

Haig stumps—and stumbles—in Europe

Henry Kissinger pulled all the tricks out of his old “shuttle diplomat’s” suitcase this weekend, in an effort to mobilize the powerbrokers of Western Europe behind the military buildup policies of 1980 presidential hopeful Gen. Alexander Haig. Speaking at a conference on the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in Brussels, Belgium, sponsored by the Georgetown Center for Strategic Studies of Washington, D.C., Kissinger and Haig demanded the introduction of the U.S. Cruise and Pershing 2 missiles into Western Europe, under the rubric of “modernization of European Theater nuclear forces.” They called for the expansion of NATO’s powers into the Middle East, and warned the West European participants to cease their opposition to Washington’s Camp David Mideast policy.

But the governments of continental Europe are not climbing on the Haig bandwagon. In public statements and intensive behind-the-scenes maneuvering they are insisting on their commitment to detente with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, and on their reluctance to introduce the new nuclear missiles onto the continent unless all other options for Western Europe’s defense collapse.

At the three-day Brussels conference, the threat was in the air that if Kissinger and Haig went too far the Europeans would bolt, and the newly emerged political alliance between Paris and Bonn would take on military components—possibly even including the withdrawal of West Germany from NATO. Two prominent French Gaullists, General Georges Buis and Alexandre Sanguinetti, circulated a controversial proposal last week for a “marriage between the

French ‘force de frappe’ (nuclear weapons capability—ed.) and West German industry.” The proposal includes West German withdrawal from NATO and the establishment of a joint Franco-German command structure.

While this “trial balloon” has been rejected by sources close to the Bonn and Paris governments, Haig and Kissinger have every reason to fear that those governments will intensify their cooperation and continue to act for detente and develop deals with Eastern Europe.

West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, in an interview to the French daily *Le Figaro* released Sept. 1, the same day that Kissinger spoke in Brussels, emphasized West Germany’s intention to work for European cooperation from the Atlantic to the Urals. Schmidt defined Germany’s historic role “as a state in the center of Europe, to work for a policy of balance between East and West ... to provide the space for various

currents and elements in European culture and civilization.”

This mission was interrupted by the Hitler era, Schmidt said, as Hitler’s war broke off Germany’s historic ties to both the East and the West. The time has come to restore this role, Schmidt said, through the policy of detente with the East and cooperation with France.

Schmidt hailed the alliance between French General Charles de Gaulle and West German Chancellor Adenauer during the 1960s for “opening the door to Franco-German understanding and cooperation ... the German and French people have gone through this door, and are bearing their joint responsibility for Europe and for peace in the world.

“To maintain peace it is necessary to continue and develop the policy of balance and detente. That requires special efforts and care in the area of arms control and disarmament. All states are called upon to make their contributions.”

The Week in Brief

The Baltimore regional headquarters of the U.S. Labor Party reported Sept. 6 that it had received two death threats against the life of 1980 presidential candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, USLP chairman. LaRouche is scheduled for a full round of appearances in Baltimore from Friday, Sept. 7 until Monday, Sept. 10, including addresses before the Independent Voters’ League and the Arlington, Va. chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

At 9 a.m., two telephone threats against the life of Mr. LaRouche and former congressional candidate Debra Hanania Freeman were phoned into the Baltimore home of Mrs. Freeman. The first caller delivered a message: “If we don’t get LaRouche, we’ll get you.” The second caller, who identified himself as a “Zionist businessman,” tried to convince Mrs. Freeman to dissuade the LaRouche party from making a local appearance. “You will never take Baltimore from us,” he said.