

ARAFAT JOINS PRESS BUILD-UP FOR MIDEAST NUCLEAR WAR

Oct. 27 (IPS)--In an interview with the Egyptian weekly Rose al-Yousef, Yasser Arafat, head of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), stated that a new Arab-Israeli war might involve "the nuclear factor." Terming such a war "more probable than a settlement," Arafat said that time is on Israel's side.

Arafat, the leading "radical" mouthpiece for Rockefeller's Middle East war strategy, also linked Jordan to Israel as part of a conspiracy that involved the U.S. "How can we speak about a settlement while Israel is actively preparing for a war aided by North America and Jordan, who want to preserve Hashemite domination over the Palestinian people," Arafat said.

SPECIAL REPORT

BRITAIN ADOPTS "ACCEPTABLE FACE OF FASCISM"

Oct. 29 (IPS)--Despite the "red menace" stories in the leading bourgeois press, the Oct. 10 General Election in Britain was not a mandate for the "socialist" policies of the majority Labour Party, but the final step toward openly fascist rule in Britain.

Since 1945 when what remained of British capitalism was mortgaged to the U.S. via the Lend Lease Program, successive British governments have been forced to prolong its life. They did this, in the words of former Prime Minister Edward Heath, by making acceptable the "unacceptable face of capitalism."

Now, as Rockefeller has consolidated his grip on the international financial community, even this shred of pretense is no longer necessary. Observers of the British scene now readily note that the country has moved into a new phase in which the political parties, increasingly indistinguishable from each other, are putting forth nothing less than the "acceptable face of fascism."

Accepting the Unacceptable

These were the exact words of two British professors, who, writing recently in the periodical New Society, were forced to admit what has been blatantly obvious to readers of New Solidarity and IPS since early this year.

Mincing no words, they wrote:

"What all the major parties have done is take over the core elements of the economic strategy which the Italian fascists, Salazar in Portugal, the Falange in Spain

and the Nazis adopted to deal with the inter-war crisis. What the parties are putting forward now is an acceptable face of fascism; indeed a masked version of it, repugnant political and social aspects of the German and Italian regimes are absent or are only present in selected form."

It is only on their last point that the professors were wrong: The truth of their pronouncement is borne out not only by the overt swing toward fascist economic policies masquerading as "capitalism," but by the intersection of these corporatist designs with openly fascist social policies.

In terms of the ruling Labour Party's current economic policies the professors did hit the nail squarely on the head. Specifically, the present government, with the approval of the Opposition Conservative Party, is planning to "restructure" the economy along outright fascist lines, getting the working class to agree to self-imposed austerity enforced by their own "social contract."

Long hounded by Britain's leading capitalists who rightly agree that the floor was rapidly sinking beneath them, the Chancellor of the Exchequer Denis Healy has announced that Nov. 12 he will reflate (pump money into) the economy in order to save large sections of British industry from imminent bankruptcy. It is through such "selective" boosts to the industrial sector via Healey's budget and Labour Party financial wizard Harold Lever's proposed National Investment Bank that the British economy will be restructured in a fascist mold.

The "National Interest"

The cornerstone of such a plan was crystal clear to Employment Minister Michael Foot. He noted that the designs implicit in Healey's budget would go "up the spout" if the trade unions did not adhere to the social contract, the British workers' promise to the government to voluntarily slash their standard of living by sacrificing wage interests in the "national interest."

To facilitate the implementation of "the acceptable face of fascism," the tight-fisted credit policies of the Rockefeller-affiliate banks in London had manipulated a dangerous liquidity crisis in the industrial sector. They forced British capitalists to their knees, begging for an injection of funds, even with "strings" attached. Faced with increasing material and wage costs, but unable to raise money through traditional channels, British industry has been cutting production, laying off staff, and cancelling current investment plan on a massive scale. "Nobody should be under the impression that we are crying wolf," said the head of Britain's employers' union, the Confederation of British Industry. "The wolf is already nibbling at Red Riding Hood's coat."

Who the hungry wolf is should not be too difficult to figure out. Gordon Richardson, head of the Bank of England and direct representative of the Rockefeller interests, warned recently that even Chancel

lor Healey's promise of a reflationary budget with relaxed credit controls would not be enough to save industry, since companies were not even creditworthy enough (for Rockefeller) to qualify for loans. However, if they could increase profitability, without increasing wages, well then, maybe.

Picking up the scent, Healey was quick to promise that his budget plans did not signal a step away from the austerity policy the government has been implementing since March. He urged: "We must forego any increase in our living standards as a nation until the fundamental re-adjustment has been carried through."

"Fundamental Re-adjustment"

This "fundamental re-adjustment" toward overt slave labor policies is implicit in Lever's National Investment Bank proposal which would involve turning on the tap for "deserving" industries, with no strings attached, just "prods." The proposed NIB, as it already is being called, would sidestep the collapsing secondary banking sector and funnel funds directly from private banks and financial institutions. However, it will not even begin to bail out credit-hungry small and medium-sized domestic industry. It is not meant to. Its stated purpose, along with Anthony Wedgewood Benn's National Enterprise Board, is to "re-structure" British industry by investing only in selective projects. This money will go for the slave labor projects in North Sea Oil and related industries while the skilled work force for these projects is freed through increasing numbers of bank ruptcies in "non-essential consumer industries."

The much-lauded social contract is the perfect complement in this scheme. True to his role, Jack Jones, leader of Britain's largest union, the powerful Transport Workers Union, has chimed in with a winning prescription for the problem of how to maintain corporate liquidity when the country is bankrupt. In Scotland, where eight major strikes, involving a total of more than 22,500 transport, sanitation, and auto workers threaten to paralyze key cities, Jones told a working class audience: "A wonderful wage agreement is of no value if the firm with which we have negotiated does not employ people any more."

With his "wonderful," but valueless pay packet, Jones has spelled out the clear choice for the working class: If you don't want to wind up on the unemployment lines, forget wage increases, concentrate on productivity, and be grateful for any wages you are lucky enough to get. Or else, face a rightwing backlash, probably through the barrel of a gun.

As if to accentuate the latter "alternative," already in the Northwest of England contiguous to the strike area, 600 soldiers of the Territorial Army Volunteer Force (the British National Guard) have just completed one of the stiffest tests of their "capacity for rapid mobilization." And one Conservative MP has warned in reference to the Scottish strikes: "If it proves there is not any practical value to it [the social contract] we have got to get down very smartly to the Government taking action to maintain essential services."

Nazi Social Policies

No sooner had the fascist economic wheels begun to spin when the complementary Nazi-like social policies began to emerge at an alarming rate. Shadow Home Secretary Keith Joseph, a pet protegee of fascist Enoch Powell, exploited the current leadership vacuum of the Conservative Party (which polled its lowest share of the vote in recent years) with an outright Nazi prescription for the nation's ills

In the primarily working class area and nationalist stronghold of Birmingham, Joseph readied the country for Powell's return by delivering an impassioned plea to halt the moral decline of the nation. His speech rivalled his mentor's anti-immigration speeches of the 1960s in their racist content. Advocating birth control for the deprived class to avert the dilution of the "pure British stock," Sir Keith, who is Jewish, sounded more than vaguely reminiscent of the Master Race theories of Nazi butcher Adolph Hitler as he warned: "The balance of our population, our human stock is being threatened. a higher and rising proportion of children are being born to mothers least fit to bring children into the world and bring them up...to mothers who were unmarried, deserted, divorced...some of low intelligence, most of low educational achievement."

Red Baiting

Sir Keith rounded out his attack on the moral degeneracy of the nation with some well-placed red-baiting, blaming "left-wing gangs" whose "well-orchestrated sneers...have weakened the national will to transmit to future generations those values, standards, and aspirations which have made England famous the world over."

Even though Enoch Powell, the most readily available fascist demagogue in Britain, returned to Parliament this election on a cres of nationalism and parochialism, his credibility with the traditional Conservative Party is badly shaken due to his traitorous advise to vote "Labour" in the last two General Elections. But Sir Keith, from his "safe" vantage point within the party which Powell helped to destroy, has been skillfully paving the way for Powell's return, espousing first his "monetarist" economic views and now his racist social policies.

Powell already has predicted in the Op Ed pages of the prestigious London Times that "the double general election of February-October 1974 marked the close of the 30 year post-war phase of British politics. The nature of the new phase is only shadowly defined. When the politicians of the center who merely "muddle through"--like Heath and Wilson--are no longer adequate to be fascist policemen, Powell will be only too ready to accept the call.

"The Enemy Within"

In case the election results had not entirely destroyed the final remnants of faith in bourgeois democracy and its institutions, leading counterinsurgent Brian Crozier (who instigated the "reds

under the beds" scare during last winter's miners' strike) came out with a new book outlining the military arm of these fascist economic and social policies. From his post as director of the Institute for the Study of Conflict, a CIA think-tank, Crozier defines once again the threat more subtle than Russian tanks--internal subversion. He recommends creation of a "No Party" military state and a super CIA called the Department of Unconventional Warfare to deal with malcontents. Former British Intelligence officer Lord Alun Chalfont has found Crozier's analysis, if not his conclusions, useful to augment his own pet theory: That defense cuts are too risky, not so much because of a threat to NATO, but because of the enemy within.

These sentiments, coupled with the open perpetration of fascist economic policies, coincide, not accidentally, with the advent of Rockefeller's second Oil Hoax. As the British worker is being primed for an Oil Hoax rerun, he has all but obliterated from his mind the psychological degradation he suffered last winter during the hoked-up miners' strike. Yet it was Rockefeller's manipulation of the coal supply compounded by last year's Oil Hoax which has paved the way for the British workers' acceptance today of the "acceptable face of fascism."