

Oil crisis is unnecessary

"Americans will never accept (austerity) voluntarily. It must be imposed from the outside." This remark, delivered on ABC television by U.S. Secretary of Energy James R. Schlesinger, is the clue to an extraordinary series of events that unfolded this week around the meeting of the International Energy Agency in Paris.

As Schlesinger admitted, most Americans don't buy the story that global oil shortages now mandate a shift backwards into drastically lower energy consumption levels and more primitive energy technologies. Yet, the energy shortage must be made to come true if the United States is to be made to give up its economic sovereignty and buckle under to the murderous "conditionalities" of the International Monetary Fund.

As our ECONOMICS report details, a group of high-ranking, British-influenced cabinet officials led by Treasury Secretary Blumenthal is currently conspiring to surreptitiously bring the United States under the IMF jackboot, and make the June 25 Tokyo summit of the advanced capitalist industrial nations a meeting to rubber-stamp IMF surveillance for the entire world.

The opposition to this plot centers on an emerging alliance among European Monetary System co-founder President Giscard of France, the Saudi government, Moscow, and José López Portillo, President of Mexico—the world's new "oil giant." López Portillo's proposal for a United Nations conference of producers and consumers to *rationaly* determine a world program of expanding energy has just received the endorsement of Cuban leader Fidel Castro, in Mexico for a

surprise summit with the Mexican President this past week.

It was to stem the momentum toward such a solution, which would be based on the full use of petroleum resources in transition to the more energy-dense technologies of nuclear fission and fusion power, that the economics and energy ministers of the advanced-sector nations which make up the International Energy Agency met in Paris May 21-22. The ministers, under Schlesinger's orchestration, conducted a ferocious round of "American bashing," led off on May 21 by Guido Brunner, the Energy Commissioner of the British-dominated European Community staff.

The principal proposals that came out of the Paris meeting were for a "renaissance of coal"—thus consigning the advanced sector to an energy mode which is both highly pollutant and labor-intensive under the preferred technology levels—and, from Count Otto von Lambsdorff, the West German economics minister, a bid for a "producer-consumer

conference" between the IEA and the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Lambsdorff's ploy should fool no one (it has already been rejected by OPEC, which doesn't consider the Henry Kissinger-created IEA a legitimate interlocutor). It is part of the past week's frantic efforts by the Thatcher government of Britain to protect the speculative Rotterdam spot market from a political assault led by France in close coordination with Saudi Arabia. Not accidentally, since the IEA confab, the U.S. financial press reports that Rotterdam now controls a whopping one-third of Europe's oil supplies, and predicts \$40 per barrel prices within the next month.

The "IEA-OPEC" proposal is also transparently intended to divert energy concern away from the López Portillo-proposed U.N. conference, which among other targets will aim to shut down the Rotterdam operation.

—Nora Hamerman

The Week in Brief

It's no secret that U.S. Secretary of State's May 22 visit to his new British counterpart, **Lord Carrington**, has acquired for the Carter White House a new—and considerably shorter—**British leash**. In London with **Cyrus Vance** was Israel's Premier **Menachem Begin**. On the agenda was U.S. support for the two "internal solutions" cooked up by London: the bogus "majority rule" regime of Smith-Muzorewa in Rhodesian, and Begin's unworkable autonomy plan

for a Palestinian "bantustan" on the West Bank.

The **New York Times** May 22 confirmed that **Washington has deferred** to the Thatcher regime on strategic issues. "United States officials said that Mr. Vance was unable to tell the British **what action Mr. Carter would take** on Rhodesia, if any. They said Mr. Carter was awaiting a report from Vance on his talks here **before deciding what to do.**"

A New York-based British bank-