

FOIA b3

MISTAKE

The trial in Buffalo of two foreign businessmen—Henri de Montmarin and John Hawke—on charges of illegally exporting planes to Portugal is over.

It may be recalled that last year the Security Council adopted a resolution urging U.N. members not to help Portugal suppress the national-liberation movement in her colonies. This resolution was naturally binding on the United States too.

What did the Buffalo hearings reveal? These two shrewd businessmen, the court learned, had been calmly sending allegedly obsolete U.S. Air Force B-26 bombers to a base near Lisbon. The profitable business was brought to an end by a "mistake" committed by some customs officers who apparently did not know that there was difference between what Washington said and did. And so as a result of this "mistake" Montmarin and Hawke found themselves in the dock.

The trial caused confusion in Washington. "The bureaucratic mix-up by the customs inspectors," *Newsweek* magazine wrote, "threatened to expose the planes-for-Portugal project, and the U.S. was unwilling to be revealed in the U.N. as aiding in the suppression of rebellious Africans."

The Buffalo court corrected the "mistake" of the slow-witted customs officers: it acquitted the accused.

GREECE

Nothing in Return

In mid-October Bonn Foreign Minister Gerhard Schröder paid a visit to Greece. But he did not go there to see Hellenic monuments. He went, the Athens *Avghi* reported on October 14, to "tie Greece more tightly to the aggressive Bonn-Bonn axis and turn her into an obedient instrument for the implementation of the neo-nazis' revenge plans."

Judging by the text of the final communiqué the attempt was not successful, although the adopted formulations are couched in very vague terms.

The "Free World"



Robot Manager: "We are happy to welcome you to our firm. We're all one big happy family... one big happy family... one big happy family..."  
Reprinted from *Rassegna sindacale* (Rome)

"The views of the two governments on Nato's purposes and principles coincide," it said. "They have stressed the need for further military integration to preserve the freedom, security and equality of all the members of the alliance."

This was the way the communiqué formulated the main result of Schröder's visit. It also spoke of the necessity to restore "German state unity" on the basis of Bonn's notorious "right to self-determination" formula.

Later, the Bonn Foreign Minister filled in the obvious gaps in the communiqué in an interview with the newspaper *Kathimerini*. Among other things, he thanked the Greek government for recognizing the "principle of German policy—the right to speak for the entire German people in the international arena."

Some in Athens had hoped that Schröder's visit would lead to some agreement on West-German aid to Greece. Her economy is falling apart under the unbearable arms burden, which is expected to increase by

another 25 per cent this year. The Bonn Foreign Minister turned down the request for additional aid—at present West Germany gives Greece 36 million marks a year in "military aid" within the framework of the North Atlantic bloc. He also refused to examine the old claim for compensation for the vast sums the nazis had pumped out of Greece during the war.

In short, the Athens government got nothing in return for agreeing to toe the Bonn revenge-seekers' line.

SOUTH VIETNAM

Magic Boxes

The best minds in Saigon got together the other day with the best minds in Lodge's Embassy and Westmoreland's headquarters to work out some way of winning over the South Vietnamese population.

After several sleepless nights, the good old saying "Seek and ye shall find" triumphed. The way was found and, as often is the case, it proved to be as simple as ABC.

What was needed, they decided, was a simple wooden box for complaints. Such boxes should be installed in every Vietnamese village. The moment they saw them, the inventors hoped, the villagers would rush pell-mell to them with written complaints about all that troubled them. After that, there would be complete harmony in relations between the population and Gen. Ky's government.

Reuters Saigon correspondent reported on October 26 that "gathering complaints on everything, from excessive rents to the fate of canal bank, is one of the most important aspects of the latest in a series of attempts by the central government to win the allegiance of the country's 15,000,000 inhabitants."

According to this same correspondent, "census grievance" teams have already been busy for several months installing boxes for complaints in the villages.

The question is, Will the peasants become more loyal to the Saigon puppets and the American occupiers after getting these boxes? It does not look so.

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