

Crazy for Kennedy?

In the same week that the *New York Post* proclaimed that "Draft Kennedy fever" is sweeping the country, more reflective pundits warned that Kennedy will not win the Democratic nod unless he sheds his "ultraliberal" image. And the political aspirations of former NATO supreme commander Alexander Haig were crumbling in Western Europe, where the prospective man-on-a-white-horse was testing his campaign strategy with the aid of Henry Kissinger.

As we enter the fall gear-up for the 1980 campaign, both of the presidential choices of the New York Council on Foreign Relations crowd, Kennedy and Haig, are looking like liabilities. The boys at CFR are not accustomed to setbacks, either in the major party nominations or the November vote. One imagines frantic meetings behind closed doors.

The Council and its elder sister, London's Royal Institute for International Affairs, miscalculated on two counts. One, they overestimated the ability of London and Washington to muscle the Third World and Western Europe into acceptance of a world depression. Two, they underestimated the moral commitment to progress embedded in the majority of the American population, that can be mobilized against a Kennedy "right to die" candidacy.

As reported in our cover story, the Nonaligned Summit at Havana delivered the first shock to the Anglo-American elite. By majority decision, the 96-member movement gave full backing to Cuba's Fidel Castro in unseating Kampuchea's Pol Pot regime for genocide against its own population, and in condemning the Camp David war part. These signal rejections of the "Dark Age" strategy were crowned by the final

document's ringing challenge to developed countries to foster economic progress in the Third World or face catastrophe.

Responding to the courage of the Nonaligned, Western Europe also showed some backbone. Hysterical statements to the contrary in the Anglo-American press cannot hide the fact that the European Monetary System is alive and has captured enormous leverage through the upvaluing of its gold reserves. This paves the way for a European Monetary *Fund* intervention into the International Monetary Fund's turf, Third World credit.

Likewise, Haig's "confront the Soviets" show seems to have closed after a one-night stand on the continent, panned by even the London critics.

That leaves Kennedy. But in the Sept. 12 U.S. primaries, Teddy's supporters fared badly. Take Hartford, Connecticut, described as "Kennedy country." There a strong alliance of white "ethnic" trade-union and minority voters turned back a bid by

the city's Deputy Mayor Nicholas Carbone to defeat incumbent George Athanson in the Democratic mayoral primary. Carbone, a Kennedy man, was plugged as the "favorite" despite his advocacy of methadone maintenance and legalized gambling. Athanson had officially endorsed the Connecticut Anti-Drug Coalition, one of a national grouping of such coalitions initiated with the aid of presidential candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

It is really LaRouche's name that is making the 1980 campaign a new ballgame already in September 1979. The Nonaligned's intervention into advanced-sector policy, and Western Europe's moves toward "Phase Two" of the European Monetary System, are directly modeled on the concepts developed by LaRouche, such as his "Theory of the European Monetary Fund," published last October by this review. Here, the motion of international developments and domestic ferment in the U.S.A. come together.

—Nora Hamerman

The Week in Brief

Fame is fleeting. A week after Henry Kissinger told a Brussels meeting of the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) that the U.S. nuclear umbrella over Europe is no longer credible, given the shift in the balance of strategic forces in favor of the Soviet Union, his view has been repudiated by another former U.S. National Security Advisor, McGeorge Bundy.

Speaking to the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies, termed "the most presti-

gious strategic research center in the world" by the Italian daily *La Stampa*, Bundy said that the "effectiveness of the American nuclear umbrella for Europe will be just as great in the foreseeable future as it has in

"The long-term effectiveness of the U.S. umbrella," said Bundy, "is not derived from strategic superiority; it is derived from two other factors: the visible deployment of conspicuous American military forces in Europe, and the highly evident risk that any large scale conflict between

Soviet and American forces would rapidly and uncontrollably become a disastrous general nuclear conflict.” Bundy’s remarks, which effectively debunk the Kissinger theory of limited nuclear warfare, were termed the “consensus” of the IISS meeting by *La Stampa*.

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Outrage in Western Europe over Washington’s “Cuba crisis” has forced reconsideration and retreat by the Carter administration. The State Department said Sept. 13 that it is reviewing the issue of the 2-3,000 Soviet military personnel on Cuba, and has accepted a definition of the troops as training troops rather than a “combat unit,” as the administration had originally charged.

This shift follows strenuous efforts by Senators Henry Jackson and Frank Church to manufacture a major U.S.-Soviet confrontation over the issue. Administration officials had admitted that the troops pose no actual or potential military threat to the United States.

The Soviet Communist Party daily *Pravda* of Sept. 10 rejected as “totally groundless” the charge that the Soviet troops were a combat brigade, insisting that they were advisors who had been stationed on the island for 17 years, since the conclusion of the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis. “Neither the number nor the functions of the Soviet personnel have changed throughout all these years,” *Pravda* said.

Nevertheless, Senator Jackson, in a speech in the Senate, charged the Soviet Union with building a “fortress Cuba” which could threaten U.S. oil supplies. Republican presidential hopeful Ronald Reagan demanded that the U.S. have “no further communication” with Moscow until the troops are withdrawn.

Such antics have been greeted with dismay in Europe. “I haven’t the slightest idea what this Cuba thing is about,” said a thinktanker from West Germany’s conservative Konrad Adenauer Stiftung. West German Defense Minister Hans Apel appeared on national television Sept. 12 to announce that his coun-

try’s defense policy is based on three basic principles: military equilibrium; disarmament negotiations with the Soviet Union; and economic development of the Third World.

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Le Monde editor André Fontaine pokes fun at the “crisis” aura surrounding the issue of Soviet troops in Cuba, in the paper’s Sept. 12 issue. The United States’ real strategic concern, Fontaine states, is the revolt in the underdeveloped sector over the lack of development assistance from Uncle Sam. “The great strength of the U.S.S.R. nowadays, ... besides its armaments, ... is that the people of the Third World have become aware, sometimes with exaggerations thrown in, of the reality of this exploitation” by western nations and multinationals seeking raw materials. “In this respect,” Fontaine said, “one is wrong to underestimate the outcome of the Havana Summit.”

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Does the “Ted Kennedy groundswell” really exist? Voters in two of the largest cities in Connecticut, the Massachusetts Senator’s backyard, decisively repudiated heavily favored pro-Kennedy candidates in primary elections Sept. 11, in what some observers see as a developing national groundswell against Kennedy.

Voters in Hartford crushed a bid by Deputy Mayor Nicholas Carbone, long the power in the Hartford City Council, to oust incumbent Mayor George Athanson. While Carbone had built his power over the years by functioning through the Hartford insurance company networks, liberal “urban development” projects, and radical-tinged poverty programs, Athanson had emerged as a national figure in the fight to curb drugs, declaring an anti-drug week in an official proclamation earlier this year. In Tuesday’s balloting, all but one Carbone man was replaced by candidates sharing Athanson’s views on the drug and crime issue.

In New Haven, Mayor Frank Lo-

gue, a Kennedy liberal who has received his strongest support from the Yale University community, was defeated by former New Haven police chief Biaggio Dilieto, who also campaigned on an antidrug program.

In both races, black and other minority voters deserted the Kennedy forces en masse—an ominous portent for Senator Kennedy’s anticipated presidential campaign.

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Black guerrillas in Zimbabwe Rhodesia are taking a tough stance at London peace talks called by Britain. British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington and Abel Muzorewa, Prime Minister of Zimbabwe Rhodesia, had hoped to deal with constitutional questions and implementation separately. But rebel forces led by Joshua Nkomo and Robert Mugabe, apparently suspicious that Britain might attempt to impose a one-sided constitutional package and then blame the guerrillas when implementation broke down, have forced the British to link the two issues in a single package. The phases of implementation to be linked with the constitution are agreements on terms for a ceasefire, an interim constitution, and an interim administration.

The British concession is the second in recent weeks. At the Commonwealth Conference in August, the British were forced to agree that the April elections which installed Muzorewa as prime minister were not “fair and free,” and could not be used by Britain’s Thatcher government as a pretext to lift sanctions against the Muzorewa regime—a policy Mrs. Thatcher advocated in her election campaign.

The current firm posture of the guerrillas is a setback for the Tory government. Columnist Peregrine Worsthorne reported in the *Daily Telegraph* of Sept. 10 that, according to a “senior Conservative Minister ... the more degraded the political and social system, the easier it will be to extract the precious oil and minerals, since trade nowadays follows, not the flag, but the bribe. ... The more corrupt the regime, the better Britain’s interests will be served.”