

Energy war is on

As we prepare to go to press June 21, there are increasing signs that the United States and the United Kingdom will run into major opposition at the Tokyo monetary summit to their plans to sink the world into a low-energy, Malthusian nightmare.

West Germany's Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, until days ago playing the role of a compliant "Atlantic partner" willing to go along with the Carter Administration oil hoax, has signaled what surprises may be in his pocket at Tokyo by scheduling a visit to Moscow before and after the summit. He is now calling for the June 27 meeting—bringing together the seven leading noncommunist industrial nations—to take up the idea of East-West cooperation for expanded energy production. Japanese representatives in Mexico on June 20 told the press, for the first time ever, that Japan endorses Mexican President Lopez Portillo's call for dealing with "energy as the responsibility of all mankind," and that the Mexican proposal would be a central topic of discussion at Tokyo. This followed reports in the Japanese press that French President Giscard would come to Tokyo with a "grand design" for world peace and development, and had undertaken a number of initiatives to organize Japan on board France's program for rapid nuclear energy development, ending speculation on the Rotterdam oil "spot market, and solving the oil problem through close cooperation between consuming and producing countries.

One day later, Giscard stunned a national French television audience by declaring that France was ready, in the event of an "energy war," with alternative sources of petroleum outside the channels controlled by the Anglo-American oil multinationals—a reference to the coopera-

tive relationship France has worked out particularly with the Saudi regime.

The "war" has already broken out. One day after the European Community's energy ministers endorsed France's proposal for controlling the spot market, the oil multinationals walked out of oil-price negotiations with the Italian government and threatened to cut off supplies unless Italy accedes to a 50 percent price increase to consumers.

If those four countries—Japan, France, West Germany and Italy—use Tokyo to push through an energy growth policy, or, in case of a Tokyo stalemate go ahead with their own "grand design," the perilous spiral of the United States and Britain into fascism will be quarantined from pushing the rest of the world into full-scale war. The European and Japanese partners really don't have much choice.

The U.S. Congress, for example, is currently considering an amendment to the 1950 Defense Production Act, which would place all defense and energy decisions under direct presidential edict. This is equivalent to the Nazi enabling act of 1933

which gave Hitler full dictatorial powers. The pretext for the amendment is being provided by the Independent Truckers work stoppage and ensuing food shortages that have already resulted, in some states, in the calling out of the National Guard. At the same time, the U.S. Senate hosted Felix Rohatyn with his demand that a \$200 billion boondoggle for synthetic fuels—pioneered not accidentally, by Hitler's Germany—be set up "binding on labor and business" and to be financed by Japan and West Germany.

A resounding "no" to such programs at Tokyo, and the concomitant decision to move full speed ahead with "Phase Two" of the European Monetary System to develop the Third World by recycling the growing OPEC petrodollar surplus into nuclear energy-based growth, would not only put Washington's victims of "energy war" on a winning footing. It would also bring quickly onto the side of such a peace and development strategy a host of progress-oriented Americans who are fed up with the Great Oil Swindle of 1979 and its political authors.

—Nora Hamerman

The Week in Brief

Secretary of State Cyrus Vance plans to send in the U.S. Marines to Nicaragua under the cover of an Organization of American States intervention force—to save the organized crime syndicate known as "Dope, Inc." that operates through the Nicaraguan National Guard.

Vance's call came June 21 in a plan to the Washington, D.C. meeting of OAS foreign ministers, where he insisted that an "inter-American peacekeeping force" be dispatched

at once to oust dictator Somoza and set up an "interim government" that would save Somoza's National Guard from destruction. Other points in the program, a carbon copy of the one that guided the 1965 U.S. invasion of the Dominican Republic, included "embargo of all arms" and "relief and reconstruction funds."

The invasion plan is also a threat to Mexico. One month ago Energy Secretary Schlesinger at a Paris press conference said that the current "bal-

ance of forces" in Latin America would preclude a U.S. military intervention to grab Mexican oil, but did not rule out such action at a future point.

Nicaragua's National Guard is notoriously a key link in the international drug-running and terrorist network (see LATIN AMERICA).

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The SALT II agreement has now been signed—but its chances of passing the U.S. Senate are seen as slim. Meeting last week in Vienna, President Jimmy Carter and his Soviet counterpart Leonid Brezhnev signed the new strategic arms limitations treaty which contains substantial concessions to U.S. interests, after seven years of tough bargaining.

Under the treaty's terms, the U.S.S.R. will have to destroy or dismantle about 250 strategic missile systems, while the United States, which has a smaller number to begin with, will have to destroy none. The Soviets agreed not to increase production of the controversial Backfire bomber. The Soviets also accepted American proposals banning testing or deployment of the Soviet SS-16 missiles, and for exchange of data bases on weapon systems—a first for the Soviet side.

Given all of these concessions, and given the fact that Brezhnev has made it clear the Soviets can go no further, why is a vociferous group of Senators both Democratic and Republican determined to force "amendments?"

The answer may lie in the fact that these SALT opponents—as well as certain pro-SALT advocates who hope to use the treaty as a springboard for a SALT III premised on stopping all technological advance—are also advocates of the

"neo-Malthusian" global austerity policy.

The nasty irony is that if the United States adopts Sen. Henry Jackson's zero-energy-growth program, it won't be in any shape to sustain the arms race that will result when Jackson and Co. torpedo the SALT ratification.

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Signalling that West Germany won't let relations with the Soviet Union go down the drain regardless of what Washington does, Chancellor Helmut Schmidt has decided to meet with Soviet leaders in Moscow before and after the June 27 Tokyo summit. The West German government made the announcement June 21, the same day Soviet Central Committee member L. Zamyatin arrived in the Federal Republic to host a forum of the Soviet-German Friendship Society.

Zamyatin, who holds the key post of director of Foreign Information, lauded West German-Soviet relations as a "model of partnership" which was forged last year with the historic summit between Schmidt and Brezhnev and has reached "a new quality."

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The U.S. trucking industry would be effectively deregulated by 1981, if the legislative proposal jointly announced by President Carter and Senator Ted Kennedy is made into law.

The "Trucking Deregulation and Safety Bill" unveiled by Carter and Kennedy at a White House press conference last week stops just short of full deregulation, but incorporates many of the features of a full-deregulation proposal circulated by Kennedy.

Its principal features are: immediate removal of return-trip and intermediate stop restrictions and of restrictions on hauling of most regulated commodities by December, 1981; easier entry qualifications for most prime routes; elimination of the collective rate-making process. Each measure favors "independent" truckers over major unionized carriers.

The disastrous effects of such deregulation are analyzed in this EIR's ECONOMIC SURVEY.

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Marijuana legalization opponent Fausto Charris of Colombia, South America will be arriving in the United States for a national organizing tour—despite the State Department's efforts to keep him away. Charris, the head of the 120,000-member National Agrarian Federal (FANAL) in Colombia, was originally denied an entry visa to the United States after he had been invited by the New York-New Jersey Anti-Drug Coalition to address a June 24 meeting in New York City.

The visa was finally granted June 21 after dozens of protests reached the State Department from religious, political, labor, academic and other leaders in the U.S. and Colombia.

The State Department's original pretext for denying the visa was "financial insolvency," although the Anti-Drug Coalition has guaranteed his expenses. But at the same time Foggy Bottom tried to keep Charris in Colombia, the U.S. Embassy in Bogotá invited a leading advocate of turning marijuana into a legal "cash crop" for Colombia, Ernesto Semper Pizano, for an extended visit to the United States. Presumably no pro-dope spokesman is considered likely to be "insolvent" by State?