

## France promotes peace from Atlantic to Urals

**U**nder the leadership of President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, France has been promoting a policy of peace in Europe "from the Atlantic to the Urals"—a policy that has implications for the developing sector and the Middle East in particular. Closely coordinating with the Federal Republic of Germany, France is determined to silence the calls emanating from Henry Kissinger's circle for an arms buildup and a dismantling of what remains of U.S.-Soviet detente by wrecking the SALT II agreement.

This is why Giscard took his entire government—nine ministers in all—to West Germany for a summit meeting with Chancellor Helmut Schmidt in the first week of October.

The two heads of state ended their summit by

issuing a statement that was an unequivocal demand for the passage of the SALT II agreement by the U.S. Congress. The two leaders stipulated that allegations concerning the presence of Soviet troops in Cuba are not an excuse for stalling or vetoing the treaty accord.

The presence of French Defense Minister Bourges in the delegation signified the resolve to work out the best defense arrangements for Europe. An agreement was reached to call for a Pan-European conference on disarmament, a proposal put forward by Giscard and approved by the Soviet Union.

Also discussed were:

**Energy:** France is lending Chancellor Schmidt support for his stand for nuclear development in West Germany—and all of Europe—and have suggested a revamping of the Euratom treaty. Speaking on West German TV after the summit, Giscard posed the debate around nuclear energy in terms of a reduction of living standards versus nuclear development. On the oil issue, Giscard pushed for West German agreement to Industry Minister Giraud's plan to control the Rotterdam spot market.

**European Monetary System:** The two countries reached an agreement to limit West German interest rate increases and to better coordinate central bank

proposal that might entail "freezing" the present arms balance in the Warsaw Pact's favor.

NATO's carefully worded reaction, hurriedly agreed between the 15 member-countries of the alliance and issued from its Brussels headquarters, was in response to Mr. Leonid Brezhnev's weekend offer of a reduction in the Warsaw Pact's medium-range nuclear strike forces...

"Such negotiations," the NATO text reads, "would have to be based on the principle of equal rights and security, and should not serve to contractualize the current inequality."

### 'Mr. Brezhnev's ploy'

**The Baltimore Sun, editorial, Oct. 9:**... Mr. Brezhnev's purpose is to derail the NATO weapons modernization plan by stirring political dissent in the European democracies. His weapons are deception and fear. Thus his withdrawal promise, a propaganda ploy without military significance, was combined with a brutal warning—if West Germany accepts U.S. Pershing II surface-to-surface missiles and long-range cruise missiles "it is not difficult to imagine what consequences would await her if this weaponry were ever put to use."...

NATO should give Mr. Brezhnev the only kind of

answer he understands by going ahead with deployment of Pershing and cruise missiles.

### A Soviet intervention...

**The Guardian, London, Oct. 8:**

... After Mr. Brezhnev's latest intervention, the big question is whether Chancellor Schmidt will want to reopen West Germany's agreement to join in the modernization program before exploring the new Soviet proposals. He will be under heavy pressure from the Christian Democratic opposition to do no such thing. But sources close to him suggest that he may be tempted to argue that, at a time of exceptionally weak American leadership, the European members of the NATO alliance must take seriously both Mr. Brezhnev's proposals and his threats...

Reluctantly, some leading West German politicians seem to have concluded, after a first reading of Mr. Brezhnev's Berlin speech, that the Soviet leader in his physical decline is in far better political health than President Carter.

action on the exchange markets—all efforts to strengthen the European Monetary System to replace the International Monetary Fund. Said Giscard, according to press reports, the relationship between himself and Schmidt, their two governments and peoples has created a situation in which the international community depends on this relationship for stability. The EMS, he said, was born out of talks between the two heads of state a year ago. Now the EMS not only exists, but is capable of resisting the tensions on the international financial markets.

**Trade and technology:** Giscard and Schmidt agreed on a joint telecommunications satellite project. This decision takes Franco-German industrial cooperation to a new plane; previously the main achievements had been the Airbus jet and the Ariane rocket. The new satellites are scheduled to be operational between 1983 and 1985.

After the Giscard-Schmidt working meeting, France's Minister of Economic Affairs, René Monory flew to the Soviet Union for a meeting of the Franco-Soviet Joint Commission. Among the projects to be discussed are joint space and satellite programs, scientific research and development, computers, and a credit

line to finance French oil imports from the Soviet Union.

Returning to France, Giscard attended military maneuvers intended to test the interrelationship between French conventional and nuclear forces. Defense Minister Bourges opened the maneuvers with a speech stressing the importance of France's independent capability in the military fields. Among the observers from 25 countries were representatives from Warsaw Pact nations.

But most indicative of Giscard's foreign policy approach was his reported reference to King Henri IV during his tour of the Aquitaine region of France. This 16th century French King authored the "Grand Design" policy of uniting Europe around a peace-winning program of scientific, economic, and technological development. This approach later served as the model for the American Revolution. Giscard then brought the analogy to the present stating that France does not need a "common enemy," as in World War II, to rebuild today the national unity that characterized the Resistance.

—Garance Phau