

The Euromissiles and the 'Finlandization' danger

by Vivian Freyre Zoakos

With the time nearly at hand for beginning the stationing of U.S.-built Pershing II and cruise missiles in Europe, the continent has become a battleground. West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, in an interview given to Bremen radio over the weekend of Sept. 17, issued a clear statement of what is at stake in the so-called Euromissile question: "If we break our word [renege on German commitment to accept stationing of the missiles], we would plant the seed for the destruction of NATO. . . . When NATO does not hold its shield and umbrella over us, this would naturally also be the beginning of the neutralization of West Germany."

The missiles themselves are not the primary issue involved. Following March 23, the Euromissile question has been dramatically transformed from the Soviet point of view. Since President Reagan announced on that date his plans to replace the Mutual Assured Destruction (MAD) doctrine with a new policy of Mutual Assured Survival (MAS) based on a beam-weapons antiballistic-missile defensive system, the U.S.S.R. has directed all its political efforts toward thwarting the new defense doctrine before it could be implemented, fearing not only a revival of U.S. military strength but the unparalleled economic strength that would result from beam-weapons technologies.

This defines the battle for Europe taking place today. Moscow, and its Hobbesian allies in the West, are playing out a series of destabilization scenarios, the aim of which is to decouple Western Europe from the United States. If they succeed, an isolated United States, deprived of its principal allies, would be immeasurably weakened and the MAS policy undercut. This is what underlay Chancellor Kohl's ref-

erence to the breakup of NATO and the neutralization of West Germany.

Kohl's statements were made in response to developments within the opposition Social Democratic Party. The SPD leadership under disarmament expert Egon Bahr had publicly renounced support for the Euromissiles at a meeting of the party's parliamentary caucus. That meeting had in turn occurred in response to a vote taken by the Baden-Württemberg SPD a week earlier, at which the regional party had taken a unanimous decision to demand the removal of all U.S. weapons from German soil. Bahr, the SPD mover behind the West German peacenik movement, spent three days during the same week in the U.S. advancing the argument that the political context had "fundamentally changed" since the then-SPD government had agreed to the stationing of the missiles, and that hence that decision was no longer valid.

Bahr, who has been meeting with various East German leaders of late, is completely committed to a reunified Germany at all costs, even if this would mean putting an end to the Atlantic Alliance and the Finlandization of Germany.

Little wonder then that Chancellor Kohl called the SPD caucus vote a "decisive change" in SPD policy in the course of his Radio Bremen remarks. Heiner Geissler, secretary of Kohl's Christian Democratic party (CDU), went further to identify the source of the SPD arguments when he accused the Social Democrats of putting forward "almost identical arguments as Moscow" in the arms debate.

One of the foremost Europeans organizing on behalf of the pro-Moscow, anti-beam weapons effort is that quintessential agent of the Pugwash Conference backers of Western

Europe, Italian Socialist Prime Minister Bettino Craxi. A philosophical fascist who is not accidentally often referred to as "Benito" Craxi, the Italian prime minister took the opportunity of visits to Paris and London last week to press for various scenarios amenable to Moscow. In the course of this, Craxi announced that he had met with a measure of success in the French government of President François Mitterrand, which is under considerable domestic pressure to go on an anti-U.S. "peace" drive.

What Craxi proposed to Mitterrand was that France, together with Great Britain, agree to the postponement of the Euromissiles and open up a new channel of negotiation with Moscow. The channel would be a round of talks to include France, Britain, the United States, the U.S.S.R., and China to discuss "strategic missiles in all parts of the world." One of the most persistent ostensible blocks to negotiations at the ongoing Geneva Intermediate Nuclear Force (INF) talks is the heretofore firm French and British unwillingness to accede to Moscow's demand that their independent nuclear weapons be included in the overall Western missile count. According to Craxi's report to the press following his London meeting with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, a "new fact" entered the European arms equation when President Mitterrand agreed to the possibility of negotiating the French *force de frappe* nuclear deterrent in the round of negotiations proposed by Craxi. Britain's Thatcher, described by Craxi's entourage as much more "rigid" than the French head of state, agreed only to make a statement after she talks directly with her French counterpart.

Although ruled by a Socialist government, the French have maintained a more consistent anti-Moscow position on arms-related issues than have NATO members Italy and West Germany. President Mitterrand, however, not only faces a rapidly deteriorating domestic economic situation, he is being targeted by his Communist Party coalition partners. The Communists' central committee has voted to devote its main political effort this winter to campaign against the Euromissiles.

Attacks on the Euromissiles were already the principal item addressed by the keynote speaker at the party's national fair in the Paris suburbs the second week of September. As the London *Financial Times* and at least one leading U.S.-based French expert noted in response to the central committee decision, it is very possible that the Communists may pick a fight with the government over economic policy some time soon to provide themselves with an excuse for an open rift with the Socialist government majority—a rift which would really be about the Euromissile question.

West Germany, the core of the Atlantic Alliance, is under even greater pressure from Moscow and its Western assets. The Moscow-funded peacenik-environmentalist movement has already launched its much-presaged and well-organized "hot autumn." As in France, over and above sometimes violent sit-ins at nuclear installation sites, the German peaceniks are also taking advantage of the country's economic difficul-

ties to generate chaos and potential ungovernability. Two major north German shipyards have been occupied by their workforces, spurred by austerity-dictated industrial restructuring programs that spell layoffs and closing of facilities. Equipped with their East German-donated funds, the German greenies have arrived with rock groups to "entertain" the yard occupiers and with money for food and temporary maintenance of the occupiers' families.

Craxi's proposal to Mitterrand to "halt the clock" on the stationing of Euromissiles is one which has been cropping up from various sources in Europe. The current head of the European Community (EC), Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou, a second-generation Soviet agent, had made the proposal last month to his EC partners. Then, in the first week of September, the lower house of the Dutch parliament passed a resolution asking that French and British national nuclear forces be introduced "somehow" into arms-control negotiations with the Soviets. Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek responded by ruling out consideration of these forces in the INF talks in Geneva, but, like Craxi, said that they could conceivably be introduced into a "broadened form of strategic arms reduction talks."

Support for Mutually Assured Survival

As Moscow fields its assets to disrupt European governments and destroy the Western alliance, parallel developments on the continent are also bringing to light the other side of the picture: increasing European support for President Reagan's energy-beam ABM defense proposal.

In Britain, former Vice Air Marshal Stewart Menaul, an adviser to Prime Minister Thatcher, in an interview with *EIR* vigorously denounced former Defense Secretary Robert McNamara for his article in *Foreign Affairs* entitled "We Can Live Without the Bomb." Menaul stated that McNamara was "probably the worst Secretary of Defense" in U.S. history and that his plan for unilateral disarmament "would destroy the Western Alliance."

Menaul also commented that Britain expects the timetable for the deployment of cruise and Pershing II missiles to be accelerated. On the question of beam weapons, Menaul reported that he is preparing a special report on energy-beam weapons for the prime minister and the House of Commons. Apart from this, the British Policy Studies Committee is planning to hold a conference in February 1984 on "High-Technology Weapons Systems," and Menaul reported that it is possible that Mrs. Thatcher "will make a statement publicly over the next few weeks," before the conference.

Meanwhile the London *Financial Times* on Sept. 19 published a large feature to publicize the issues involved in Ronald Reagan's beam weapons program, quoting Dr. Al Narath of Sandia National Laboratory to the effect that, "I learned a long time ago that it's a fundamental mistake for any technical person to say 'it's not possible' unless it violates fundamental principles—which is not true here." Dr. Narath was referring to the most persistent line from Soviet Eastern and

Western backers, who have attempted to discredit beam weapons by insisting that they are technologically unfeasible. (See excerpts, page 49.)

In Germany and France, public statements from the highest political authorities are beginning to surface in support for the beam-weapons weapons system. French Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy addressed the question on Sept. 20, speaking at the prestigious Institute for Higher Defense Studies, a government-based private research institute in Paris, stating: "We must face the challenge posed by the perspective of development of defensive strategic systems. Significant progress has been registered this year in the domain of laser beam weapons and the utilization of space. The Soviets and the Americans are actively pursuing their research. The project envisioned by the United States, even though its realization is for the long-term, raises strategic issues." (See Report from Paris, page 44.) A report of this first acknowledgement by a senior European government figure of the beam weapon issue appeared the following day in the leading daily *Le Figaro*, which paraphrased Mauroy as follows: "Given the present technological developments, Mr. Mauroy reasserted France's commitment to provide its Armed Forces with highly-performing means. He raised the issue of the possible launching of the American program of anti-strategic nuclear missile systems."

In West Germany, a conference of the Hermann Oberth Society in Coblenz heard a presentation on beam weapons delivered by Gunthard Born of the German Defense Com-

mission. Born, who gave a detailed description of what such a defense system would entail, also declared that the United States has gone much further in its research into this area than is generally known. The question at the moment, he concluded, is not how and what one can do technologically to render such a system feasible, but rather if the amount of research dollars needed could be acquired and if they would be spent in the right way.

Even in Italy, despite its prime minister's role in backing Moscow's efforts to stop adoption of the strategic defense program, leading spokesmen within the military are making known their support of the American project. In an interview in the national weekly magazine *Gente*, Italian general Giulio Macri gave a lengthy explanation of the laser beam program and its implications in shifting nuclear doctrine to a Mutual Assured Survival stance. Macri also discussed the dramatic economic implications which the launching of such a program would bring to the depressed international economies. "The development of the new weapons, mobilizing brains and resources, could produce unthinkable effects for the industrial development of the world," he said, "causing a new age of economic boom. The Manhattan Project, which in 1945 produced the first atomic bomb, in the end created a vanguard nuclear industry. . . . It has been calculated that for every dollar spent by the American government on NASA, we got \$10 in terms of civil technologies." The effect of the laser beam program on the economy would be even greater, he concluded.

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