

of "special relationship" would "suffuse the substantive discussions." Noted that the first meeting between Callaghan and Carter abruptly came to an end as soon as the topics of human rights and Rhodesia were raised.

*Financial Times*, March 11, 1977

Referred to "pique" in British diplomatic circles over the snub to Callaghan. "Mr. Carter is not as a matter of fact accepting these invitations (to the dinner in Callaghan's honor sponsored by the British Ambassador — ed.) Normally he would send Vice President Mondale in his stead, as happened with the Canadian and Mexican visits last month. But Mr. Mondale, it is found, has a speaking engagement tomorrow night in Atlanta, Georgia and will not attend. The senior guest will be Mr. Warren Burger, the Chief Justice....The British, it is reliably reported from informed sources in the diplomatic community are a little miffed about this."

*The Sun*, March 12, 1977 (by Henry Trehwitt)

"...Speculation is growing in the diplomatic community...that Mr. Carter's outspokenness may be self-defeating....In an address to the National Press Club, Prime Minister James Callaghan of Great Britain volunteered the observation that Mr. Carter 'does not shoot from the hip'....What prompted Mr. Callaghan's observation was not clear. Some British diplomats, however, are known to be among those who worry that Mr. Carter is too outspoken for his own good."

*Prensa Latina*, March 12, 1977

"Observers" described the meeting between Carter and Callaghan as "difficult" and said that it did not significantly advance Anglo-U.S. relations. The meeting was estimated to include "divergences" on dealing with the economic crisis in the industrialized world."

## Callaghan Gets 'No Confidence' Vote Threat

Days after British Prime Minister James Callaghan arrived back in Britain following his meetings with Carter, Callaghan has been confronted with his most serious parliamentary crisis — a threatened vote of censure led by the Conservative Party. The Conservative motion — to be put March 21 — caps attempts to push the Callaghan government away from its efforts to consolidate an all-European policy of close cooperation with the Arab states, the Third World and the socialist bloc. Significant pressure has been building on the government to take a more "positive" attitude towards U.S. initiatives.

The most direct indication of this pressure came from the U.S. visit of the Conservative Shadow Foreign Secretary John Davies one day following Callaghan's departure. Davies met with U.S. Secretary of State Vance, Defense Secretary Brown, energy czar Schlesinger, UN Ambassador Young, as well as Henry Kissinger and a number of undisclosed top financial and business representatives in New York. In an interview, Davies attacked the Callaghan government's policy on Rhodesia, and called for a joint American-British sponsored referendum on majority rule in that country — a policy that would provoke both Rhodesia's white minority government and black African leaders, and heighten the possibility of war.

Liberal party leader David Steel has offered to pledge his party's support for the Callaghan government, which has a minority of one in the House of Commons, as long as the government modified its policies to suit the Liberals — which would mean abandoning those issues

on which the government has achieved consensus with trade unions. Without such modification, Steel warned that "the Government cannot hope to maintain itself in office and the Liberal Party would have no hesitation in forcing an early General Election."

Although the chances are slim that a general election would be called, especially given Callaghan's repeated assurances that the government intends to remain in office for at least another year to see its industrial strategy through, the censure vote cannot help but limit Callaghan's scope for action. The cornerstone of the government's strategy is the cooperation it is forging between trade unions and industrialists to promote economic recovery through expanded industrial output and exports, especially to the Third World and socialist bloc. The coordinated Tory-Liberal attack on the government's legislative program would destroy key sections of the government's social contract with the trade unions, for example the promise to extend industrial democracy as embodied in the Bullock Report soon to be introduced into Parliament in some form, and make Callaghan's ability to remain Prime Minister impossible.

Increasing the pressure on the government, Tory chief Thatcher, in conjunction with West German Christian Socialist Union leader Franz Joseph Strauss, has created a pan-European coalition, the European Democratic Union, pledged to bring a "new morality" to Europe by providing "intellectual content and political direction to these new dissatisfactions with Socialism in practice" which Thatcher maintains are spreading.