

EMS leaders organize Europe from Atlantic to Urals

France, West Germany dethroning imperial Britain

French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing and West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt are moving swiftly to organize Europe "from the Atlantic to the Urals" for a program of peace and development to bring the world safely into the third millennium.

Chancellor Schmidt indicated the intentions behind the current series of Franco-German deployments in an interview to *Der Spiegel* magazine on Jan. 15. Enunciating in the clearest way to date the underlying military-strategic intentions of the new European Monetary System, Schmidt stated that he "was not sure" the present military blocs would necessarily persist into the turn of the century. The blocs may prove temporary as a real détente unfolds under European leadership.

While Schmidt spoke, the French government had dispatched a delegation of disarmament experts to Moscow to initiate discussions for the European disarmament conference first proposed by Giscard at the United Nations this past summer. At the same time, Schmidt sent a personal envoy to negotiate enhanced economic and political cooperation between East and West Germany.

Disarmament and détente

West German Minister of Inter-German Affairs Wischniewski and East German Foreign Minister Oskar Fisher met on Jan. 15 to discuss developing relations. On the agenda was Fisher's suggestion to upgrade diplomatic representation to the ambassadorial level at both capitals.

Earlier, Schmidt himself stated on French television that he attaches much importance to the relations between the two Germanys. They share the unenviable position of being "potential theaters of war for the Armies of East and West," Schmidt said.

The effort for an overall disarmament accord including the Soviet Union is being organized by the French who dispatched the Foreign Ministry's disarmament specialist Jacques de la Ferriere to Moscow. Meeting with the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Kornienko and other officials, the French envoy is to work out an agreement with the Soviets around the "Atlantic to the Urals" European conference proposed by Giscard. Various press sources have reported that Schmidt was enthusiastic about the proposal when Giscard first brought it up at the Guadeloupe four-power summit two weeks ago.

Building European unity

As of Jan. 1, France and its Foreign Minister Francois-Poncet assumed the leadership of the European Community from Britain. He is taking full advantage of that six-month long responsibility to aggressively organize Europe behind the full and immediate realization of the European Monetary System (EMS).

Francois-Poncet is determined to solve the minor Franco-German differences over the agricultural compensation negotiations and get the new monetary system and the European

Francois-Poncet: Latin America an important European ally

French Foreign Affairs Minister Jean Francois-Poncet was the guest of honor at a dinner offered by the Ambassadors of Latin American countries in Paris on Jan. 12. During his speech Francois-Poncet delineated the following points of France's policy toward Latin America:

After asserting the basic solidarity that exists between France and Latin America based on history, culture, and common interests, the minister called for an increase in cultural and technological cooperation.

A great complementarity must be arranged between the countries of Europe and Latin America, particularly in the economic field. Europe and Latin American collaboration should include the participation of European industry and science in the "rapid economic expansion" and the "development of the natural resources" of the Latin American continent.

Through the common experience shared by the countries of Europe and Latin America, both can help "bring to international life a strength of analysis, thought, and balance that imposes itself beyond certain divergences."

In conclusion, Francois-Poncet expressed his conviction that the enlargement of the European Commission (to include especially Spain) will contribute to the reinforcement of ties between both continents.