

Giscard's Detente Gambit Set To Ruin Schmidt-Andreotti Policy

French President Giscard d'Estaing held a surprise interview with *Newsweek* magazine last week, in which he attacked President Carter for breaking "the code of conduct of detente" in relations with the Soviet Union.

Although the Giscard interview appears to be one of the sharpest Western criticisms of Carter's belligerent anti-Soviet policies to date, the fact of the matter is that Giscard is using this foreign policy gambit in an attempt to establish himself as a fascist strongman. His chief efforts at present are aimed at forcing the French Gaullists to capitulate to a mass-based movement of zero-growth fanatics modeled on the Nazi movement.

From that vantage point, Giscard's announcement in *Newsweek* that he has broken off foreign policy coordination with Washington can mean only one thing: Giscard has embarked on the same Frankenstein path of adventurist, independent foreign policies paved by Hitler.

Giscard showered praise on detente in the interview, an indication that he will now try to play the Soviet Union and the U.S. off against each other to gain international leeway. As an intentional by-product of this game, Giscard may succeed in throwing a monkey wrench into the careful efforts of West German Chancellor Schmidt and Italian Prime Minister Andreotti to finalize a break with the sinking dollar. Schmidt and Andreotti, the actual spokesmen for Europe's detente efforts, are leading the push to create a new international gold-backed monetary system in collaboration with the Soviets.

The recent decision of the Italo-Soviet Chamber of Commerce to include the Soviet transfer-ruble as a credit instrument in a major trade deal demonstrates Schmidt and Andreotti are serious about a break with the dollar. Now the Giscard power play underlines the urgency of bringing these efforts to completion in the next two weeks at the very latest.

Giscard's African Intentions

Giscard's interview provided one unambiguous clue as to what he's up to; he stated his commitment to deploy the French army unilaterally as a police force in Africa. Asked by reporter de Borchgrave what he considers to be at the root of the repeated U.S.-Soviet tensions in Angola, Giscard answered: "When a vacuum is created, as was the case in Angola, (the Soviets) fill it... But when the vacuum was pre-empted by others, the Soviets did not persist."

De Borchgrave then asked Giscard whether when he speaks of "others," he is "referring to the intervention by France and Morocco in Zaire last April?" Giscard answered, "Correct."

French Foreign Minister de Guiringaud is now on a diplomatic tour of West Africa. Moreover, it was revealed July 18 that a week ago France unilaterally sent logistical support to Chad to subdue "rebel forces" allegedly tied to Libya.

Giscard announced his provocative African intentions against the Soviets just as Schmidt concluded a summit meeting with Carter in Washington, where he reportedly presented to Carter West Germany's proposal to give a new impulse to the Mutual and Balanced Force Reduction talks with the Soviets. Schmidt told Carter at that time that Europe was committed to progress at these talks because of the lack of perceptible progress at the Strategic Arms Limitation talks between the two big powers.

Schmidt also indicated that his idea of moving ahead with the Helsinki-related Soviet proposal for a pan-European conference on science and technology found a positive echo in the U.S. President.

After his return to West Germany, the Chancellor was interviewed by Hamburg radio July 17 on the significance of the visit. "The Soviet Union does not believe Carter wishes to pursue detente," he said, adding diplomatically that he himself is more optimistic than the Soviets about Washington's intentions and is certain that Carter will take concrete, positive actions on arms limitations and trade if he hopes to prove his good will.

Given these diplomatic but firm assertions, most of the international press has discounted Schmidt's tongue-in-cheek insistence that West German-U.S. relations have "never been better."

Neutron Bomb

Since Schmidt's return to Bonn, a hot debate has broken out in the West German press on Washington's push to station neutron bombs on West German soil. It is widely feared that if these weapons were stationed in Europe the Soviet Union would be provoked to cancel all current disarmament talks, while the bomb would encourage the "utopians" within NATO to provoke "limited" confrontations against Eastern Europe, guaranteeing a full-scale Soviet thermonuclear counterattack.

In a July 18 interview, Schmidt has demanded that the NATO alliance partners take responsibility for evaluating the "psychological-strategic difficulties" posed by the neutron bomb. The debate has also provoked grumblings from high-level military circles, such as retired General Graf von Baudissen in Hamburg, because of the danger of blurring the distinction between "tactical" and "strategic" nuclear weapons.

As in the United States, however, the neutron bomb issue is also being used to mobilize radical environmentalist and terrorist networks in West Germany. In an interview publicized by the *Baltimore Sun*, the Social Democratic Party's business manager Egon Bahr — a longtime sidekick of party Chairman Willy Brandt— has emotionally described the neutron bomb as “a symbol of perversion of the human mind.”

The Schmidt-Andreotti Policy

Andreotti will arrive in Washington July 26 for a follow-up summit with Carter, and by that time he must be prepared to present Rockefeller with the fait accompli of an emerging new monetary system. This is also the only course by which Giscard can be yanked under control; a major factor motivating France's turn toward fascism is the miserable state of its economy and the threat of a final collapse of the worthless French franc.

On July 19 Andreotti met with Giscard as part of a Mediterranean tour which will also take him to Saudi Arabia.

The results of this meeting demonstrate that Giscard's dramatic shift caught the Italian premier completely off guard. There was an immediate flurry of emergency consultations by Western European chiefs of state. Schmidt flew to Strasbourg the same day for his own meeting with Giscard and he apparently brought up international monetary problems related to the dollar. Schmidt also made a point of announcing that he would consult with British Prime Minister Callaghan by phone that same day, and according to press accounts, he is meeting Andreotti today for a similarly unscheduled consultation.

Italian and French press accounts of Andreotti's meeting with Giscard, meanwhile, are completely contradictory. French sources are asserting that the two heads of

state reached “complete agreement” on everything, while more reliable Italian sources assert that Andreotti immediately distanced himself from the contents of Giscard's attack on Carter.

Andreotti's defense of Carter from Giscard's attack is most revealing of the fear-ridden climate that has descended upon Europe. He is quoted as saying, “We have always been in favor of detente... I don't believe the U.S. is against it,” a flat lie.

Soviet Smokescreen?

For the past week Soviet editorial commentary on Western Europe has accurately noted the unprecedented low-point in Washington's relations with its European allies.

Although the entire U.S. press corps was mobilized last week to print the lie that all outstanding differences between West Germany and the U.S. were resolved at the Schmidt-Carter summit, the Soviets have scorned this claim. The Soviet party daily, *Pravda*, described Schmidt's conflict with Washington this week as going “beyond normal interimperialist rivalries,” while Czechoslovakia's *Rude Pravo* highlighted Schmidt as the leader of “a major industrial power, whose criticisms of Washington are very significant.”

Thus far, however, the Soviets have chosen to lump Giscard's restatements with Western Europe's efforts for detente. The German Democratic Republic's *Stimme der DDR* radio ran the *Newsweek* interview July 20 as its lead international item, following similarly positive coverage on Soviet radio.

The question remains open at this time whether the Soviets have put a diplomatic smokescreen over their relations to France or whether they have failed to take note of Giscard's drive for a fascist coup.

— Renée Sigerson

Giscard: Carter 'Broke The Code Of Conduct Of Detente'

The following are excerpts of an interview with French President Giscard d'Estaing by editor Arnaud de Borchgrave, published in the July 25 issue of Newsweek.

Q. Why do you think President Leonid Brezhnev is so angry with President Carter's public approach to diplomacy? Did he tell you whether it was style or substance?

A. It's both. Mr. Brezhnev feels that some of President Carter's decisions have broken what I will call the code of conduct of détente. But beyond style, there is, of course, substance. Brezhnev does not understand the objective sought by breaking the code. The code, for example, calls for noninterference in the other's internal affairs, and you will never find in the Soviet press direct or personal attacks against the leaders of countries that

subscribe to détente. And in the matter of arms limitation, Mr. Brezhnev believes there is a tacit code that implies either a ceiling or a reduction, both limited and balanced. When they saw a proposal that was completely out of phase with these rules of conduct, they understandably wondered why the code had been broken and what the ulterior motive was.

Q. Why do you suppose Mr. Brezhnev is interested only in meeting Mr. Carter to sign a specific agreement, such as SALT II, and not to generally review their respective foreign policies as suggested by Mr. Carter?

A. I believe that Mr. Brezhnev is not interested in an exploratory summit but in a meeting that would confirm a certain orientation in Soviet-American relations. That means the general détente line and the code of conduct as