

Kissinger Attempts to Sabotage Debt Moratoria Discussion at United Nations

UNITED NATIONS; N.Y., Sept. 14 (IPS) — A last-minute intervention into the negotiations of the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly by high level State Department officials, including personal intervention by U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, threatened today to force an open confrontation between the United States and the Group of 77 developing nations.

Minor concessions by the U.S., aimed at splitting weaker members of the non-aligned group away from the united front led by Iraq and Algeria, have not obscured the flat refusal of the U.S. to accept even the minimal key demands of the Group of 77 on trade and development. Meanwhile, Kissinger deployed Thomas Enders, Assistant Secretary of State for Economic Affairs and widely hated and feared in the Third World, to New York Friday night with a dual assignment: First, to pull in the reins on wavering Western European delegates who were under pressure at home to break with the Dollar Empire and accept Third World offers of cooperation; and second, break the ranks of the Third World.

"What we fear," said a member of a leading Third World delegation, "is that the U.S. and its agent regimes in the developing sector may use threats and also promises of aid and loans to sway the vote of the Group of 77." The source revealed that Iraq, backed by Algeria and Peru, was hammering away throughout the closed meetings of the Group of 77 caucus at a single theme: That the U.S. dollar is bankrupt and cannot finance development.

"Kissinger's promises of aid are worthless," said the source. "The banks cannot even refinance New York City's debt. How can they support development?"

Foremost Issue: Dump the Dept

The bankruptcy of the banking system of the Rockefeller-led Dollar Empire and the urgent need to sweep away the ruins of the 1944 Bretton Woods monetary system and replace it with another geared to real production and development have been the focus of the whole United Nations General Assembly Special Session. Throughout the proceedings, speaker after speaker has called for a debt moratorium as the first priority toward that goal. "Debt is what the whole conference is about," an Algerian delegate told IPS.

Yesterday the U.S. won a partial victory when the words "including moratorium and-or rescheduling of debt repayment" were dropped by the Group of 77 from their working paper. The U.S., backed by obsequious European Economic Community and Japanese delegations, had demanded the removal of the phrase. Conference sources revealed to IPS that the motion to drop the phrase in the Group of 77 meeting came from the Rockefeller-puppet regime of Iran!

Kissinger's victory may have been Pyrrhic, however. Spurred by continual ruthless organizing by Iraq and Algeria, Third World delegations have begun to toughen up. In a press conference this morning, U.S. Ambassador Daniel Moynihan hysterically charged that the Third World delegates "do not really represent" the masses in the developing world, and claimed that concessions made during last night's talks by the Third World had been taken back this morning.

"Things have gotten worse," whined the fat Moynihan.

What had in fact occurred, IPS learned this afternoon, was that the Venezuelan delegate Perez Guerrero had made concessions to the U.S. under intense pressure—concessions that Iraq and Algeria, among others, felt were "unauthorized." During this morning's session, Enders called Guerrero out of the closed Group of 77 meeting for a personal phone conversation with hysterical Henry Kissinger. Enders was seen leading a trembling Guerrero to a telephone. Leading delegates were quickly apprised of Kissinger's interference.

Henry's Fears

What fat Henry fears most is that should the developing countries win a psychological victory at the UN, wresting concessions from the U.S. and EEC, the dam will burst, sending Western Europe into a headlong rush to dump the dollar and set up triangular trade arrangements and debt moratoria.

Conference sources reported today that the Dutch were considering breaking with the EEC position and joining Sweden in calling for a debt moratorium. And in West Germany, the industrialist-based weekly Handelsblatt came out in favor of Third World debt cancellation!

The momentum of a UN victory by the Group of 77 would catalyze such sentiment in Western Europe, Kissinger fears, on the eve of key conferences in Paris on energy and at UNCTAD

(UN Conference on Trade and Development) on Oct. 27.

A member of the French delegation told IPS that France was acting against its own interests in supporting the U.S. at the UN. "It's simple," he said. "We respect the power of the U.S.—economically, politically, militarily." such cowardice will bring about the fall of Atlanticist regimes in France and West Germany in months.

EEC vacillation during the conference was disgusting, and one Group of 77 delegate told IPS that asked Europe's representatives: "Are you plenipotentiaries or dummies?"

Informed that Iraq and Algeria were educating the non-aligned caucus on the true value of the worthless dollar, Ambassador Moynihan snapped in an interview, "So we'll use the Algerian Peso, eh?" The Algerian national currency is the Dinar.

Moynihan's sidekick Bennett then wildly announced, "Algeria and Iraq have been out to wreck this conference from the beginning." Algeria was the chief organizer of the UN Conference!

Late tonight the Group of 77 will meet to decide its final negotiating stand. So angered were the Group of 77 representatives by the intransigent stand of the U.S. on substantive issues that their delegates were openly speaking of breaking off talks and returning to their original Working Paper.