

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

THE COLLAPSE OF OPEC

AND

THE COLLAPSE OF THE DOLLAR

CONFIRM W. GERMAN GOV'T NEGOTIATING SECRET ARMS WITH TURKS

WIESBADEN, Feb. 18 (IPS) -- In a telephone interview today the personal spokesman of the right-wing West German Christian Democratic Union defense expert, Manfred Woerner, revealed that negotiations between the West German and Turkish governments on arms deals have been taking place in high secrecy.

W. GERMAN FASCIST SUPPORTS ARMS SALES TO MIDEAST COUNTRIES

WIESBADEN, Feb. 18 (IPS) -- During last night's regular West German television series Report-Magazine, Defense Minister Leber and Christian Social Union defense expert Zimmerman were interviewed on the subjects of rearmament.

W. GERMAN PRESS CONFIRMS KISSINGER ARRANGEMENT OF TURKISH ARMS DEAL

WIESBADEN, Feb. 20 (IPS)-- West Germany's leading daily, the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, today explicitly confirms that U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger was instrumental in arranging West Germany's supply of arms to Turkey with the intention of overriding the U.S. Congress' resolution prohibiting such supplies. The Allgemeine reports, "The resumption of German weapons supplies to Turkey was discussed during Kissinger's meetings in Bonn, and supported by him. Kissinger made no secret of his rejection of the Congressional resolution on weapons supplies to Turkey."

The Allgemeine also reports that the Federal Republic intends to resume arms supplies to both Turkey and Greece, "although the government does not, in general, send arms to tension-ridden areas." These arms supplies in a crisis area are a direct violation of the West German Constitution.

PRESS REPORTS THAT KISSINGER IS 'TROUBLED' BY SYRIAN REJECTION OF HIS STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH

Feb. 20 (IPS) -- Reacting to Soviet-Iraqi pressure on Syria to

support the Geneva Peace Conference, American press sources today headline Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's fears that Syria will play the role of "Arab spoiler," sabotaging his bilateral approach to peace settlements. Syrian officials reportedly are mobilizing against the possibility that Syria will be excluded from an Egypt-Israel agreement, amid signs that Kissinger's formerly easy manipulation of Arab-Israeli politics has given way to recent Soviet and Iraqi initiatives.

KISSINGER BEGS FOR WAR

NEW YORK, Feb. 21 (IPS) -- U.S. Secretary of State Kissinger discussed the possibility of Israeli bombing raids against Arab oil installations with Israeli officials during his recently concluded trip to the Middle East, UPI reporter Thomas Cheatham cabled from London today. "Israeli government officials have begun to speak publicly," added Cheatham, "about the likelihood of aerial bombardment of Arab oil wells in case of a new war in the Middle East."

U.S. THREATENS TRADE WAR IF JAPAN TAKES CHEAP OIL

Feb. 21 (IPS) -- The U.S. State Department has openly threatened trade war against Japan should the latter accept oil price cuts from any of the OPEC countries. The threat was made by William Culbert, Minister-Counsellor for economic affairs of the U.S. Embassy in Japan in a public speech before the American-Japan Society in Tokyo.

GENSCHER/MORO MEETING; NATO DISCUSSED ON MEDITERRANEAN POLICY

MILAN, ITALY, Feb. 22 (IPS) -- West German Foreign Affairs Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher is presently meeting with Italian Premier Aldo Moro in Rome, ostensibly to discuss West German-Italian trade agreements and color television system contracts. However, reports point to the "military" content of the talks. Vittorio Brunelli, Corriere Della Sera correspondent on German affairs, stressed on Feb. 20 that Italy is the "bridge country" between the Mediterranean and the trouble spots of Northern Africa implicitly suggesting that Genscher and Moro are not discussing color television but military preparations for intervention in the Middle East.

KENNEDY ARMS PROPOSAL WOULD CONVERT WESTERN EUROPE TO MILITARY PRODUCTION

Feb. 23 (IPS) -- Today's New York Times reports that Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass) has proposed legislation which would put a six-month moratorium on U.S. arms sales to the Persian Gulf States. The Kennedy moratorium proposal comes just a few weeks after

Congress cut off arms shipments to Turkey, a ban which was almost immediately violated by Secretary of State Kissinger, who arranged with West German Chancellor Schmidt for his country to begin resupplying arms to Turkey.

SOVIETS TO LAUNCH INFORMATION CAMPAIGN ON MIDEAST POLICY

PARIS, FRANCE, Feb. 21 (IPS) -- According to the Feb. 17 issue of Le Point, a French magazine, the Soviet Union is planning to launch an information campaign in France explaining their Mideast policy. The thrust of this effort will be to counter "various sources" which have accused the Soviets of complicity with the U.S.

IRAQ ORGANIZING AGAINST U.S./IRAN

Feb. 23 (IPS) -- Saddam Hussein, Deputy Chairman of pro-Soviet Iraq's revolutionary command council, has proposed a joint naval defense agreement with Saudi Arabia in order to counteract the growing military presence in the Persian Gulf of U.S. supported Iran, according to an interview in the Egyptian newspaper Al Ahram. The interview was published one day before the opening of the Asian Peace Forces Conference in Baghdad, Iraq, which is bringing together socialist and communist forces from across Asia and the Middle East.

SOVIETS SUPPORT IRAQ AGAINST IRAN

Feb. 23 (IPS) -- An article on the CENTO military alliance in the Soviet army newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda Feb. 21 clearly draws the class lines between Iran and Iraq. Pointing out that Iraq's decision in 1958 to leave the bloc constituted a "tangible blow" to imperialist strategy for the Near and Far East. The commentary describes moves to strengthen CENTO against a "threat of Soviet expansion."

OIL PRICES TO DROP...U.S. PRICES TO RISE

Feb. 18 (IPS) -- Two adjacent front-page articles in today's New York Times reported that oil prices would be dropping and world crude oil prices have already begun to sag in response to reduced consumption by the industrialized nations, which has created a worldwide surplus estimated from 2 million to 7 million barrels a day. Some countries like Libya and Algeria have reduced the official price of their oil; the second cause of the falling prices is "hidden discounting" by other producers and some oil companies.

OMAN INCREASES OIL EXPORTS

NEW YORK, Feb. 19 (IPS) -- Despite the collapsing world oil market, the remote and little-known Sultanate of Oman on the Persian Gulf

"is the only Arab state to increase its oil exports," according to the Daily Telegraph of London.

MAIN SAUDI PIPELINE SHUT AS ROCKY/OPEC CUT OIL PRODUCTION FURTHER

Feb. 19 (IPS) -- Hit hard by the massive and growing oil surplus on the world market -- estimated by a leading Washington-based oil economist at over three million barrels a day -- the Rockefeller/OPEC oil cartel was forced to shut down entirely the giant Tapline oil pipeline running from Saudi Arabia to the Mediterranean, according to CBS Radio today. An earlier report in the Wall Street Journal claimed that Tapline had been running at only 10 per cent of capacity in recent months.

"FRANTICALLY REACHING FOR A LOT OF PIECES"

Feb. 20 (IPS) -- In an interview today, Jack Bridges, oil and energy expert at the CIA-connected Georgetown Center for Strategic and International Studies and recently returned from meetings in Vienna of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), commented that "We're just frantically reaching for a lot of pieces," when asked what plans were afoot to establish a co-ordinated energy-economic policy internationally. "Simply speaking," Bridges added, "the world has changed."

ABU DHABI INCREASES OIL PRODUCTION

Feb. 21 (IPS) -- Accelerating the demise of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) as a Rockefeller-controlled cartel for strangling oil production and exports, the Persian Gulf sheikhdom of Abu Dhabi "has ordered western oil companies to increase production immediately...in a move that could push down the price of its high-quality oil."

DOLLAR DROPS AS OIL PRODUCERS PROPOSE REPLACEMENT

Feb. 21 (IPS) -- The dollar fell yesterday and this morning, reaching record new lows against most European currencies, amid reports that oil-producing nations desire to eliminate the quotation of petroleum prices in dollars. Kuwait may soon calculate oil prices on the basis of the dollar's exchange rate with five European currencies and the Japanese yen and Algeria and Iraq propose that an unspecified currency replace the dollar to set oil prices. Iran has called for the automatic indexation of oil prices to a world inflation rate, following the dollar's one and one-half per cent fall against the International Monetary Fund's Special Drawing Rights.

DOMESTIC COUNCIL SPOKESMAN GOES APE OVER PROSPECT OF LOWER OIL PRICES

Feb. 21 (IPS) -- Mr. Duvall, the Associate Director of Nelson

Rockefeller's Domestic Council, told IPS today that the announced intentions of Abu Dhabi and other producer nations to lower world oil prices was a threat to U.S. control over "energy resources". After a full year of saying that the OPEC high price had caused economic disarray in the U.S., the spokesman reversed position and said that "a lower world oil price is bad, because it would increase our dependence on Mideast oil." "We need to have control," he said, "and for this we have to pay a high price so as to avoid being dependent on their oil."

RUMOR ARABS OFFER REDUCED PRICE OIL TO QUEBEC

Feb. 22 (IPS) -- The Quebec city daily, Le Soleil, reported on Wednesday that an unnamed oil producing country has offered Quebec long-term oil supplies at a guaranteed price 10 per cent below the lower international price.

WASHINGTON "UNCONCERNED" ABOUT DOLLAR COLLAPSE

Feb. 24 (IPS) -- New York Times financial columnist Edwin Dale today reports that U.S. Treasury and Federal Reserve Board officials have "no sense of alarm or deep concern" about the rapid collapse of the dollar.

THE WORLD COMMUNIST MOVEMENT

PCF. REVOLUTIONARY CURRENT HEGEMONIC IN FRENCH WORKING CLASS

PARIS, Feb. 18 (IPS) -- In the Feb. 17 issue of the French Communist Party (PCF) daily L'Humanite, Leo Figueres, member of the PCF Central Committee points to the PCF pro-working class commitment in a covert warning to the collaborationist Amendola faction in the Italian Communist Party (PCI).

PCI LEADERSHIP DEFENDS TRILATERAL COMMISSION

ROME, Feb. 18 (IPS) -- Goons from the CIA-controlled Amendola faction of the Italian Communist Party today attacked European Labor Committee members in a vain attempt to keep ELC literature out of a demonstration organized by the League for Local Autonomy.

DDR LAUNCHES "OPERATION TRUTH" CAMPAIGN

Feb. 19 (IPS) -- The East German theoretical weekly Horizont launched a new series in its latest issue on "Lenin's Theory of Imperialism", which included detailed statistics on the multinationals and particularly the "Seven Sister" oil companies. Another article played up the anti-multinational "Operation Truth" campaign of the French Communist Party (PCF).