

# Carter, Cuba and the IMF

The caustic comments of Mexican President Lopez Portillo in a recent press conference, that the United States is being run by a "presidential precandidate, and not a President," aptly reflect world perception of the vacuum of leadership in Washington. President Carter's Oct. 1 television address to the nation, in which he attempted to extricate himself from the absurd "Cuba crisis" fanned over the past weeks by Sen. Frank Church, only took us deeper into the mess.

At stake, Carter admitted, was the future of NATO.

"The leaders of our European allies support SALT II unanimously," said Carter. "I must tell you tonight that if the Senate fails to approve the SALT treaty, these leaders and their countries would be confused and deeply alarmed. If our allies should lose confidence in our ability to negotiate successfully for the control of nuclear weapons, then our effort to build a stronger and more united NATO could fail."

Verifying this perception was a communiqué issued Oct. 2 by West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and French President Giscard d'Estaing following their Bonn meeting. "The French and German heads of state do not view the presence of Soviet troops in Cuba as having any relevance to the world balance of forces," read their blunt statement.

But the point goes far beyond SALT II. The policies that Carter announced in his speech remain a direct political-military threat to Western Europe's commitment to foster Third World economic development in cooperation with the Soviet Union.

The crux of the matter is the International Monetary Fund-World

Bank. And Carter emphasized that the issue was not Cuba at all, but Soviet and Cuban activities "in the Third World."

It cannot be lost on Europe that the entire flareup over the "Soviet troops"—troops acknowledged to have been on the island since the 1962 settlement of the Cuban Missile Crisis—coincided with the Non-aligned Movement's summit in Havana in early September. There, under Cuban leadership, IMF genocide policies were attacked by name and the developed sector was urged to invest in the economic development of the Third World. That strategic question has come to a head with the Belgrade annual IMF meeting.

The measures put forward in Carter's speech indicate U.S. readiness to intervene militarily and make sure IMF conditionalities are enforced in the developing sector. Carter said that the defense secretary has been instructed to "further enhance" the rapid deployment strike force, which is considered aimed particularly against the oil producing na-

tions. He announced expanded maneuvers in the Caribbean, and the readiness of the United States to "assist" any Western Hemisphere nation militarily, including steps to set up a Western Hemisphere military force.

Then he said that U.S. naval presence in the Indian Ocean was reinforced. The news came as other administration sources confirmed the upcoming visit of Defense Secretary Harold Brown to China, the first such trip by an American defense secretary. These are clear signals that the United States will back Chinese expansion policies throughout Asia, just as Peking is negotiating its formal entry into the IMF-World Bank.

At the very least, this means a new and devastating plunge in U.S. influence in the developing sector and in Western Europe, at a moment when the rest of the world is mapping a way out of the global crisis through economic development. The real isolationists are the people pulling the strings on "precandidate" Carter.

—Nora Hamerman

## **The Week in Brief**

**The Persian Gulf may soon see the formation of a "new CENTO" military pact in the region, according to reports received this week.**

A military strategist for an Arab nation in the Gulf region summed up the situation this way: "We oil producers are being surrounded by a triangle. ... First, there is Iran, with a regime with expansionist ambitions far worse than the Shah ever had. Second, there is Oman, which wants to invite NATO police forces

into the region. Third, there is Israel, which has designs on Syria via Lebanon. Cumulatively, this is very worrisome."

In a speech to pilgrims to Mecca this week, Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini invited his flocks to overthrow "the kinglets and sheiks who have departed from Islamic tradition," and announced that Iran must rebuild its military into an "all-Islamic army." These threats came only days after two of his closest collaborators

threatened the regimes of Bahrain and Kuwait with being overthrown.

And, while Khomeini threatens, his Foreign Minister Ibrahim Yazdi has been holding extensive policy talks with the New York Council on Foreign Relations and the U.S. State Department, triggering reports that a "normalization" of U.S.-Iranian relations is in the offing.

In tandem, President Carter has decided to beef up the U.S.'s Indian Ocean task force, and the Sultanate of Oman has announced in letters to various Gulf governments that Oman has invited the U.S. to establish "base rights ... to protect the Straits of Hormuz," the waterway through which many of the world's oil tankers pass.

\* \* \*

**The Jose Lopez Portillo-Jimmy Carter summit discussions were "frank, at times brutally frank," according to the post-summit evaluation of the Mexican president. U.S. press preferred to characterize the U.S.-Mexico summit held in Washington on Sept. 28-29 (the third one between Presidents Lopez Portillo and Carter) as a "relatively low-key affair," which ended on a "warm and cooperative note."**

President Lopez Portillo made clear in a series of press conferences and in a report to his nation that the new talks with Carter left much to be desired in Mexico's view, especially on such issues as human rights for Chicanos, the Ixtoc-1 oil spill, and the U.S. campaign theme of a North American Common Market.

\* \* \*

**"We have friends in the world who need to have their oil supplies ensured,"** said Iraqi Oil Minister Hammadi in an interview this week, referring to the political and economic agreements being wrapped up between OPEC and the European Community. "We must provide them

with what they need and we expect to have their support where our political cause is concerned."

Hammadi was alluding to unprecedented agreements with the governments of France and West Germany to ensure future oil supplies in return for European recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organization, and backing for an overall Mideast peace pact.

Mana Saeed Oteiba, the United Arab Emirates oil minister and president of OPEC, stressed at an energy conference in Rimini, Italy the interdependence of Europe and the Middle East and the Arab nations' need for European technology. Against this backdrop, the North African and Persian Gulf oil producers have begun to reduce oil sales to the multinational oil companies in favor of increased state-to-state agreements. Both the Algerian and the Saudi oil ministers attacked oil price speculation by the multinationals and called for an international institution to monitor world oil markets.

\* \* \*

**Soviet President Brezhnev and Greek Prime Minister Karamanlis have signed a broad-ranging economic and political cooperation agreement which is to span a 20-year period.** Energy was a top priority of the type of cooperation under discussion, including the sale of Soviet oil to Greece. Greece has already stated its intention to participate with Eastern and Western European nations in a project for a natural gas pipeline.

Karamanlis, the first Greek premier to visit Moscow ever, received a high-level greeting at the airport from his counterpart Alexei Kosygin, Soviet Foreign Trade Minister Patolichev, and agriculture and other economic ministers as well.

The Oct. 3 Soviet-Greek agreement contains a political document which outlines a common declaration of principles for relations. Karamanlis is expected to go to Czecho-

slovakia and Hungary after Moscow where he will discuss Balkan security matters. From there he will travel to Western Europe.

In Moscow, Karamanlis called his trip "a necessary and natural step forward." Brezhnev, in a welcoming speech emphasized the groundbreaking importance of European detente efforts.

\* \* \*

**The British government is readying new proposals for "peace" in Northern Ireland and a reunification of north and south.** Mr. Humphrey Atkins, the British Minister for Northern Ireland, announced this week that he hopes to put the outlines of the new plan before Parliament shortly, but would reveal no details of its contents, nor of the confidential talks he has been holding with leading politicians in the British province.

Atkins did reveal one dramatic new element however: Sir Maurice Oldfield, former head of MI6 (British Intelligence) and the model for "M" in the James Bond stories, is to become the new security coordinator in Belfast. Sir Maurice will command a joint staff drawn from the Army, the Ulster police force and the civil service—which traditionally controls intelligence functions. Sir Maurice's first job will be to smooth rifts in the security forces which have arisen since the August murder of Lord Mountbatten by terrorists.

British Prime Minister Thatcher indicated in statements this week that the Pope's visit to the Republic of Ireland was a consideration in speeding up the government's timetable. "We earnestly hope that the Pope's visit will create a new spirit of cooperation," Thatcher said. However, two days after the Pope's visit, the Provisional IRA announced that "force is by far the only means of removing the British presence in Ireland."

In a separate terrorist incident, a bomb exploded in a Belfast commercial area killing two.