

Editorial

The Asia turn is a hoax

For at least a year, Henry Kissinger, Zbigniew Brzezinski, and their State Department protégés have been talking about the United States' turning away from "decadent" Western Europe and setting its sights on Asia—the new area of opportunity. The Asia turn is a hoax. Just as Soviet agent-of-influence Kissinger's "China Card" policy of the early 1970s functioned as a cover for the strategic withdrawal of the United States from Asia, so the turn to Asia now is designed to act as a cover for the strategic withdrawal of American forces from Western Europe.

To believe that under a New Yalta plan, the United States will be permitted to retain its influence in the Pacific is the height of absurdity. It is not Washington that has been reasserting its influence in the Pacific region, but Moscow.

Although the Reagan administration in November firmly placed the Republic of Korea back under the nuclear umbrella, which had been snatched from Seoul by the Trilateral Commission-run Carter administration, and has also been tightening the alliance with Seoul and Tokyo, these measures are no match for the Soviet challenge facing American allies in the Pacific theatre—the chief line of defense for the U.S. West Coast.

It was in the Philippines in February that Zbigniew Brzezinski, on his way back from a week-long visit in China, declared that the United States was dropping Western Europe for new adventures in Asia. But it is precisely to the Philippines that America's Asian allies look and feel real worry about Washington's security commitment.

The U.S. bases there—Clark Field and Subic Bay—are the linchpin of U.S. deployment in the Pacific. Yet, Washington, in tandem with the International Monetary Fund and Soviet front groups like the World Council of Churches, has done everything possible to topple the Marcos government. Any replacement to that government is guaranteed to place intense pressure on the United States to remove its bases—a pressure that will be bolstered by the liberal congressmen of Stephen Solarz's stripe.

In Southeast Asia, since Nixon-Kissinger an-

nounced the Guam doctrine in 1970, the United States has watched impotently as:

- the Soviets have built up Cam Ranh Bay, the prize U.S. port facility in Vietnam, into a Soviet submarine base; and
- the Anzus treaty between Australia, New Zealand, and the United States has steadily eroded.

In 1983, Bob Hawke was elected prime minister of Australia on the Labourite platform that pledged to refuse port rights to U.S. nuclear-carrying or fueled ships. Under pressure, Hawke was forced to back down, but he and his foreign minister, Bill Hayden, have functioned in Asia exactly as the pro-decoupling Socialist International has in Europe—as "peace-loving" appeasers toward the Soviet Union. Hayden declared at the United Nations Disarmament Conference recently in Switzerland that, if U.S.-Soviet relations do not improve, then he would prefer that the United States pull out of its bases in Australia.

In July, New Zealand joined this operation, when the Labour Party's David Lange was elected on a platform to rip up the Anzus treaty. New Zealand wants to turn the Pacific into a "nuclear-free zone," says Lange, using the catch-words the Soviet-backed peace movement has been mouthing in Western Europe.

In a little-noticed event, on May 15, Moscow delivered a curious protest at the U.N., charging that the United States was trying to cover up attempts "to fragment and annex" the Pacific Trust Territory of Micronesia. In fact, the Soviets have their own designs for an "independent" Micronesia in a "nuclear-free zone in the Pacific."

If this process is not reversed, the medium-term result of Soviet military and political operations in the Pacific theatre will be the surrounding of Guam—the fall-back position for American forces in Asia—by a "nuclear-free zone" under Soviet domination. Since 1975, the Soviets have concentrated on making their Pacific fleet the most powerful naval force in the world. The idea that the United States can withdraw from Europe and turn toward Asia is nothing but a Soviet-instigated hoax to cover for the surrender of the United States itself.