

country's collapsed housing sector and that it will encourage international agencies to offer aid. According to the New York Times, the move was motivated by "fear of serious communist inroads and concern about bolstering non-communist forces there," the logic being that impending economic chaos would work to the advantage of Communist Party organizing. Previously, Washington has maintained a wait-and-see attitude in regard to granting aid to Portugal's "leftist" provisional government which includes a Communist minister.

HOUSE VOTE ON ROCKY SHOWS LABOR PARTY INFLUENCE

Dec. 21 (IPS)--A considerable portion of the 128 Congressmen who voted against Rockefeller Dec. 19 voted in direct response to the massive working-class hatred of Rocky which boiled up from their districts. Besides the smattering of right-wing ideologues who voted against Rockefeller, the bulk of the opposition came from liberal Democrats representing working-class districts.

The impact of the four-month-long Labor Party mobilization against Rocky's nomination was greatest in Michigan, where almost the entire United Auto Workers-linked Democratic delegation voted against Rockefeller. A similar pattern prevailed in California, where 15 Democrats pondered the Labor Party's statewide strength and came down on the no side of the vote. In Ohio, the Democratic representatives from the heavy steel and rubber districts in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Akron, and Youngstown voted nay, as did the two Democrats representing Pittsburgh. Textile workers in Raleigh and Wilmington, N.C., where Labor Party influence is considerable, forced anti-Rockefeller votes. And a South Dakota Democrat with close ties to farmers came out against Rocky.

Most of these labor-liberals are backing slave-labor relocation legislation or were Labor Party opponents who have felt the impact of an aroused working class either around the slave-labor bills or the November elections. Three Democrats who saw their districts taken over by Labor Party organizing not so surprisingly came out against Rocky--Satterfield in Virginia, Moakley in Boston, and Barrett in Philadelphia!

MIDEAST WAR ESCALATION TO FORCE U.S.-SOVIET JOINT MIDEAST POLICING

Dec. 21 (IPS)--Reacting in a rage to the progressive consolidation of the current left turn on the part of the Soviet Union and the European Communist Parties, Rockefeller and the CIA have ordered a dangerous re-escalation of the Middle East war. Rockefeller is openly making use of the "big stick" of nuclear confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union in the

Middle East as a counterpoint to the CIA's deceptive carrot of continued detente arrangements.

The immediate objective of the Rockefeller forces in the Middle East is to draw the Soviets into a joint-policing setup along the Arab-Israeli ceasefire lines, an arrangement which by its very nature would fatally undercut the USSR's credibility and virtually prevent the continued evolution of Soviet moves toward international resistance to Rockefeller.

The first step toward the activation of a combined U.S.-Soviet Middle East police force--explicitly called for two weeks ago by Rockefeller's fascist Trilateral Commission--is the reconvening of the Geneva "peace conference"--on Rockefeller's terms. Despite recent blustering by CIA-allied Arabs and Israelis complete with numerous "hardline" positions, the CIA has neatly engineered a consensus that only a return to Geneva can solve the "insoluble" Middle East crisis.

To underline the fact that Rockefeller wants the Soviets to behave at Geneva should the United States and Israel agree to the resumption of talks there, the CIA has staged the latest escalation of the rigged Arab-Israeli conflict. The message is clear: the USSR must choose between an uneasy American-controlled peace and a Cuban missile crisis-style confrontation. Should the Soviets show the slightest wavering in Rockefeller's brinkmanship war of nerves, the resulting Arab-Israeli war and coincidental Second Oil Hoax would immediately follow, most likely accompanied by an Israeli-Iranian strike against pro-socialist, Soviet-allied Iraq.

On cue, Egypt's fascist leader Sadat called for a ceasefire in Lebanon--backed by a joint U.S.-Soviet guarantee. In calling for U.S. and Soviet policing of the area, Sadat explicitly adopted the Trilateral Commission line. As the Baltimore Sun put it last week: "Thus Egypt puts one arm around the U.S. and the other around the Soviet Union, as though Egypt is a linkage in detente." Or, thus Rockefeller uses Egypt to ram detente down the Soviets' throat.

EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN ARMIES ON ALERT TO BACK LEBANON

Dec. 21 (IPS)--Egyptian and Syrian armies were placed on a state of high alert today following reports that the Israelis were planning a "very heavy blow" against Palestinian guerrilla encampments in southern Lebanon. The circulation of this rumor coincides with increased talk within Israel about striking back at guerrilla bases following a week of intense fighting across the Israeli-Lebanese border. Included in this tactic would be the reactivation of the "underground" Israeli terrorist network headed up by the infamous Brigade 101.