



NEW SOLIDARITY International Press Service

P O. Box 1972, G.P.O.
New York, New York 10001
Editorial (212)279-5950
Customer Service (212)564-8529

NEW SOLIDARITY INTERNATIONAL PRESS SERVICE (IPS)
EARLY EVENING NEWS ROUND-UP
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I. PRIORITIES

FRENCH SP LEADER DENIES REPORTS HE SUPPORTS EARLY ELECTIONS

March 17 (IPS)—French Socialist Party (SP) leader Francois Mitterrand has denied that he would support moves for early legislative elections which could open the way for SP entry into the coalition government of Giscard d'Estaing. According to the French daily Le Monde, Mitterrand believes that the "SP's electorate has not stabilized yet behind the party," despite a relatively significant increase in Socialist Party votes at the concluding round of local cantonal elections last weekend.

Gaullist leader Alexandre Sanguinetti, backing up Mitterrand's estimation of the highly unstable character of the SP at the present time, claimed that the SP's vote in the cantonal elections was just as "fragile" as that of the small percentage received by the Gaullist Party, the UDR.

MAC'S ROHATYN CALLS FOR "UNUSUAL ACTION" TO SOLVE NEW YORK CRISIS

March 17 (IPS)—New York Municipal Assistance Corporation chairman Felix Rohatyn, newly appointed chief of New York Gov. Hugh Carey's new economic recovery program for New York City, has proposed razing 30-block areas of the city and developing industrial parks as one of a number of "unusual ideas" for solving the city's economic crisis. In an interview in yesterday's New York Times, Rohatyn said that the situation is so desperate that it almost dictates "action for action's sake."

Rohatyn commented, "My inclination is to do what we did last summer and fall: Get a few of the best people, focus on the problems, figure a reasonable solution, even if we can only afford to get 60 or 70 per cent of the facts, and move. And make it right as we go along." Last summer and fall Rohatyn put together the now entirely discredited Big MAC operation to solve the city's financial crisis.

The plan for blacktopping blighted areas of the city would require large-scale tax breaks, labor cooperation and financing, which might prove impossible without Federal aid. The Times commented, "Logically, if the state and city ease taxes on businesses there will have to be corresponding increases in personal taxes to maintain revenues." "Maybe we should have a separate task

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force for the crazy ideas. Get some long-haired college grads and scientists for the far-out stuff," he added.

ADMINISTRATION CANCELS U.S.-SOVIET COMMISSION MEETING
TO SHOW DETENTE IS OVER

March 17 (IPS)—The Ford Administration postponed a meeting of the Soviet-American Joint Commission on Energy Cooperation on extremely short notice last week to show the Soviets that President Ford's dumping of the word "detente" has practical, day-to-day implications.

According to yesterday's Washington Post, the action was taken in protest over Soviet actions in Angola. A White House official said yesterday that the general reassessment of the relationship between the U.S. and the Soviets was started by Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, the Post reported. Another official said that the change in policy meant that "We are not prepared to conduct all aspects of our relations on a business-as-usual basis."

Upcoming meetings of the Joint Commissions on Housing Problems and on Economic and Commercial Relations have also been postponed, although the new policy will not affect arms limitations or other military talks, the Post reported.

LEVI ANNOUNCES WIRETAP GUIDELINES WITH KENNEDY SUPPORT

March 17 (IPS)—The Ford Administration will introduce a bill outlining new guidelines for domestic wiretapping in the near future. The legislation has been drafted in joint consultations between Attorney General Edward Levi and Senators Edward Kennedy (D-Mass) and Gaylord Nelson (D-Wis), according to today's New York Times. While the guidelines are billed as providing stricter control over federal wiretapping by calling for a federal court order for every domestic wiretap, several provisions belie the repressive nature of the legislation.

Under the guidelines, a special pool of seven federal judges will be appointed by the Supreme Court Chief Justice from which one will be chosen to rule on each wiretap case; no other federal judge will be allowed to act on a wiretap order. In addition, the previous practice of informing wiretap victims of the taps will be suspended.