

State Department, P.C.I. in Oil Hoax

Threat to Pit Europe Against OPEC

NEW YORK, June 4 (IPS) — Henry Kissinger's Undersecretary of State for Energy, Thomas O. Enders, with the notable assistance of the agent-led Communist Party of Italy (PCI), is beating the drums of a new oil hoax for the express purpose of bringing about just that. The State Department's immediate aim — apart from targetting the world's working class for further looting — is to conjure up a standoff between OPEC and the industrial countries on the phony issue of oil prices in order to thereby throw the Arab countries's growing development-based alliance with the rest of the Third World, not to mention Western industrialists, into the wastebasket.

At last week's International Energy Agency meeting in Paris, Kissinger's attempt to sabotage this emerging anti-Rockefeller, pro-development alliance was short-circuited when the Algerians — acting as spokesmen for the entire non-aligned bloc — exposed and denounced his "raw materials" ploy as a cynical "maneuver to dominate not only the countries of the Third World but the Western industrialized nations as well." Now the State Department is desperately hoping to wring some lost strategic mileage from a replay of the old Oil Hoax gambit.

In a telephone interview with IPS two days ago, Undersecretary Enders insisted there was "no question" that OPEC was moving for a price increase. "They have the market power and every intention of using it," Enders asserted provocatively, deliberately evoking the aura of a new "energy crisis." "The Europeans are a good deal more resigned to price increases than we are, than our public is," he added for good measure.

Amendola and Co. Collaborate

On the same day a dispatch, attributed to the "Algerian News Agency," was featured in the PCI's daily L'Unita. Titled "Will Increase Oil Prices in September," the L'Unita item — which was not covered anywhere else! — asserts that the decision

to impose oil price increases will be adopted at the upcoming OPEC conference as a means to right the effects of the dollar's repeated devaluation on oil producers' revenues.

Scurrilous attacks on Algeria in particular are no accident. Their aim is to undermine Algeria's increasingly prominent role as spokesman for the emerging pro-development bloc. The rumors circulated by French government sources last week to the effect that Algeria was undercutting the OPEC oil prices, rumors which forced Algeria to cancel the trucks-for-oil agreement with France, were specifically designed to arouse paranoia on the part of other OPEC members as to Algeria's trustworthiness and throw the oil producers back into hysterical preoccupation with their relatively parochial concerns.

State Department Dirty Tricks

The PCI's decision to retail the U.S. State Department's wares is merely one more flagrant example of the criminal "editorial policy" dictated by that party's renegade Berlinguer-Amendola leadership. Significantly, Algerian spokesmen contacted at the embassy in Bonn, West Germany, denied any knowledge of such a news release: if that were the official policy of the Algerian government, "I would know about it," the spokesman told IPS flatly. Oil specialists in the West German Economics Ministry were equally surprised at the "news." "Algeria?...I have absolutely no indication that they want a rise," a spokesman told IPS. This is no idle remark from the representative of a country which could be seriously hurt by such a development.

That the State Department is engaged in an effort to perpetrate another oil hoax — virtually singlehandedly — was confirmed by sources on both sides of the Atlantic. Top-level sources in the U.S. Treasury, in particular, have repeatedly and directly contradicted Enders' assertions. Treasury Undersecretary Gerald

Parsky told IPS today what everyone knows to be the case: "No OPEC country has said that it's definitely going to raise prices...even the Shah of Iran has merely said that a price rise would 'be considered' at the September OPEC meeting." Similarly, a spokesman for the Treasury's Energy Policy unit insisted that a price increase is by no means "inevitable." In fact, a source in Enders' own State Department lair could not identify any particular OPEC countries which were explicitly committed to price hikes save limp references to the Shah of Iran.

Furthermore, official statements of OPEC-member governments in no way corroborate Mr. Enders' assertions. A recent Saudi Arabian trade delegation to West Germany, for instance, made absolutely clear that the Saudis were "struggling for wide imports from friendly industrial countries," and for this reason were firmly opposed to any increases in the price of oil. In addition, Prince Fahd, King Faisal's successor, in an interview in the most recent issue of the French daily Le Nouvelle Observateur, maintained that official Saudi policy was to keep the present oil price at stable levels. Saudi oil official Farouk Akhdar reaffirmed this in a May 19 interview with Barron's Magazine.

The real problem faced by the oil producers and the rest of the Third World as well as the advanced sector — implied by the Saudi trade delegation and more bluntly identified by both Algeria and Iraq in other places, is one of the urgent necessity of expanded trade and genuine economic development. From that standpoint oil prices are an utterly phony issue — in terms of human need there is a terrific, ongoing "demand" for oil. It is to the solution of that central problem that Iraq and Algeria, in particular, have sought to orient their OPEC partners in recent months.

The primary obstacle to such urgent development is the Rockefeller-administered depression holocaust in the advanced sector.

The present glut of oil, the devaluation of the dollar, and the threat of a price collapse endangering oil producers' income — the traditional immediate preoccupation of OPEC — is merely the lawful predicate of those criminal Rockefeller policies. Any "oil crisis" is a sheer fabrication of the Rockefeller saboteurs.