

development, Hirsch took advantage of President Ford's proposed \$28 billion general budget cuts to threaten major cuts in the fusion budget. In particular, the important Syllac theta-pinch machine at the Los Alamos Lab would be terminated. According to sources at the conference, Hirsch had stated earlier at Los Alamos that "the science phase of the controlled thermonuclear research effort has been completed. Technology is now the major object of the program." Hirsch did "not want any bad mouthing of the Tokamak."

Research reports presented at the conference were sufficient to show that the single track program just will not work. In case after case, plasma physicists reported on major advances in other approaches to fusion development. The Soviet and West German scientists reported that the Stellerator machine, a variant long ago dropped in the U.S., achieved plasma confinement com-

parable or even better than the Tokamak. Scientists from Lawrence Livermore and the Francis Bitter Magnet Labs reported that if recent successes with the respective Mirror and Alcator machines were followed up by new major experiments, their experimental work would reach breakeven conditions in the next few years.

Soviet progress in both the Stellerator-magnetic confinement approach and the laser-inertial confinement approach prompted ERDA to circulate their slanders of the Soviet program. According to this whispering, "The Soviet Tokamak leaks...their Stellerator is not as good as they say...their laser work is just not competent." But U.S. scientists were fully aware that the Soviet approach has put them years ahead of the U.S. effort. The Soviets' Tokamak program is scheduled for power production in the early 1980s.

## Special Report

# Press Covers Up Drive of French Communists to Contain PCI Agents

Nov. 18 (IPS) — It is not often that the New York Times devotes glowing front-page coverage to the meetings between Western European Communist Party leaders. Yesterday's Times, joined by such authoritative European newspapers as Die Welt, Le Monde, the Danish Politiken and others, reported the joint communiqué issued last weekend in Rome by Italian (PCI) and French (PCF) Communist leaders Berlinguer and Marchais as a major victory for the notorious CIA-agent "polycentrist" leadership of the PCI.

Informed political analysts have noted that the so-called "joint communiqué" is a mere paste-up of the fundamentally opposite policies of the hardline internationalist PCF leadership and the Italians. The first half of the document, stressing a conjunctural crisis perspective and the demand for scientific and technological advance under the essential vanguard leadership of the working class — was probably written by PCF Politburo foreign affairs specialist Jean Kanapa. The second half, which puts forward the typical PCI garbage of "pluralism" allowing capitalist tendencies the

"democratic right" to sabotage needed working-class economic policies — reveals the fine hand of PCI Secretariat member Gian Carlo Pajetta.

The contradiction indicates that the real content of the PCF-PCI meeting occurred behind closed doors and was not reflected in the communiqué. According to a reliable source high in the PCF leadership, the public document was an official appeasement tactic aimed at the European communist parties generally, and most notably the West German party (DKP) which is known to house an agent faction set up and controlled by the Italians. The source revealed that the PCF has put intense pressure on the PCI over the weekend to re-orient the Italians' anti-Soviet policy. This is the traditional way in which Communist Parties handle interventions into fraternal parties.

Complementing what may be a PCF move to take the leadership of the Western European Communist Parties in anticipation of the Berlin meeting of the European parties, the Soviet military newspaper Red Star published an article which calls in the strongest

terms for inter-party coordination in political and economic matters to "define the common line." The author names each party in the Soviet bloc that has affirmed this principle at their party congresses—with the pointed exception of "polycentrist" Rumania. This not-so-subtle reprimand to the Rumanian peasant-king Ceaucescu is in addition a warning to the PCI and a model for the PCF, significantly timed with the PCI-PCF meeting.

While the Marchais-Berlinguer talks proceeded in Rome, the Provisional Organizing Committee for a new leadership in the Italian Communist Party held its regular meeting in Bologna, the traditional communist stronghold in Italy. The P.O.C. mapped out steps for building the Italian party of Cunhal by ousting the agents Amendola, Berlinguer, and Pajetta from the party. The assembled PCI cadres, all experienced pro-Soviet organizers over recent years, approved a letter to fraternal parties urging them to support their historic effort to clean the agents out of the ranks of the communist movement.