

## Carter's renomination: the gathering storm

by Barbara Dreyfuss

"If things go the way they're going now, chances are good that Carter won't get the nomination," declared a well-placed Capitol Hill source this week, "Don't underestimate Carter. He'll do anything to secure the nomination. He will take us to the brink of war."

Recent polls have singled out the fact that 78 percent of Americans think Jimmy Carter has done a very bad job on foreign policy, declaring that this in particular portends serious political trouble for the hapless incumbent. It was only the Iran crisis last autumn that induced American voters to rally temporarily around Carter—that is, around the institution of the Presidency. And before significant primaries like the April 1 Wisconsin balloting, Carter deliberately contrived the impression that heartening breakthroughs were imminent in the Iranian hostage deadlock, soliciting voter backup for himself at a supposedly critical turning point.

### Beyond Carter's predicament

Washington insiders fear that Carter will "pull off another military adventure before the convention" to clinch Democratic support. There is a deeper dimension. While the policy planners for the elites that run Zbigniew Brzezinski, along with other Carter controllers, have developed diverse scenarios on the question of the Carter renomination, their design for Carter foreign policy is to set up an atmosphere, step by step, in which a mood of foreign policy crisis can shock the U.S. population into accepting—even demanding—a war economy. "Another military adventure" is pondered by these planners, not as a way to get the pathetic Carter renominated, but as an escalation in the battle against the Europeans and the

American people.

One flash point for such an escalation is obviously the Middle East, where Brzezinski's "Rapid Deployment Force," as it is known in Washington, is in a manner of speaking ready for action. In a June 18 press conference, Lieutenant General Paul X. Kelley, the commander of the RDF, announced that he is now "ready to move troops into the Middle East or the Persian Gulf" should President Carter order him to do so. "Exercises" involving 12 support ships are planned in the Indian Ocean before August.

Kelley reported that the Carter administration is submitting legislation to authorize the President to call up 100,000 reservists for 90 days without seeking Congressional approval. Currently the ceiling is 50,000.

Most indicatively, Kelley described the Carter administration as deploying the Rapid Deployment Force according to "preemptive strategy." This formula, backed by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General David Jones, and Defense Secretary Harold Brown, prescribes that American armed forces attempt to seize areas *before* the U.S.S.R. acts—i.e., the RDF can be deployed at any time against whatever the administration defines as "a Soviet threat." The new strategy, Kelley said, "will change the whole calculus of these [hot spot] situations."

Meanwhile, a high administration official, in a background briefing this week, spelled out the fact that Carter's trip to Europe next week will be devoted to heightening tensions with the Soviet Union.

Carter will be traveling to Rome, the Vatican, Yugoslavia, Spain and Portugal in addition to the Venice



heads of state meeting. At each stop, according to this senior official, Carter will emphasize the need to shore up an anti-Soviet alliance. In an open provocation, Carter will visit Yugoslavia to emphasize its independence from the East Bloc and the role it can play in breaking apart the Warsaw Pact alliance. Yugoslavia "remains a source of attraction to East European countries and we're anxious to do what we can to express our support for Yugoslav independence."

At the Venice summit itself the White House has made clear that it will not tolerate expanded European relations with Moscow, but instead will demand a new cold war. "I think it is no exaggeration to say that this decade confronts us with the most pressing security agenda that we have had to face probably since sometime back in the mid-fifties," declared a top White House official about the administration's intents at Venice.

"In the past the Soviet challenge hit directly allied interests," he declared, warning that Afghanistan, though remote from Europe and the U.S., was indeed a direct threat to the alliance.

### **Carter armtwists delegates**

Carter himself is well aware that his support, even among his own convention delegates, is rapidly eroding. A *Newsweek* poll showed that 56 percent of the Democrats want the Democratic convention to be opened up. In Oklahoma, a poll typical of many showed that two thirds of the Carter delegation wanted an open convention.

Now a scandal larger than Watergate has been uncovered by the LaRouche presidential campaign which

threatens to blow the entire Carter re-election effort sky-high. LaRouche's investigators have found that a Carter-Mondale campaign plumbers unit fixed the entire California Democratic primary June 3, illegally "winning" most of their delegates.

An elaborate delegate tracking system is in place at Carter-Mondale headquarters, with complete profiles of all the delegates on computer tapes. Every vulnerable point is noted. A special unit has been set up to continually monitor the delegates, looking for any signs of softness, at which point the bribes and threats start. "A small clique is terrorizing the party," declared a leading Midwest Democrat who is working to open up the convention.

Carter himself has invited all his delegates to the White House next month, for chats with his chief political and policy aides. "They will be given a little spine," laughed a top Kennedy campaign aide who has been talking with many Carter and Kennedy delegates. At a number of the state Democratic Party conventions held over the past two weeks, especially New Jersey's, the Carter campaign's armtwisting has been in open evidence.

At the same time the Justice Department has heightened their attacks against those Democratic political machines and labor union networks who could represent substantial opposition to Carter and his policies. On June 13 Congressman Jenrette (D-S.C.) was indicted by a federal grand jury on charges stemming from the Justice Department's Abscam set-up. In Texas, House Speaker Clayton was also indicted as part of the Brilab case.