

Editorial

Not another Munich

It is without doubt the case that the current drive toward war is not only being spearheaded by the British, Americans, and the Israelis, but that it is occurring against the expressed wishes of countries such as the France, Germany, Italy, and Japan—as well as of the Soviet Union, for reasons of its own. The problem is that the diplomatic efforts of these countries are reminiscent of those of Neville Chamberlain at Munich.

Hitler could have easily been stopped at the time he overran Czechoslovakia. The French and Soviets suffered brutally, from their willingness to follow the British policy of appeasing Adolf Hitler. They do not appear to have learned from that bitter lesson.

Let's not be misled by Anglo-American rhetoric about Saddam Hussein being the new Hitler. It is an open secret that the Gulf crisis was instigated by the British with U.S. backing. If there are new Hitlers today, candidates will be found in Britain, the United States, and Israel—not Iraq.

It is important, particularly at this time, that we be absolutely clear, ruthlessly and rigorously so, as to what the reality is. Following on his brutal invasion of Panama, which was in violation of international law, George Bush is now steering the United Nations toward support of a new atrocity, this time against the nation of Iraq. First of all, we should tolerate no blame attached to Iraq, for anything known to us that it has done so far.

The French and Soviets have been most up front in opposing a military solution in the Gulf, yet they consistently support the Anglo-Americans in the big lie that it is Saddam Hussein who is the responsible party. Thus, they say, for a solution to occur, Saddam Hussein must be broken.

The Franco-Soviet summit on Oct. 29 was an occasion for the kind of joint statement which could have, at the least, assigned *war guilt* to both sides; What occurred was the opposite. Both nations gave full support to the United States, including support for a United Nations resolution which opened the door to seizure of Iraqi assets in compensation for any losses suffered so far because of their occupation of Kuwait, and branded

the Iraqi leadership as war criminals. The resolution brought the world one step closer to war, and made the possibility of a negotiated settlement with the Iraqis that much more remote.

President Gorbachov has issued a number of warnings of the danger that the U.S. would take unilateral military action. At a joint press conference held in Paris, at the close of the summit, he said, "Any military option is unacceptable." He also said that "the time is ripe for an inter-Arab conference," which could succeed in finding a new "political solution" to the crisis, given the "new political thinking in Baghdad."

Despite continued diplomatic initiatives by the Soviets, the French, and also Willy Brandt (who is representing U.N. Secretary General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar), there is every indication that President Bush is preparing to go to war in mid-November. Certainly, Bush's rhetoric is becoming increasingly hysterical.

In June, we published Lyndon LaRouche's warning about an impending war in the Middle East. The time frame in which he projected that it would occur was after the U.S. congressional elections in November, although it might have occurred earlier. He based his forecast upon two things.

First of all, that the Bush administration had broken off discussions with the Palestine Liberation Organization, and secondly, developments in the British intelligence-controlled zombie state of Israel, which were giving an increasingly hegemonic role to Ariel Sharon.

The background to the Bush administration policy shift in the region, was to be found in the Anglo-American commitment to the destabilization of a Germany-centered continental Europe, and of Japan. Whether or not it comes to war with Iraq, unless the French and Germans are willing to openly confront the Anglo-Americans now, the situation can only become worse, as exemplified by the Syrian takeover of Lebanon. Furthermore, an open statement by the French, Germans, and Soviets which attacks the war aims of the British and Americans, will be a rallying point for a growing opposition to the war within the United States.