Italy in remarks last weekend at an Institute for International Affairs (IAI) conference in Rome last weekend, according to today's issue of Corriere della Sera. Corriere correspondent Brunelli quotes an interview with Brandt in the Westfalische Rundschau in which the SPD leader reports that he "confirmed to his Italian interlocutors (at the IAI meeting) that there is prejudicial opposition in the United States to the participation of the Italian Communist Party in the government," further warning that "such opposition is not confined to those circles around (Secretary of State) Kissinger." Brandt told the conference that the opposition "could manifest itself in the month of May — after the foreseeable resignation of the Moro government — in a new and harsher form in connection to the (NATO) naval maneuvers in the Mediterranean and the land maneuvers in the Trento and Trieste zones."

SPANISH GOV'T BANS MAY DAY DEMOS, SETS UP CONFRONTATION

April 29 (IPS) — In a replay of the coup scenario now under way in Italy, the NATO-controlled Spanish government has placed a ban on all scheduled May Day demonstrations, setting up likely violent confrontation with major clandestine political and labor organizations who have called for such actions. Today's Diario de las Americas reports that in preparation for scheduled May Day demonstrations, strikes and work slow downs, massive police seal and search operations are already under way in the Basque region.

INTERNATIONAL BANKERS OPERATING ON "GREATER FOOL" UPSWING THEORY

April 29 (IPS) — According to a highly placed source at the Wall Street investment banking house of Lazard

Freres, the bankers have no choice but to keep the hyperinflationary speculation bubble going until the November U.S. presidential elections when they will go for a political showdown. "We are operating on the 'greater fool' theory hoping that until November, there will be greater fools around who will, by believing in the upswing, keep the bubble going," the source stated. "There's got to be a guy down the road who will fall for it to keep the whole thing working."

Doubting that this hyperinflationary bubble can be maintained until November, he added: "That's why we have to get everything we can in the Mideast, Italy and elsewhere. Whatever we can get then feeds into the confidence that is critical for this game to go on."

WEST GERMANY FULLY SUPPORTS KISSINGER IN MIDEAST, ITALY AND AFRICA

April 29 (IPS) — The past few days have witnessed a chain of official West German government support statements for Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's policy of "regional" confrontations in Africa, the Mideast and Italy. On April 27, the NATO-connected West German daily Die Welt ran an interview by West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher in which he fully supported U.S. Secretary of State Kissinger's policy in Africa. A weekend edition of the Sueddeutsche Zeitung covered Hans Juergan Wischnewski, an Undersecretary in the Foreign Ministry, as complaining that Italian Communist Party participation in the Italian government "would qualitatively destabilize NATO and the Common Market." Today's national West German radio says that West German Defense Minister Georg Leber, presently visiting Greece, has given that country 50 tanks, free, as a "good will gesture."

West German diplomats in New York, when queried in regard to the nuclear tripwire Kissinger's policies are halting toward, could only repeat: "West Germany fully supports Kissinger's efforts."

WORLD SUPPORT FOR WEST GERMANY'S STRIKING PRINTERS SPREADS

April 29 (IPS) — Striking West German printers today began to receive broad international support for their strike, with telegrams being sent from San Francisco fire fighters, the Detroit chapter of the U.S. Labor Party, the Italian section of the European Labor

Party and, from within West Germany, the national white collar workers' union and the national teachers union. The Federal Printer's Association has continued its nationwide lockout, and the printers' union, I.G. Druke has stated that there is no possibility of resuming arbitration unless the lockout is ended and they are guaranteed no disciplinary measures will be taken against strikers.

At one strike meeting of 200 union members in the Ruhr region, a strike leader read a list of strike support telegrams to the rank and file; when he announced that "The European Labor Party is supporting our strike internationally," the room broke into universal applause. Negotiations are now proceeding on ELP collaboration with the strikers, other West German Unions and the U.S. Labor Party.

PCP HIGHLIGHTS VENEZUELA'S CALL FOR DEBT MORATORIUM

April 29 (IPS) — As its lead international article April 27, the Portuguese Communist Party controlled Lisbon daily O Diario features the recent announcement by Reinaldo Figueredo, the president of the Venezuelan Foreign Trade Institute, that his country will present a proposal for Third World debt moratorium at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in May. Terming this a "decided and practical solution" for the problem of the massive external debt of the Third World countries, O Diario states that "Figueredo stressed that many nations have arrived at the greatest crisis situation of their history because of this debt, not being able to support the weight of its compromises." Citing the "importance of the next UNCTAD conference" in regard to "the Venezuelan position," O Diario points out the basic objectives of the Third World, including "the production of essential agricultural items, especially fertilizers and pesticides,...a general elevation of the level of technological development (and) improvement of the standard of living."

STEEL MAGNATE ALIGNS ON GAULLIST ECONOMIC POLICY

April 29 (IPS) — Steel magnate and Vice-President of the French employers' association (CNPF), Jacques Ferry held a press conference yesterday in which he "took a strong stand for strong economic growth," according to today's Le Figaro, (Ferry

advocated an economic-industrial policy of development modelled along the lines of previous statements made by Gaullist Michel Debre.

Ferry stated that the 5.7 per cent rate of economic growth projected in President Giscard's five-year Seventh Plan "threatens to be insufficient to reach the objective of full employment," and called for a policy of productive investments. He particularly deplored the lack of coherence of the Seventh Plan, making the following — typically Gaullist — points: the plan must include a positive "family policy," an industrial policy which would "define the means and criteria of a coherent industrial development," and "an apparatus of conjunctural regulation."

Ferry's alignment is an important victory for the Gaullists and a defeat for the Rockefellers of whose Trilateral Commission Ferry is a member.

SOVIET UNION REITERATES OFFER TO NORMALIZE CHINA RELATIONS, SAYS CHINA BLOCKS PROGRESS, TALKS OF WAR

April 29 (IPS) — In a very lengthy commentary in the Soviet Communist Party daily Pravda yesterday signed "I. Aleksandrov," a pseudonym for a member of the Politburo, the Soviet Union reiterated earlier offers made to China to normalize relations, reviewed Soviet diplomatic efforts since 1964, and blamed Maoist desires to see a Third War between the U.S. and USSR as the roadblock to improved relations.

The statement said: Our Party and state made and continues to do everything possible for a regularization and normalization of Soviet-Chinese relations." It stated that after the October 1964 Plenum of the Soviet Central Committee, "especially great constructive work was conducted...to develop interstate links, (and) to achieve unity in practical actions," reference to the offer of a united front against the United States in Vietnam made at that time. But it said that China sent a delegation to Moscow the next month which deliberately torpedoed the talks.

The statement also enumerated yearly attempts to improve relations since 1969 but said that "all these proposals...were either left without an answer, or rejected by the Chinese Government."

The statement concluded by saying that "the Soviet Union is ready to normalize relations on the principles of peaceful coexistence...It is up to the Chinese side."

**CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY
COMMITTEE HEARS
TESTIMONY ON DEBT
MORATORIUM BILL.**

SACRAMENTO, CALIF, April (IPS) — California Assmeblyman Ken Meade and U.S. Labor Party candidates Nick Benton and Pat Dolbeare testified yesterday in the California State Assembly Finance, Insurance and Commerce Committee hearings on Meade's debt moratorium bill and Emergency Employment Act legislation, AB 3452, which is widely regarded among striking San Francisco municipal workers as the solution to their current deadlocked strike.

The statewide lobbyist of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU)

attended the hearing yesterday and co-signed a statement of support released by Teamsters Local 9 secretary Matt Ayon, stating: "We the undersigned...urge this committee to support and pass this bill. Realizing the urgency of the current economic crisis and being opposed to any cuts in health and social services we support the solution of debt moratorium and the Emergency Employment Act (EEA) of 1975 as the alternative to maintaining debt payments."

In testimony, USLP California senatorial candidate Nick Benton exposed the bubonic plague death of an unemployed worker from Bakersfield last week, the hepatitis epidemic of still unknown proportions in Oakland, and the danger of bubonic plague through-

out the state stemming from lack of rat control in California ports. USLP State Senate candidate Pat Dolbeare testified on the international support for debt moratorium in Venezuela and Mexico and the international working class for the San Francisco strike.

Assemblyman Meade told the Committee that his debt moratorium and EEA bill was the only policy which would provide jobs and reverse the devastation of the state. The Assembly's Legislative Council also submitted an analysis to the Committee which pronounced the debt moratorium a sound legislative concept.

At the conclusion of the testimony, the terrified committee refused to take any vote at all on the bill.