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The Left Fetes Two Fine Fellows,

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but Where Was Bianca?

Saul Landau, a film maker and writer, confided several years ago to a friend in Cuba that he planned to devote himself to "making propaganda for American socialism." His latest production may benefit from American socialism, if it gets picked up by the Public Broadcasting Service. But it also should reassure Third World Marxists that Mr. Landau hasn't turned his back to their struggles.

The auteur of documentaries extolling Fidel Castro and Jamaica's former prime minister Michael Manley, Mr. Landau recently returned from Nicaragua, where the Sandinista government permitted him to travel with troops and to sit in on the interrogation of political deviants. Hasten to say, Mr. Landau's topic wasn't torture in Nicaraguan prisons or subjugation of the Miskito Indian subculture. Rather it was allegations of Central Intelligence Agency support for a covert war against the Nicaraguan regime.

Mr. Landau, a slim man in his late 40s, had a chance to boast about his project to admirers the other evening (and to sigh in disgust at PBS's editing demands). The occasion was a celebration marking 20 years of "independent thought" at the Institute for Policy Studies, a leftist think tank in Washington of which Mr. Landau is a senior fellow.

The affair attracted middle-drawer celebrities, including Harry Belafonte and Ralph Nader. Bianca Jagger, a big draw for the press, was promised but didn't attend. For special interests, there was Rita Mae Brown, author of "Rubyfruit Jungle," along with a clutch of current and former members of Congress (notably Ron Dellums, Robert Kastenmeier and George McGovern); a court-of-appeals appointee of the Carter administration, Abner Mikva; and reporters from such diverse outfits as National Public Radio, People magazine, the Washington Post, the Nation and the American Spectator. The chairman and host was Paul Warnke, a Washington lawyer who headed the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency in 1977-78 in the Carter administration.

But the stars, in old tweed jackets, were two graying anti-Vietnam activists and disarmament crusaders, dropouts of the Kennedy administration who founded IPS: Richard Barnet and Marcus Raskin. Mr. Warnke, Mr. Nader and several other luminaries testified to Mr. Barnet's and Mr. Raskin's intellectual vigor and pluralist instincts. Mr. Barnet and Mr. Raskin briefed reporters on the fallacies of the Reagan administration's arms-control proposals. Harry Belafonte briefed People magazine. "The word," he lilted, "is insanity."

Affairs of this sort demand a special

perspective. A Reagan administration appointee, duped by friends into attending, voiced a preference for the "Friends of Ray Donovan" dinner. But if the moral or political uplift wasn't satisfying, the gathering provided a few insights into what's up on the left.

What's up is a new, noisy, big-budget round-in-the-disarmament campaign, co-sponsored by the IPS and another pluralist, scholarly organization, the Institute of the USA and Canada, a Moscow-based arm of the Soviet Academy of Sciences.

Some 30 delegates from the Soviet institute, along with 40 to 45 Americans, drawn largely from the peace movement, will convene May 24-28 in Minneapolis, with IPS and Moscow footing the bill. An IPS organizer describes the U.S. delegation as "extraordinarily heterogeneous," including Mr. Barnet, Mr. Raskin, Mr. Warnke, Roger Wilkins, Randall Forsberg (an architect of the nuclear freeze proposal), clergymen, academics, businessmen and exiles from the Carter administration.

If that doesn't sound especially heterogeneous, the Soviet roster isn't likely to be, either. A CIA report on the Institute of the USA and Canada, declassified last November for hearings on "Soviet Active Measures" before the House Select Committee on Intelligence, described the institute as made up predominately of Communist

Party members, "some with an intelligence background and all with an interest in promoting lines of thought that will serve Soviet policies." The report noted: "There are staff members at the institute who have been affiliated with the KGB in the past. Some have retained these ties in one form or another. . . . A few institute members who work on military-related matters were officers in the Chief Intelligence Directorate (GRU) of the Ministry of Defense before they joined the institute."

The convocation will discuss arms control, means of "creating conditions for peace," the role of the United Nations, issues of human rights, and attitudes toward the Third World, according to an IPS spokesman.

The hoped-for impact, of course, is stepped-up pressure on the Reagan administration to back off from rearmament at home and from deployment of the Pershing II missiles in Western Europe—issues on which IPS has been organizing seminars and Capitol Hill briefings for more than a year. The gathering in Minneapolis promises to be a media event of the first magnitude, and a boon to the disarmament camp. Says the IPS spokesman,

"We're trying to secure as much press coverage as we can." To that end, IPS recently signed on an Alexandria, Va., firm as outside public relations counsel.

The spokesman declined to disclose the budget for the fling but said, "It's going to be expensive." The institute has been out knocking on foundation doors for support.

Not to worry. Last week's bash in Washington brought out some traditional IPS moneybags: Cora Weiss, heir to the Samuel Rubin (Faberge) fortune, and director of the Riverside Church Disarmament Program in New York; and Philip Stern, of the Stern Fund. There's always money for a good cause.

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