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Executive Intelligence Review is published by
New Solidarity International Press Service
304 W. 58th Street, New York, N.Y. 10019.
In Europe: Campaigner Publications,
Deutschl. GmbH + Co. Vertriebs KG
Postfach 1966, D. 6200 Wiesbaden

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International Press Service
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Subscription by mail for the U.S.:

3 months—\$125, 6 months—\$225,
1 year—\$396, Single issue—\$10
ISSN 0 146- 9614

From the Editor-in-Chief

In the last week of March, the Trilateral Commission met in London and this week our Special Report takes a close-up look at what was discussed there and the events which have followed from the meeting. The documents of the meeting—speeches and agenda items—reveal only the surface aspects of the meeting. The Trilaterals concerned themselves mainly with containing the emergent power of continental Europe, of France and West Germany, and forcing the “allies” back into line with current Carter administration and Thatcher government policy. For the Third World (or “North-South relations” as it is called in such gentlemanly meetings), a regime of “hot spots” are planned combined with the revamping of the dictatorial authority of the IMF under the guise of the recently reformulated Brandt Commission program. All in all, it was a push to “the brink” of chaos for the crisis-managers; the results came all too soon in Iran and the Middle East.

Our report's preparation has been directed by Contributing Editor Christopher R. White, who introduces the subject and summarizes the key strategic points of the Trilateral meeting's plans. We then take a look at the “hot spots”—with Mideast Editor Robert Dreyfuss on that hottest of spots; Africa Editor Doug DeGroot on Chad and related situations; a look at the emerging U.S. confrontation with Cuba; and finally, Latin American Editor Dennis Small's examination of how the Brandt Commission program is undergoing its first implementation in Jamaica's battle with the IMF. We have of course included the relevant documents from the meeting.

We note for our readers an excellent feature this issue on the collapse of the U.S. construction industry's overseas operations—the \$600 billion market in the Middle East and elsewhere that the U.S. is losing out on, and why.

