

Belgrade Preparations Threatened By New 'U-2 Affair'

East and West European leaders are now more confident than ever that the mid-June Helsinki follow-up meeting in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, can be turned into an effective instrument for initiating what Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti has termed "Phase III" of international relations. However, all the preparations of the past weeks could come to naught through a report leaked by the U.S. "liberal" press that the Soviet dissident Anatolii Shdiarskii has been charged with treason.

Sources within the U.S. Congressional Helsinki delegation said yesterday that at Belgrade the U.S. intends to filibuster on this incident, and hopes thereby to provoke the Soviet delegation into walking out of the conference in protest. This U.S. ploy is identical with the 1960 "U-2" incident, which led to the collapse of the detente negotiations between Khrushchev and President Eisenhower. If it succeeds, it would be a serious blow not only to U.S.-Soviet relations, but to Europe's efforts to form a workable alliance with both East Bloc countries and the Third World.

The Third Phase

The resounding success of Italian Prime Minister Andreotti's visit this week to Rumania properly situates the reason why the Carter Administration has been compelled to act in this way. Speaking at a press conference following meetings with Rumanian President Nicolae Ceausescu, Andreotti announced the dawn of a post-cold war, post-détente "third phase" in international relations, which he identified as the new world economic order. This phase is "characterized by the opening of relations with the Third World and socialist states," he said, describing the Belgrade conference as a place where this could be put formally into motion.

Andreotti has been prominently touring the Mediterranean area in order to organize a policy consensus on the need for a Mediterranean peace zone to include the Balkans and the Middle East. The first leg of his travels has included Greece and Rumania, and he will make a second foray to Iraq and Libya during the first weeks of June. Meanwhile, Andreotti's Foreign Minister, Arnaldo Forlani, has already been to Spain, and will be arriving in Yugoslavia in the next few days.

Their work has resulted in full support from Greece, Rumania, and Spain for the peace zone proposal, signifying good prospects for this item to be at the top of the Belgrade agenda.

But Andreotti is fully aware that if the Belgrade results are not to be mere scraps of paper, they must be complemented with a drastic intensification of development-oriented international cooperation. Therefore at his Rumanian press conference he praised the Belgrade conference and the Helsinki accords preceding it for being "revolutionary," since they taught the world the need for "multilateral relations" to supercede bilateral

negotiations between the superpowers.

In order to demonstrate the kind of cooperation required, Italy and Rumania signed a multilevel agreement for mutual development and joint ventures into Asian and African projects, amounting to \$240 million.

Exactly the same sentiments were reflected in comments by Yugoslavian President Tito, currently the host of West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. In a statement on his Belgrade objectives, Tito warned of the "present worsening of relations between the two superpowers," and said that an effort by other countries could improve the overall world situation.

Schmidt, who in an only slightly more quiet way is working towards these same goals, found broad agreement with Tito, especially on the issue of nuclear "non-proliferation." Contrary to the U.S., both leaders insisted that although effective non-proliferation measures are desirable and necessary, in no way should this put roadblocks in the way of "technology transfer" — the code word for serious capital exports to the Third World and East bloc countries. This statement reinforces Schmidt's firm stand at the London economic summit against U.S. attempts to halt West Germany's large nuclear technology deal with Brazil.

Yugoslavia has also been host to another internationally known pro-development figure. Former Mexican President Luis Echeverria, now special ambassador for Third World affairs under the Lopez Portillo administration, arrived in Belgrade last weekend to attend a conference on "The New World Economic Order for Development." Although the Third World has taken relatively few independent political initiatives recently, a hardening and potential change in their position is indicated by the title of one working group in this conference: "The Impact of the Trilateral Commission on the North-South Dialogue."

West Germany's Federal President Walter Scheel, meanwhile, has himself been visiting Mexico for consultations with President Lopez Portillo and industrialists. Since Chancellor Schmidt, who has assumed the role of advanced sector interlocutor on behalf of the Third World, has repeatedly hailed West Germany's "model" relations with Yugoslavia, it is very likely that Mexico will be next in line for special ties. At a press conference in Mexico City, Scheel has called for clearing away many of the regulations which currently hinder small- and medium-sized West German firms from doing successful business with Mexico.

Military Détente

If the Belgrade conference succeeds, in spite of the Carter Administration's "human rights" antics, in sealing an agreement on Mediterranean and Third World cooperation, the next immediate questions to be considered will have to be in the area of military strategy, centering on the role of the NATO and Warsaw Pact countries.