

International Intelligence

Fusion scientist tours West Germany

Dr. Steven Bardwell, director of plasma physics for the U.S.-based Fusion Energy Foundation, began a tour of West Germany Oct. 29—among other things to break a press blackout there on news of the passage of the Magnetic Fusion Engineering Act of 1980, recently signed into law by President Carter. The bill, sponsored by Cong. Mike McCormack of Washington State, is designed to bring on line a commercial fusion power reactor by the year 2000. Media coverage of the bill has been virtually nonexistent in West Germany, except for two pro and con articles in the popular science magazine *Bild der Wissenschaft* concluding that fusion's prospects are doubtful and the funding for the research could be better spent elsewhere.

Bardwell's tour will include meetings with scientists in Stuttgart, Munich, and Düsseldorf, and elsewhere in the industrial Ruhr region. In addition to discussing the details and implications of the Magnetic Fusion Act, Dr. Bardwell will use *EIR's* LaRouche-Riemann economic model to demonstrate how a fusion-power-based economy would function.

Thais differ with China over Kampuchea

The *Christian Science Monitor*, reporting on Thai prime minister Prem Tinsulanonda's trip to China on Oct. 29, pointed out that the Thais are urging the Chinese to shift their support from the Pol Pot-controlled Khmer Rouge to a third party. There are indications that the Thais perceive that China's victory this month at the United Nations on the question of seating the Peking-backed Pol Pot has put the ASEAN officials on a dead-end diplomatic road.

According to the *Monitor*, the primary reason for General Prem's visit to China is to talk about the Chinese role in

the Kampuchea question. Gen. Prem met with Chinese premier Zhao Ziyang, and according to Peking Radio, the differences between the two sides remain.

What the ASEAN officials appear to be looking for is a political solution with Vietnam regarding the Kampuchea issue that will get the Chinese off their backs. This implies a success for Vietnam's effort to drive a wedge between the Chinese and ASEAN, and defuse the crisis. There are reports that the Malaysian foreign minister will visit Vietnam in early November, and the Thai prime minister will send a delegation to the U.S.S.R. soon, to be led by a "very top" official.

Arabs warns U.S. on siding with Teheran

Iraqi foreign minister Saddoun Hammadi said in Baghdad Oct. 26 that Iraq would not tolerate intervention by the United States on behalf of Iran, and accused Washington of arming the Khomeini regime. "The United States sides with Iran, not only morally but materially; in other words, supplying Iran with arms." It was the first time Iraq has directly accused Washington of aiding Iran militarily. Hammadi said that he would begin consultations with the Arab states on how to respond to the U.S. actions.

Last week, Hammadi said that the supply of U.S. weapons to Iran would be a grave threat to the entire region and would thus represent a "danger to world peace." On Oct. 28, Hammadi flew to Jordan for a meeting of foreign ministers of Iraq, Jordan, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Kuwait, and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Later in the week, Jimmy Carter's open offer of military aid to Iran and his public characterization of Iraq as "terrorist" coincided with Washington's refusal to sell F-15 jets to Saudi Arabia. An official Saudi statement expressed "astonishment," stated that "nobody has the monopoly of the kingdom's friend-

ship," and made it clear that Riyadh views the refusal in the light of Carter's offer of arms to Khomeini.

Jordan has protested the U.S. administration's tilt, and Egyptian president Sadat is also reported to be growing fearful about Carter's move to ally with Iran.

Syria, newly merged with Libya, is under pressure from the Saudis to distance itself from the Qaddafi regime, following Saudi Arabia's own diplomatic break with the pro-Khomeini Libyan regime.

Carter trying to hand Uganda to Cuba?

Following the return from Cuba earlier this month of Uganda's military commission chairman, Paulo Muwango, Cuban troops will be transferred from Ethiopia to build up a Ugandan army. Observers are speculating that President Carter may have struck a deal to hand this African nation over to Cuba, following Fidel Castro's support for Carter's reelection.

The Ugandan military commission last week reported an attack on the north by a small band of Idi Amin's exiled followers, based in Zaire and Sudan. According to the commission, the exiles seized a few small towns, but the reports are believed in some quarters to be an electoral ploy to boost the campaign of Dr. Milton Obote.

Pemex calls for global oil output expansion

Speaking to the Second Latin American Congress on Oil Drilling on Oct. 27 in Mexico City, Jorge Diaz Serrano, head of Petróleos Mexicanos (Pemex), called on oil producers to increase the world's oil production in order not to halt economic development.

"The fact that hydrocarbons are a nonrenewable resource does not mean

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that we must cut off that industry's growth," Díaz Serrano told the congress. "A yearly increase in the world's oil production—and let me emphasize that I refer to world oil production and not to any particular country's oil production—is a very important precondition for the continued achievement of developmental goals.

"Development is a goal we cannot postpone," said the Pemex director. "It is essential not only to depend on the volumes of energy we now have at our disposal, but to have somewhat more every year. Otherwise, a dangerous state of precarious equilibrium would emerge, and humanity would always live at the edge of a recession, extremely close to a collapse."

Pemex recently signed a deal with the Chinese state oil company to exchange oil technology, and studies are underway to have Pemex work with its Chinese counterpart in the exploration of China's offshore oil. The Mexican company is also exploring for oil in Costa Rica and Nicaragua, and is now discussing similar arrangements with Panama and Cuba.

Díaz Serrano recently visited Saudi Arabia, where he held talks with the leadership of that country. One of the topics of discussion was the use of Pemex's oil technology in Saudi Arabia as well as Mexican participation in Saudi construction projects. Díaz Serrano also met last week with Iraq's minister of irrigation, Huahad Mahmod, in Mexico City. Some observers believe Mexico is increasingly coordinating its oil policy with these two Arab countries.

Brazilian president rejects IMF demands

Brazilian president João Figueiredo has given public support to his planning minister Antônio Delfim Netto's rejection of International Monetary Fund austerity. In a speech in Teresina Oct. 17, General Figueiredo declared, "I can confess that one reason inflation [now over 100 per-

cent] does not fall faster is the superhuman effort the government is making to avoid unemployment." Having just returned from a visit to Chile—Milton Friedman's guinea pig—Figueiredo proclaimed, "And it would be no good if our inflation indices fell rapidly like those in other South American countries, which we've seen, at the cost of social crisis and mass unemployment."

The day before, the BBC broadcast a prediction that Figueiredo would suffer an assassination attempt during his visit to Brazil's interior. That rumor followed an earlier comment in London's *World Business Weekly* that Figueiredo, whose presidency ends in 1985, will "not be around for long." A week later, Figueiredo responded to reporters inquiring about London bankers' demand that Brazil submit itself to the IMF by replying dryly, "We have no need to go to the IMF."

Moscow hits Iraq for invasion of Iran

The Soviet Union officially echoed Washington's criticism of Iraq this week by accusing Iraq of invading Iran.

An article in *Krasnaya Zvezda* (Red Star), the Soviet military weekly, said Oct. 28 that Iraq "launched the offensive" into Iran last month. It then criticized Iraq for threatening to annex parts of Iran. "If Iraq initially asserted that it claims comparatively small territory on the Shatt al-Arab," said *Red Star*, "now the Iraqi press publishes maps in which the entire province of Khuzestan, known in Baghdad as Arabistan, is designated as Iraqi territory."

At the same time, Soviet president Leonid Brezhnev sent a message to a conference in Nicosia, Cyprus, on the subject of the "anti-imperialist struggle" in the Persian Gulf. In the message, Brezhnev warned against American attempts to restore the old Iran regime to power or to reestablish U.S. hegemony in Iran.

● **RICHARD FALK**, the Princeton University professor who did so much to bring Ayatollah Khomeini to power while serving as chairman of the U.S. People's Committee on Iran during the 1978-79 period, is now turning his attention to the Philippines. Falk will spend the Oct. 31-Nov. 2 weekend in Antwerp, Belgium, attending a conference on "human rights in the Philippines."

● **ISRAELI POLICE** have arrested 300 drug dealers, Radio Jerusalem reported Oct. 28. The arrests occur as Israeli cities are being flooded with illegal drugs, including LSD, hashish, and heroin. This is the first major announced drug bust in Israel over the past year.

● **MARGARET THATCHER** is under fire from members of her Conservative Party following leaks that she plans to cut defense expenditures and renege on her pledge to increase defense spending by 3 percent a year, as requested of all NATO members.

● **SAUDI ARABIA** broke diplomatic relations with Libya Oct. 28, calling Libyan dictator Muammar Qaddafi a "spearhead against Islam" and an agent of "Zionists and communists." Last week, Qaddafi called for a revolt in Saudi Arabia's holy city of Mecca by Muslim pilgrims.

● **TIGER'S DUNG** is in increasing demand in China's commodity market. The business started to thrive about six months ago when a couple, smearing themselves with the "precious commodity," dashed to freedom in Hong Kong.

● **DER SPIEGEL**, the West German newsweekly, has maintained its reputation for gutter journalism by comparing Ronald Reagan with Benjamin Harrison, the U.S. President-elect who died before he could assume office.