

4. Despite Brzezinski, Detente Moves Continue

A number of developments over the past week indicates that Zbigniew Brzezinski and his faction have not yet succeeded in completely undercutting U.S.-Soviet SALT negotiations, trade, and other relations between the two countries.

One important sign of a possible easing of East-West tensions was the arrival in Moscow of a large U.S. delegation, led by chief SALT negotiator Paul Warnke, for further arms limitation talks. The U.S. group was met by a top-level Soviet delegation headed by Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko. Reportedly, the Warnke group is attempting to lay out new U.S. proposals on SALT in detail so that when Gromyko meets with U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance later this month the stage will be set for serious negotiating between the two leaders, not a fruitless exchange of opposed "positions."

U.S. officials believe it is significant that American businessman Francis Crawford, arrested in the Soviet Union and convicted of violation of currency exchange laws, has been given a suspended sentence. These officials view the light sentence as a conditional move by the Soviets to cool increasingly tense relations, dependent on subsequent moves by the U.S. Crawford,

an executive of International Harvester, will apparently be free to leave the Soviet Union soon.

Then on Sept. 7 President Carter overruled the attempts by Brzezinski to halt the sale of oil-drilling equipment to the Soviet Union by the Texas firm of Dresser Industries. The Dresser sale had been opposed by the Brzezinski group for "national security" reasons, less because of the significance of the particular sale than as an important move in Brzezinski's broader strategy of consolidating National Security Council control over all U.S. high-technology exports to the Soviets (see the chronology of "Brzezinski's 'Coup in Process' " above).

Carter has thus far done nothing to challenge Brzezinski's general strategy. His failure to do so was underscored by the immediate response to his decision on the Dresser sale from one of Brzezinski's closest congressional allies, Senator Henry Jackson, who has subpoenaed Dresser Industries' records relating to the sale. The Senator said that the subpoena was part of a broader inquiry into the Carter Administration's procedures for deciding who will receive export licenses for politically sensitive trade deals.

5. Democrats Want Mideast Peace

Democratic Party leaders throughout the United States are committed in principle to a positive settlement to the crisis in the Middle East guaranteed by economic development — in the face of the touted strength of the Zionist Lobby in the U.S. which is threatening President Carter with a political crisis if he puts any pressure on Israel to make concessions at Camp David.

Senator George McGovern (D-SD), who has in the past opposed efforts by Zbigniew Brzezinski to force a U.S.-Soviet confrontation over Africa and to play the "China card" against the Soviet Union, is now preparing to call for a return to the Geneva peace conference table by the principles in the Mideast crisis in the event of a failure of the Camp David Summit, according to a spokesman.

McGovern also intends to hold hearings in January to review the role of the National Security Council chief in usurping foreign policy decision-making from the State Department and the President himself.

Last week, House Majority Leader Jim Wright (D-Tx) took initiative to counteract the threat of a new Middle East war by proposing a comprehensive peace package based on Israel's return to the 1967 borders, establishment of a Palestinian homeland, and a

massive economic development program for the region.

Demand Brzezinski's Ouster

Opposed to the Zionist Lobby policy for a Mideast war, Democratic Party regional leaders are furious that President Carter has not taken the pulse of the party to formulate his foreign policy without Brzezinski's assistance. "There is support out here for Carter to pressure the Israelis," declared one Democratic National Committeewoman from the Midwest. "Carter has to have time to pull his act together," said one southern Democratic Party official. "He has finally opened lines of communication to the party. He is a fine man, but he doesn't know politics."

One former party official from the northeast has sent letters to President Carter, Vice-President Mondale, and several Congressional leaders warning of the danger of war and demanding that Carter take decisive action against those in his Administration — like Brzezinski and Mondale — who are backing crisis politics. "I want to send this letter to Mondale. He should know what we think of him. We were forced to vote for him because we liked Carter. Mondale sits on information."

Leaders of the New Democratic Coalition, a liberal division of the Democratic Party, are planning to revive efforts tried several months ago to pass a resolution demanding Brzezinski's ouster. These plans were revived particularly after Brzezinski's associates floated a proposal to station U.S. troops in the Middle East.

Columnist Tom Wicker, who is tied to eastern establishment figures among the Democrats, states that that proposal is a danger to world peace. "It would increase the risk that any local conflict would bring in the superpowers," he warned on Sept. 1.

Organizing to Win in November

While the Democratic leadership is in principle committed to a positive peace settlement, the party's base is not now organized to exert the sort of pressure on the White House that is reflective of the policy

thinking of most party members.

Beginning this month, Democratic National Committee Chairman John White, also a Texas political leader, is putting together a party apparatus to ensure a political victory in November of candidates who campaign on a foreign policy platform of international detente. White told a meeting of governors last week that they must begin to exercise control over their statewide machines to campaign effectively for the 1978 and 1980 elections.

White has sent letters to other Democratic leaders and contributors calling on them to raise funds to support the election of candidates who back a new Strategic Arms Limitation (SALT) agreement. He warned that anti-Soviet hardliners were trying to turn the country away from a policy of detente with the Soviet Union.

— *Barbara Dreyfuss*