

nations." Under pressure from U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, Giscard also agreed to participate in the creation of a \$25 billion emergency fund for the oil-importing countries.

The U.S. agreed to the French proposal for a Tripartite Conference of major oil importers, producers, and developing nations but only after the advanced countries, including the U.S., have arrived at a joint energy policy. An initial meeting of oil-consuming and producing nations and a subsequent round of consultations between Europe and the U.S. will precede the Tripartite Conference. According to the agreement made by French Interior Minister Michel Poniatowski and Algerian President Hoari Boumediene, such a conference would discuss not only oil but all raw materials.

The New York Times gloated, "The compromise reached in Martinique is almost identical to the plan suggested a fortnight ago by Helmut Schmidt."

In addition, France and the U.S. removed a long-standing bone of contention with the French agreement to pay \$100 million for the removal of NATO troops from France in 1967. Gaullists denounce this move as a "national humiliation."

In exchange, Giscard asked for a little help in implementing austerity at home in the face of hardening resistance from the French Communist Party. Declaring "the unity of Europe cannot be achieved without normal relations with the United States," Giscard begged for a loan to tide him over until French Socialist Party head and CIA agent Francois Mitterrand and Poniatowski complete their two-pronged attack on the French working class. So far there is no report of Giscard's success or failure.

COFFEE CARTEL PLANS WITHHOLDING

Dec. 17 (IPS)--Following the Rockefeller "anti-imperialist" script directed by Mexico's President Echeverria, Mexico, Columbia, and Brazil recently formed a coffee cartel "to stabilize prices at high levels and handle the huge surplus in storage." The venture, agreed upon several weeks ago, is financed by oil-rich Venezuela. The International Coffee Agreement which historically has regulated the coffee trade was terminated recently.

Currently a large surplus of coffee hangs threateningly over the market. Latin American coffee producers hope that a dose of Third World militance similar to that of the Rockefeller-controlled OPEC will guarantee their profits, and they have announced plans to withhold 30 per cent of this year's crop from the market.

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