

# Europe's plan to win the peace

*The EMS provides the alternative to a Camp David debacle*

Two press conferences, reports of which are just through at deadline, set the parameters for the world strategic situation. The first, and most important, took place in Aachen, West Germany, the former seat of Charlemagne's empire, where Chancellor Schmidt and President Giscard announced that they would shove the European Monetary Fund down the throats of remaining opposition at the Sept. 18 meeting of European finance ministers. The second was presidential press spokesman Jody Powell's lame announcement that the Camp David summit meeting would continue through the weekend.

Now that the non-outcome of Camp David has been prediscounted in the international community, the European peace-winning strategy is the center of world affairs. West Germany's Schmidt, Japan's Fukuda, and other world leaders insisted, in repeated statements this week, that the world faced a crisis that could lead it to war; that the crisis was soluble through a Grand Design for world economic development; and that the European Monetary Fund was the "first priority" in this strategy, in the words of both Schmidt and Giscard. With precision, Japanese Premier Fukuda made the same demand in public statements during his Middle East tour this week (see below).

In sharp contrast to the lull at Camp David, the superstructure of the new monetary system that the Europeans and Japanese have proposed, and the Soviets and most of the OPEC countries have assented to, is going up at a speed that not even optimistic observers — including this publication — anticipated. Giscard and Schmidt, the generalissimos of the New World Economic Order, have cut a path through formidable difficulties with an ease that their opponents in Britain and the Benelux, and most American observers, believed impossible only a few days ago.

## *The Soviet component*

Apart from the command of the European situation that the two leaders displayed before the press corps at Aachen, the European diplomacy is the Soviet component.

Following the track projected at the May summit of Schmidt and Brezhnev, the West Germans have given the United States access to a peace-winning approach to Moscow.

The West German Defense Ministry's public attack last week on NATO's Autumn Reforger exercises succeeded in isolating Britain as the bad man in NATO — not the United States — and produced an acrimonious exchange on the subject between the Soviet press and the London *Daily Telegraph*. At the same time, Schmidt and Giscard, and virtually the entire continental European press corps, have pinpointed Britain as the would-be saboteur of the European Monetary Fund.

The outreach of Franco-German diplomacy extends to the Mediterranean countries, whom Giscard wants to bring into the EC to the chagrin of Roy Jenkins's European Commission; to Africa; to the Persian Gulf; and, emphatically, the Soviet bloc. Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin awarded unprecedented time to a West German economic mission in Moscow this week, extending a Sept. 13 meeting for the stated reason of receiving a briefing on Bonn's efforts towards the European Monetary Fund and stabilization of the dollar! Kosygin's gesture was a precedent-making endorsement of the European Monetary Fund.

How effective this approach is became apparent during the Camp David discussions: President Assad of Syria visited Bonn, discussing major economic development projects with an industrial delegation led by Otto Wolf von Amerongen, West Germany's East-West trader par excellence. Syria's Foreign Minister last week had visited Moscow, and then circulated word of a mutual defense pact possibility with the Soviets for the Arab World, should the Camp David talks break down. Into this set of discussions in Bonn flew Saudi Arabia's Prince Saud al-Faisal for unscheduled meetings with Chancellor Schmidt; reliable sources report that the centerpiece of the discussions was the European Monetary Fund.

The door is open to Moscow, by way of Bonn, should the United States choose to walk through it.

—David Goldman