

Editorial

NATO's dangerous misstep

While first reports from the NATO defense ministers' meeting on Dec. 1-2 were very promising, a closer look shows that the picture is much more complicated. Behind the scenes, Secretary General Lord Carrington has succeeded in getting NATO to take a giant step toward decoupling Western Europe from the United States.

According to the relevant section of the final communiqué, the Western European NATO governments agreed to mobilize reserve units to make up for gaps in the force strength of American troops in Europe which might be caused by U.S. out-of-area deployments. It is reported that the Federal Republic of Germany, in particular, has agreed to mobilize a total of 30,000 troops as its share of the reserve force.

This provision, of course, has nothing to do with preparing for war-fighting in the event of Soviet attack on Western Europe, or other such adventurism. Nor does it function as any kind of deterrent against the increasing aggressiveness of the Russians. That aim can only be accomplished by a NATO commitment to participate with the United States in a crash program to develop and deploy the Strategic Defense Initiative within the next few years, while at the same time launching the required improvements in firepower, such as the neutron bomb.

The "out-of-area deployment" decision, if of any military significance at all, can only encourage the Russians to make a military move in Europe, or elsewhere. For the decision signals that the U.S. is prepared to *pull its troops out of Western Europe* at the sign of any "provocation" in the Third World.

Such a plan is precisely what the Soviets, starting with the late President Andropov over a year ago, have been counting on to help them take over Western Europe without a shot. A Soviet-steered provocation could happen in Central America, or it could happen in the Middle East. But the end result of following this NATO doctrine would be to weaken U.S. strength in Europe, the Soviets' primary aim.

There is, however, an even nastier edge on this Carrington policy, which was pioneered in the spring of 1982 in the Malvinas War. The common interest the Anglo-American oligarchy has with the Russians is the

desire to smash republican nation-states in the developing sector through the creation of an increasing number of genocidal "depopulation wars." Thus, their policy has been increasingly to turn their backs on the actual Russian threat to take world dominance, and concentrate instead on creating excuses for advanced sector military enforcement of austerity and population reduction in the Third World.

This is what the Malvinas War was all about. Great Britain was determined to show the rest of the developing sector that colonialism was here to stay. The British were able to push an endorsement of their military deployment in the South Atlantic through NATO. Other NATO countries kindly covered the usual positions of the Royal Navy while its Navy sailed down to massacre the Argentines.

The conclusion of the war, in which the U.S. provided special military backup for Britain, shows the incompetence of an "out-of-area" deployment strategy in containing Soviet aggression. One of the results of the war has been the wide opening which it has given to the Soviet Union to woo the Argentines.

Other subjects of deliberation at the NATO meeting make clear that not all the participants were focused on the "out-of-area" deployment strategy. U.S. Defense Secretary Weinberger briefed the assembled ministers on the massive increase in Soviet deployment of SS-20 missiles targeted on Western Europe, succeeding for the moment, at least, in causing the Netherlands and Belgium to announce reconsideration of their postponement of deploying NATO Euromissiles to counterbalance the Soviets'.

The U.S. defense secretary also cited the decision to triple the NATO infrastructure budget as a good argument against the Kissingerian threat, put in bill form by Sen. Sam Nunn, to pull U.S. troops out of Europe if Europe refused to "foot the bill."

Unfortunately, Weinberger's good intentions were totally undercut by Lord Carrington's success in passing the item on out-of-area deployments. Unless this decision is dropped in the course of an emergency mobilization for the SDI, we've come one step closer to Russian domination.