

Europe warns against new U.S. adventure in Mideast

by Dana Sloane

In the wake of President Carter's first military intervention into Iran, heads of state and leading diplomatic figures of continental Western Europe are warning that the foreign policy establishment centered around National Security Council advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski is preparing another, even larger military adventure in the Middle East. The most politically precise evaluation was made by French Ambassador Raymond Offroy in the French daily *Le Monde*.

Ambassador Offroy charged that the real objective of the first Carter raid into Iran was to "intimidate the Europeans." The failed mission, he asserted, had nothing to do with "saving hostages," but only with "transforming Europe into a group of countries as docile as the Soviet satellites in the Warsaw Pact" by disrupting Europe's economic lifeline: the flow of Middle East oil.

The long-time close associate of former President Charles de Gaulle, Offroy reported that "another American military operation" is now being planned to confront European nations with two options: either become the "vassals" of the United States or, if the Soviets fail to back down from an American-Soviet confrontation, submit to a superpower war fought on European soil.

Offroy is not the only individual warning of impending military incursion into the Gulf on the part of the U.S. The Italian newspaper *Il Giornale* on May 7 noted that a Pentagon envoy had toured Kenya, Somalia, Oman, and finally Italy, to prepare needed bases for the success of a large scale military operation. *Giornale* also leaked that earlier statements from Italian Prime Minister Francesco Cossiga had alluded to the request for a

new southern Italian base from the Pentagon envoy, one Reginald Bartholomew.

Giornale was referring to a speech delivered by Cossiga before a meeting of his party's defense experts earlier this week. Italy "could be called upon at any moment to make complex and difficult decisions. Serious responsibilities could result for Italy ..." *Il Giornale* reported that one immediate "decision" to which Cossiga referred was making available to the U.S. a base in the south of the country from which a Gulf military operation could be logistically coordinated and supplied.

The U.S. Ambassador to Paris, Hartman, toured the Metz industrial area in France this week and in the process delivered a speech warning openly that military action might be taken by the United States in Iran if the hostages are not released soon. Similarly, the West German newspaper *Die Welt* reported on May 7 that 400 Green Berets are stationed in the Bavarian city of Toelz, ready for further action.

British role

As Ambassador Offroy also reported, the operation against continental Europe is being run "with the support of London," most openly, the faction around Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Despite Thatcher's public disclaimers that she opposes a new military intervention, it is well known that it would serve her plans to break the Franco-German alliance running policy in Western Europe. Her "obstructionist" role in European affairs continues to be



Raymond Offroy, French ambassador-at-large, addresses a New Hampshire campaign rally of Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche in February.

attacked by French President Giscard d'Estaing, who is becoming more determined to make good on his threat to have Britain reduced to second-class membership in the European Community.

However, as the resignation of Cyrus Vance demonstrated a sharp polemic has erupted among the Anglo-American elites over the issue of military operations into the Gulf and its concomitant danger of triggering a superpower confrontation in a period in which the U.S. is at a gross military disadvantage. On the British side, the factional dispute was made most explicitly over the past week in the op-ed authored for the London *Guardian* by Peter Jenkins, a well-known spokesman for the views of circles inside 10 Downing Street.

Jenkins began by saying that the Atlantic Alliance is undergoing the most profound crisis of its history, and that it is doubtful the Alliance will be able to "patch up" those differences. In fact, he said, Europe is beginning to realize that the two superpowers are "equally unreliable," with the U.S. no longer able to provide a realistic nuclear umbrella for the continent.

Jenkins goes so far as to compare Carter's military mission to Iran with the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, characterizing them as politically equivalent.

Militating against a return to the "special relation" between Britain and the U.S., Jenkins advocates instead the creation of an "independent Europe," with Britain patching up its differences with the continental powers

British Foreign Minister Lord Carrington, in the United States this week for consultations with Washington, was advocating a similar orientation. Carrington

used the trip to float the idea of an "independent European initiative for the Middle East." He is threatening that the Europeans will call a special session of the United Nations to deal with the Palestinian problem and the Afghanistan problem if Camp David makes no more progress this month. The response to this from Carter and Brzezinski circles has ranged "from unenthusiastic to unprintable," according to the *Washington Post*.

Carrington is acting on behalf of what is sometimes termed the "realist" faction of the Anglo-American ruling elites, which is more cautious about sparking off a confrontation with the Soviets. The Carrington, Jenkins types do, however, share with the more obviously insane Brzezinski-Carter circles the perceived necessity of destroying the Franco-German alliance and its program for anchoring international peace to Third World development and détente. The Jenkins approach to this situation is a well-defined "delphic" response, in which Britain would don the robe of "European solidarity" while internally subverting Franco-German policy.

For this reason the British press has expressed significant nervousness about the meetings scheduled to take place in the course of Tito's funeral in Belgrade. West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, who is heading his country's delegation to the funeral, will be using the occasion to hold meetings with Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev, East German leader Honecker, and Indira Gandhi of India. The Chancellor's press spokesman, Klaus Bölling, has also confirmed that Schmidt will accept Brezhnev's invitation to visit Moscow sometime this summer.