

international report

Summit Meeting: Grechko's "Nyet" Still Leaves Soviets Defenseless

July 4 (IPS) — With Nixon's visit to the Soviet Union now out of the way, the Soviet leadership is beginning to regroup along the factional lines previously identified by IPS and *New Solidarity*. But it is more evident than ever that without the intellectual leadership of the Labor Committees the Soviet Union does not have the capability to delineate the kind of policy necessary to mount a successful self-defense and defense of supporters in Western Europe from Rockefeller's fascist plans and the ultimate horror of nuclear holocaust. Despite evidence that the Brezhnev faction, committed to puffing detente at any price, are being effectively challenged in factional struggle by the group around Defense Minister Andrei Grechko, no faction of the Politburo has the slightest idea what to do.

It is the Grechko faction's efforts which have resulted in the attribution in today's *Pravda* of the success of the talks to the CPSU's "collective leadership" — the code term used to show that Brezhnev is being checked by factional opponents. The political muscle of that faction ensured that Grechko himself was present with Nixon and Brezhnev during the supposedly important discussions of arms limitation.

Again, Brezhnev's response to Nixon's toast at the last banquet, in which he named three partial accords, saying that the results "could have been broader," was probably the result of the activities of Grechko *et al.* during the course of the extended Politburo meeting which preceded the banquet itself.

In short, Grechko ensured that Nixon would not be returning home with the kind of concessions on arms limitation which Schlesinger has demanded. The *New York Times* July 3 was quick to point out this failure, using Nixon's own words to do so. But this does not mean that there has been a corollary breakthrough on the part of the Soviet leadership to an actual understanding of their situation. It in no way signifies that the Soviets are on the point of calling Rockefeller's bluff by launching a massive counterattack against that family's criminal plans for the Brazilianization of Europe and North America.

Rather, we can now expect to see the Soviet leadership beginning to retreat into a shell of paranoid anxiety as it prepares to defend the socialist "motherland" against the threatened attacks of those "dark sinister forces" — nameless, of course — loose in the world.

Preparations

Such moves have been prepared internally, through the assertion of the "collective leadership" principle. Both internally and in Comecon, the Soviets are moving

to centralize the economy, rejecting decentralization tendencies of the past. The emphasis on industry and the economy generally is such that *Pravda* July 3 relegated its report of Nixon's visit to a space underneath that paper's front page-fold, leading instead with news of the agricultural and industrial crisis hitting the Soviet Union.

This press activity indicates the coming centralizing push under which the economy and work force will be returned to rigid military-style discipline. At the same time Soviet diplomats and their sister parties in Europe have begun to adopt variations of the coming defense oriented postures. Ambassador Lunkov in London, according to both the *Financial Times* and *Le Monde*, July 3 said that if there is no progress at the European Security Conference which meets in Geneva, then there will be a return to conditions of cold war or even hot war. When asked what he meant by that, he referred to the world situation 30 years ago. Simultaneously the Communist Party press of France and West Germany has begun to editorialize on the necessity of a successful conclusion to the affairs of the Geneva conference.

Maneuvering in the Box

None of this, however, represents more than an attempt to mount a new series of maneuvers within the parameters of reality as defined by Rockefeller psywar technicians like RAND automaton Schlesinger and, of course, Henry Kissinger. Left to its own devices, the Soviet leadership could do no more. But they will not be left alone. European Labor Committee organizing for the defense of the Italian working class against Rockefeller's domesticated debt-collectors through the debt moratorium, expanded trade with the Soviet bloc to maintain jobs and production, and the dismemberment of NATO (the debt collectors' enforcers) is creating the motion within the European CP's and allied layers through which the situation can be changed.

Just last weekend Georges Marchais, leader of the French CP, demanded an inquiry into the activities of multinational oil companies; at the same time, Amendola, leader of the Italian CP, gave an interview to the weekly paper *Il Globo* in which he outlined how international secret services are organizing to put all of Europe under the iron heel of fascism. He called for international action by working-class forces, particularly those of France and Italy to meet this threat.

The ELC will turn to good effect this dim awareness of the reality of the international situation.

Nixon's Hope

Nixon's own contribution to the talks must be seen from the context of the emergence of the Soviet defense

bloc against Rockefeller advocacy of the limited nuclear warfare version of detente. Given the context already created by the Rockefellers he could do nothing — except, most important, strengthen his position in relationship to his own constituency in the U.S. and the impeachment process. To that extent it is most indicative that the Baker Report, which produces further corroboration of the CIA's involvement in Watergate, was published while Nixon was in Moscow, thereby linking

Nixon's strong suit of his foreign policy to his anti-impeachment holding action.

In that context, Radio Moscow's wilfully erroneous translation of Henry Kissinger's parting remarks is doubly ironical. The Russian simultaneous translator turned Kissinger's "we have made some progress" into "we have made great progress."

The Stinking Corpse of Peronism

July 5 (IPS) — After intense public clamor, the traditional three-day viewing period for a dead body was extended to a fourth this week for the lying-in-state of deceased Argentine President Juan Domingo Peron. The fourth day's procession had to be cut short, however, due to what radio reports delicately termed "faulty embalming."

Peron's main accomplishment since his CIA-arranged return to Argentina in 1973 (after the failure of the military junta to manage a sufficient degree of austerity) was the *Pacto Social*, by which both management and labor were brought into line with government wage and price freeze policies. His continuing appeal for duped Argentine workers made Peron an ideal instrument for forging the corporatist "popular unity" regime required by capitalists in this depression.

Peron is succeeded in office by his wife Isabelita, formerly a cabaret dancer. She is backed by Minister of Social Welfare Jose Lopez Rega. Together they have extensive ties to the rightwing apparatus, and may initially stand in the way of a Peruvian-style "progressive" CIA military coup. Either way, the fascist institutions created by Peron have laid the groundwork for Argentina's continued subjugation to the Rockefeller-CIA forces.

In response to Peron's death, both the Vatican and the government of Cuba have declared their condolences. A papal Mass will be celebrated for the deceased dictator. Radio Havana, paralyzed at the possibility of another Latin American rightwing coup, announced three days of national mourning for Peron's corpse in an act that shocked revolutionaries throughout the world.