

# Soviets Expose Carter Trilateral Connection

The Soviet daily *Pravda*, in the article excerpted below, warns Western Europe that the Carter Administration is trying to hoodwink U.S. allies into bailing it out of a fundamentally weak position. The article documents—for the first time in the Soviet press—Jimmy Carter's ties to the Trilateral Commission, the supranational organization founded by David Rockefeller to hold the governments of Western Europe and Japan under U.S. financial circles' domination.

The barrage of war propaganda coming from the West in recent weeks, said the Soviet government daily *Izvestia* Jan. 5, reminds one of Hitler's campaign about the "threat from the East." Implicitly warning the so-called moderates in Carter's Cabinet, *Izvestia* wrote that Hitler's speeches sounded "like music" in the ears of "moderates" in London, Paris and Washington "who hoped to use the Hitler war machine for the destruction of the Soviet Union." Not everyone in the West seems to have learned the lesson from this attempt, the paper said. Instead, they are using the supposed "Soviet threat" as an excuse for a huge arms build-up and as a "justification for possible use of nuclear weapons in Europe."

More warnings come from the Czechoslovak paper *Rude Pravo*, which wrote Jan. 4 that the U.S. is even riding roughshod over its own allies in NATO, such as Portugal and Italy.

*Pravda* Jan. 4 — "A Triangle of Compromises and Contradictions," by Georgi Ratiani, *Pravda* political observer

The entry in two weeks' time of new people to the White House and all state institutions involved in determining U.S. foreign policy, and the reorganization of financial and geographical relationships of the "interest groups" of Washington politics, are now leading people in the capitals of the other capitalist states to wonder what this means for their relations with America.

When mention is made of the relations of the main capitalist powers, people often refer to a "triangle." This implies that the corners of that geometric figure are the U.S., Western Europe and Japan. A fierce conjunctural struggle is raging between the three centers; they are divided by profound contradictions. At the same time, especially on the part of the U.S., enormous efforts are being made to coordinate policies, especially in relation to the socialist countries, the developing states, and the democratic and revolutionary movement within the capitalist states themselves. They are also united and divided over such global economic problems as world trade, the currency system, and energy sources. All

these contradictory processes are particularly aggravated with the deepening of the general crisis of capitalism. The multinational monopolies, whose weight has grown extraordinarily over the last decade, exercise a decisive influence on the character of relationships between the main centers of capitalism...

In 1973, at the initiative and under the sponsorship of Chase Manhattan Bank Director David Rockefeller, the "Trilateral Commission" was formed, of "private persons," including the top bankers, heads of corporations and politicians of the U.S., the West European countries and Japan.

Now, during the "transition period" in the U.S., attention must be drawn to one characteristic circumstance. Then Governor of Georgia, future President of the U.S., James Carter, has played an active role in the Commission and has been involved in the study of major international problems. Other American figures who are now in the new administration have also been and still are on it, Walter Mondale, elected Vice-President of the USA, Cyrus Vance, designated to replace Kissinger as Secretary of State, Michael Blumenthal, Finance Minister, Harold Brown, Defense Minister (was on the Executive Committee of the Commission); Zbigniew Brzezinski, Carter's aide for National Security (was until recently the President of the Commission). In other words, aside from the President and Vice-President, the people who are taking the highest posts in foreign policy, military questions and finance are from this Commission.

What is more, various businessmen whom the American press calls close to the new administration are on the "Trilateral Commission": the President of the biggest private bank in the capitalist world, Alden Clausen, the second-biggest, Chase Manhattan Bank, David Rockefeller, the director of the Coca Cola Company Paul Austin; and others.

In the West European section of the Commission are Raymond Barre, who in the fall of 1976 became head of the French Government; President of FIAT Giovanni Agnelli; the banker Edmond Rothschild, president of the Board of Directors of the Thyssen concern, Hans-Guenther Sohl, and many others. The Japanese section of the Commission is just as well represented, including Tomic Doko, President of the Japanese Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren) and many other people from the highest circles of Japanese business.

The Commission conducts conferences and colloquia, publishes trilateral collective reports and

recommendations on such themes as: restoring the world financial system; the crisis of international cooperation; the turning point in north-south economic relations; the direction of world trade in the 70s; the energy crisis; new plans for cooperation in oil for 1976-1980, and finally, the last report, this time a political one with very pessimistic conclusions — "The Crisis of Democracy" — on the crisis in the state system of the capitalist countries.

The ideas of the Trilateral Commission frequently figured in Carter's speeches throughout the election campaign. "Trilaterality in this form was used as a weapon by the Democratic Party Presidential candidate, as a central theme of his foreign policy," writes the journal *Foreign Affairs*. Carter criticized the Nixon and Ford administrations in his electoral speeches for having inadequately coordinated U.S. foreign policy with Western Europe and Japan...

Washington's turn towards the Peoples Republic of China was carried out without Japan's knowledge, which created, in addition to the commercial crisis, a severe political one. Kissingerian "shuttle diplomacy" in the Middle East was conducted without the European allies of the U.S., although it involved their vital interests too. Stories about the American "lone horseman" approach began to appear in the western literature and the press.

The inglorious end of the Indochina war laid the basis for the stage of "reappraisal of values." It was then that the Trilateral Commission was born. Kissinger proclaimed 1973 the "Year of Europe" — that is, the year of establishing the American position in Western Europe. In summer of 1973 a declaration was passed on relations between the U.S. and its NATO partners, or, as they began to call it, the Second Atlantic Charter (after the first Charter signed by Roosevelt and Churchill in August 1941 on war aims), which in Washington's view was to supplement the North Atlantic Pact's provisions on cooperation in economic and currency spheres, on special privileges for the multinational monopolies, etc.

At Washington's initiative the main capitalist powers attended conferences of heads of state and governments, in which the main "Trilateral" countries participated. At these meetings they discussed ways out of the economic crisis of capitalism, problems of controlling inflationary processes, unemployment and currency chaos. Such conferences were held in Rambouillet, near Paris, at the end of 1975, and in Dorado Beach on the Caribbean island of Puerto Rico in summer 1976. These strictly secret gatherings show the new level of capitalist coordination

in preparing recommendations, in the context of the deepening general crisis of capitalism. The new American administration will evidently, from the very start, look to "trilateral" policies for a way out of the crisis at the expense of its partners, deepening even further the disagreements in the corners of the triangle.

The other characteristic of the summit — and not only summit — conferences under the auspices of the "triangle" is that they are more frequently sanctifying the gendarme functions of the "partnership" of the three centers, like the Holy Alliance of monarchists at the beginning of the last century. After the Puerto Rico conference, Chancellor Schmidt told journalists that the convened heads of capitalist states had passed a secret resolution: to apply economic and political sanctions to Italy in case of Communists entering the government after the parliamentary elections.

According to the press, a new meeting of the heads of the main capitalist states should take place in the near future. "The leaders of the major western European countries are openly calling for the earliest possible summit meetings with future President Carter," writes the *New York Times*.

In all of these steps to coordinate the actions of the imperialist centers, however, the U.S. is not taking the leading role to the same extent that it did in the first post-war decades. American hegemony in the capitalist world is being more noticeable undermined in the economic sphere than in the military-political...

Sharpening contradictions and unstable compromises — that is how relations between the three main centers of capitalism can be characterized. The *Paris Le Monde Diplomatique* writes of the American conception of the triangle: "trilaterality can be viewed as a reworked, more carefully formulated, more diplomatic variant of U.S. leadership in the 'free world.' ... It is also a kind of 'new course' on a world scale for saving capitalism from the crisis through reforms... within the bounds of existing structures."

The concept of trilaterality, developed in the USA, and especially graphically embodied in the idea of the Trilateral Commission — a "club" of the strongmen of the world — shows the significant weakening of the capitalist system as a whole, and one of the new aspects of the aggravation of the general crisis of capitalism and the attempts of the USA under these circumstances to preserve its influence over the course of international affairs.