

Mondale and Harriman use Soviet line against Reagan's military policy

by Kathleen Klenetsky

With Syria's release Jan. 3 of downed U.S. flyer Robert Goodman, the Soviet Politburo's Islamintern boss, Geidar Aliyev, has made his first official contribution to the Mondale for President campaign.

It is no secret that Moscow wants Walter Mondale elected President of the United States, accurately viewing him as far more accommodating to Russia's imperial ambitions than President Reagan; the more immediate objective is to destroy Reagan's authority as Commander-in-Chief and force him into a humiliating withdrawal from Lebanon, undermining U.S. ability to deploy troops anywhere in the world. By turning Mondale stalking horse Jesse Jackson into the hero of the day—and making Reagan look ineffective by comparison—the Soviet proxy government of Syria has moved one step closer to this goal.

The chorus

As Congress prepares to reconvene on Jan. 23, leaders of both U.S. political parties are repudiating previous commitments to support the Lebanon mission.

- Hours after U.S. flier Goodman was released Jan. 3, Walter Mondale delivered a major foreign policy address in which he demanded a U.S. troop pullout from Lebanon within 45 days.

- House Speaker Tip O'Neill (D-Mass.), who had rallied Democratic support for the U.S. troop presence back in September, now says his support was only conditional and the Reagan administration has not met its part of the bargain. Administration officials have "one hell of a lot of explaining to do," said O'Neill in a telephone interview with the *Boston Globe* published Jan. 3. "As far as I'm concerned they've mis-assessed everything. . . ." On the same day, O'Neill met with a 15-member congressional "monitoring committee" he set up on Lebanon and afterward announced that, unless "measurable progress" is achieved soon in Lebanon, he will join calls for a U.S. troop pullout.

- House Minority Leader Robert Michel (R-Ill.) reversed his previous support for the President's policy, urging that the U.S. "leave it to Israel, as our strategic partner, to work out in ways it might choose, a solution to the Lebanon problem." Michel modified his statements somewhat after a meet-

ing with President Reagan, but there is little indication that he has reverted to his former strong support for keeping the same level of American military presence in Lebanon.

- Michel's counterpart in the Senate, Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker, said in Miami that he had told Secretary of State George P. Shultz that the Reagan administration must reconsider its Lebanon policy within the next 60 days with the goal of preparing a plan to pull out U.S. troops.

- Representative Sam Stratton (D-N.Y.), generally considered a foreign policy hardliner, says he will introduce a troop-withdrawal resolution when Congress reconvenes.

- The House Armed Services Committee is scheduled to begin a re-evaluation of Lebanon, and the Senate Foreign Relations will take up a proposal by Sen. Charles Mathias (R-Md.), an intimate of the Pugwash arms-control networks, that would order the Marines home by the end of February.

Both Democratic and Republican opposition to the Lebanon troop presence converges on the Kissinger plan for elimination of U.S. influence in the Middle East through partition of Lebanon between Israel and Syria. There are signs that Kissinger, the Kremlin's favorite Republican, may be trying to insinuate himself into a new position in the Reagan administration after his Central American Commission terminates this month. The first week in January, the Harriman-linked *Washington Post* ran a front-page series playing Kissinger as the diplomat par excellence, and specifically pointing to his qualifications as a Soviet and/or Mideast negotiator.

The Lebanon question

The renewed opposition to the President's Lebanon commitment is part of a sweeping attack on the President, aimed at paralyzing his foreign policy-making ability and aborting his defense policy, above all his policy of developing antiballistic missile defense systems.

On Jan. 4, the granddaddy of the KGB Democrats, Averell Harriman, took to the pages of the *International Herald Tribune* to blast the President's commitment to beam-weapons defense. Under the headline, "Three Years of Ronald Reagan: An Opportunity Squandered," Harriman castigated the President for incompetence in foreign policy, especially

his handling of U.S.-Soviet relations, declaring that Lebanon "is only the most immediate trouble spot."

Harriman went on to attack Reagan's plan to develop defensive beam-weapons systems: "Perhaps the most tragic trend," wrote Harriman, "is that the arms race is about to be launched into space. . . . The Reagan administration's 'Star Wars' defense scheme will mean more than the destruction of three solemn arms-control treaties. . . . It promises security that is beyond America's capability to provide and thus plays cruelly on the fear and the hope of every citizen. It promises a technological shield when the solution is in ourselves—in serious negotiation and mutual restraint."

Harriman's articles were reprinted in *L'Humanité*, the newspaper of the French Communist Party, which announced a major mobilization based on Harriman's ideas.

Mondale sounded the same theme in his foreign policy speech before the National Press Club today, even repeating Soviet spokesman Fyodor Burlatskii's demands in the Aug. 10 *Literaturnaya Gazeta* that the U.S. abandon efforts to develop a beam weapons anti-missile defense or risk a Soviet nuclear strike. Mondale laid out a 12-point "peace program," which included the demands that the U.S. 1) negotiate an ASAT (anti-satellite weapons) ban, and 2) reaffirm the ABM treaty.

"The President's Star Wars system will destroy the ABM treaty, which was the most successful in history," lied Mondale. "It will destabilize the military balance and would increase the danger of a Soviet first strike more than anything else."

According to columnist Joseph Kraft, Mondale's foreign-

policy speech today was planned months ago with input from defense saboteurs McGeorge Bundy, Harold Brown, James Schlesinger, and Warren Christopher.

The Jackson-Mondale deal

Mondale's accolades for Jackson are a tip-off to the dirty little deal the two supposed opponents have worked out for themselves—over the corpse of U.S. foreign policy. It is now Washington's best-known secret that Jackson, who has no illusions that he could win the presidential nomination, has arranged with Mondale to deliver Jimmy Carter's Vice-President the black vote in exchange for some big political favors. In an interview Jan. 3, Rev. Lester Mondale, Walter's brother and an activist in his presidential campaign, reported that he is now pushing a Mondale-Jackson ticket (see box).

In his meeting with Syrian President Hafez Assad, Jackson was overheard telling the Syrian dictator that Reagan has "only one year left" in office—a line that can only harden Syrian intransigence. In its report on the meeting, the Syrian government's official outlet, Arab News Agency, quoted Jackson as saying that U.S. policy on the Middle East was "harmful to the real interests of the American people."

Meanwhile, Mondale-Jackson ally and former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark praised the Syrian-Jackson negotiations as an example of how much more effective "people-to-people" diplomacy is than the old-fashioned "government-to-government" kind. Clark developed his expertise in Middle Eastern affairs leading crowds of pro-Khomeini demonstrators through the streets of Teheran in 1979 while in Iran as an official emissary of the Carter-Mondale government.

Mondale's brother calls for surrender to Soviets

Walter Mondale's brother, the Rev. Lester Mondale, provided some interesting insights into Fritz's philosophy in an interview Jan. 3. Reverend Mondale, a retired Unitarian minister who describes himself as being "extremely active" in his brother's presidential campaign, told *EIR* that he would prefer to see the Russians run the world than to have the United States use nuclear weapons.

"I am 100 percent against any resort to atomic weapons under any circumstances," he said. "If there is a war, it would be preferable to let the Soviets win than to try to counter them with nuclear weapons, even if this meant Russian world domination. If we had a nuclear war, there would be nothing left. But even if we had to survive under Russian rule for years, I believe that at some point, there would have to be a humanist renaissance. . . ."

Asked whether his brother thought the same way, Rev.

Mondale replied that "I really can't speak for him," but went on to assure the interviewer that "Fritz is horrified by the thought of nuclear war." The presidential candidate has been stressing in recent campaign statements his opposition to the use of nuclear weapons.

Reverend Mondale pointed to the political troubles that Jesse Jackson is stirring up for President Reagan's Lebanon policy, chortling about the "black eye" which the release of U.S. flier Goodman is giving to Reagan. "It's wonderful: Now Reagan has to meet with Jesse at the White House, after refusing to take his phone calls last week." The former Vice-President's brother reported that he is now championing a Mondale-Jackson ticket, so impressed is he by Jackson's "statesmanlike behavior" during his trip to Syria.

The Reverend also said he had had written an editorial expressing his view that Soviet domination is preferable to nuclear war for the September/October 1983 issue of the *Humanist* magazine, published by the American Humanist Association, with which he has been affiliated since its inception.