

Frederick Wills at the United Nations

Two weeks after the 1976 Colombo Non-Aligned Summit, Guyana's then-Foreign Minister Frederick Wills stood before the UN General Assembly to call for the implementation of the New World Economic Order and denounce "the arsenal of destabilizing techniques" being used to prevent it. The following are excerpts.

The techniques used are equally clear and unmistakable: The promotion of internal unrest with a view to the breakdown of law and order; the fomenting of intra-regional conflicts through client states; the financing and organization of hostile propaganda campaigns; the attacking of embassies and consulates; the manipulation of international markets; the restriction on export capabilities; the frustration of bilateral and multinational aid; the subversion of economic objectives by the machinations of trans-national corporations—this arsenal of destabilizing techniques is aimed in the first instance at ensuring the continuation of a relationship of dependency between developed and

developing countries, and in the second instance at yoking their legitimate aspirations to the strategic conceptions of larger nations.

Mr. President, most of the countries in the developing world were former colonies of Western Europe and the radicalization of their liberation struggle has therefore been in anti-West terms. This does not necessarily mean that those terms are pro-East. Similarly, Mr. President, most of these countries have adopted socialism as an internal strategy of development. This likewise does not indicate that they are anti-West or pro-East. At Colombo the golden thread running through all the resolutions and discussions was the determination of 85 countries not to sacrifice their sovereignty and independence on the altar of ideological nicety....

But, Mr. President, the security of developing states is inextricably linked with their economic survival and their economic advance. My delegation feels that there can be no meaningful economic advance without the implementation of the New International Economic Order.

priority tasks of the movement and to admit new members.

Since its inception, despite being the target of much red-baiting by Cold Warriors, the Non-Aligned Movement's aims and goals were very well defined. Their membership criterion was that no nation seeking admittance could be a member of any military alliance, be this the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Central Treaty Organization (CENTO), the Southeast Asian Treaty Organization (SEATO), or the Warsaw Pact. The economic goals were those of nations which had just won their independence from, largely, the British Empire: the demand for technology and industrialization that would make them viable nation states.

Over the years, the formal military alliance clause lost some meaning (particularly after China chose to acknowledge CENTO for instance as a worthy "defensive" pact against the "social imperialist" Soviet Union) but the economic goals never really changed. The movement traditionally adopted an "anti-West" policy because the genocidal International Monetary Fund and the World Bank were the credit and aid institutions of the Western world and these institutions hardly transferred technology. It is a deep irony of post-World War II history that the Cold Warriors in the United States red-baited Nehru of India when Nehru and Indonesian President Sukarno proclaimed that the United States of America was the model for freedom and growth they wished to follow. Nehru put through the inclusion into the Indian Constitution of sections from the

American Constitution to demonstrate the anti-British unity of views that bound both nations.

The struggle for growth occurred as well at the just-concluded Belgrade Summit. Cuba, Vietnam, and Angola all pressed for the U.S. to contribute its vast wealth to the development of their nations. U.S. National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski spent months in true Cold War organizing: attempting to make Cuba's credentials an issue at the meeting because it was a Soviet "puppet" in Africa!

A very perceptive delegate communicated the core of the issue to a correspondent of the Sri Lanka weekly *Tribune*: "It is easy to say Cuba gets its money from the Russians, but so do we. We get it from all over the world and indeed we have been receiving aid from Europe for nearly three hundred years. It is not who you get money from, but what you do with it, and the Cubans seem to have used this money well in that they have attempted to provide food, clothing and shelter for their people."

The Road to Colombo

The Third World's efforts to break the North-South deadlock were at their high point in August, 1976. At Colombo, the Non-Aligned demanded a New World Economic Order; at the United Nations in 1976 they reiterated this call.

At a press conference at the UN, British Ambassador Ivor Richard charged all this was "Third World intransigence," unabashedly telling the reporters "Just ask me the questions you are going to ask him (the U.S. press spokesman) and I'll give you