

Third World Fund is urgent

Two important summits—the Tokyo heads of government meeting of the seven most advanced industrial capitalist nations, and the Geneva ministerial meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Nations—have placed one issue in the forefront this last week of June: what will be done with the “petrodollar” surplus accumulating from rising oil prices?

The final communiqué of the Geneva meeting recommends to OPEC member countries that they approve an \$800 million replenishment of OPEC’s own special fund for aid to the developing sector. It then takes note of “another proposal for a long-term fund to be set up jointly by the industrialized countries and OPEC member countries to compensate developing countries for imported inflation, on the one hand, and any increase in crude oil prices on the other.”

The latter proposal holds the key to the “dialogue” between the oil producers and the industrialized consuming countries that was ratified, on European insistence, by the Tokyo summit. U.S. presidential candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. has proposed the establishment of a multibillion dollar fund out of the surplus oil “tax” to finance rapid, worldwide industrial development, focusing on high-technology projects in the Third World.

This plan for “Phase Two” of the European Monetary System would reverse the spiraling collapse of the world economy under the stranglehold of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank. It would guarantee peace.

LaRouche’s program coheres with the thrust of recent diplomatic initiatives undertaken by President Giscard d’Estaing of France, especially after his late-April Moscow

summit with President Brezhnev. Giscard has been organizing for a “dialogue” to bring OPEC investment and European technology together in developing Africa. The implementation of that concept and its extension to other equally critical Third World “hot spots” requires the shutdown of the speculative swindle known as the Rotterdam oil spot market, and a crash nuclear energy plant-construction program—two planks in the platform the European Community brought to Tokyo which won formal ratification by the summit.

The Europeans’ platform for Tokyo—and, it appears, a thick series of European leaders’ pilgrimages to Moscow that has resulted in a public proposal for an East-West European energy grid—was drafted as a war-avoidance policy. The Europeans are horrified at the spectre of the Carter Administration plunging the United States under the fascist jackboot to preserve the Rotterdam swindle and the 100,000-man international strike force readied for intervention in the Third World. A parallel concern was expressed in French President Giscard’s Newsweek interview just before the sum-

mit, where he accused the Carter Administration of sabotaging relations with the Soviets.

Given that impetus, the inclusion of two stipulations in the Tokyo communiqué has to be counted as a piece of suicidal stupidity. The seven heads of government formally endorsed International Monetary Fund-World Bank “surveillance” (i.e., genocidal austerity conditions) over all Third World loans. Second, the communiqué authorized the creation of a huge fund for “synthetic fuels” production on the model of Hitler’s Nazi economy. These two clauses are a recipe for nuclear war.

The first step Giscard and his European partners should take when they get home is to junk these concessions to the London-Washington war axis and open a real dialogue with OPEC, on the basis of the LaRouche proposal. Giscard’s blunt attacks on Carter indicated Europeans are prepared to take a new attitude toward Washington. If they fail to impose a positive alternative on the United States, that gesture will go down in history’s tragic chronicles of impotence.

—Nora Hamerman

The Week in Brief

Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko, in a rare press conference in Moscow last week, blamed Washington for a serious deterioration in U.S.-Soviet relations. He predicted that if the U.S. Senate fails to ratify SALT II or tries to kill it with amendments, “the situation will be bad ... and no disarmament or arms limitation talks will help anymore.”

Gromyko pointed out that while

President Carter and Brezhnev discussed economic and trade relations during their summit meeting in Vienna, the U.S. side has nothing concrete to propose. “We were struck by the fact that it still has nothing like a clear and definite plan. Of course such a plan may exist; but if it does, nothing was said about it.” The Soviet Foreign Minister stated that he is certain that improved economic

ties would do a great deal to improve the general relations between the two countries.

Gromyko indicated Moscow's exasperation with the Carter Administration's now-you-see-'em-now-you-don't negotiating techniques. "I do not wish to say that the United States did not conduct itself seriously. The American side is better situated to describe how it behaved."

But on many key topics requiring U.S.-Soviet deliberation "forward motion has been either insignificant or completely lacking. The following has also occurred: our partner sits at the negotiating table, and tomorrow he vanishes and cannot explain why he received the order not to continue the negotiations."

* * *

Israel's post-Camp David "war on nerves" against its eastern Arab neighbors escalated sharply this week, as the Israeli Air Force, for the first time in over five years, directly confronted Syrian aircraft in a dogfight over southern Lebanon June 27. Radio commentators for the British Broadcasting Corporation and the Armed Forces Network on that day emphasized that previous Middle East wars had been preceded by exactly these kinds of air battles between the two countries.

The fight evolved out of a Syrian response to Israel's stated policy of carrying out continual "preemptive" raids into southern Lebanon to "hit the terrorists wherever they may be." Israeli jets moved close to Syrian positions near the coastal city of Sidon despite prior intelligence reports that Syria would not hold back from defending the airspace of that region.

Israel's willingness to challenge Syria derives from the Israeli perception that the Syrian regime is increasingly unstable because of the recent Muslim Brotherhood atrocities inside Syria (see MIDDLE EAST), and that, in this condition, the Syrians are ripe for, in the words of the June 29 London Financial Times, a "military humiliation" by Israel.

In a June 28 statement, Chief of Staff Rafael Eytan emphasized: "Whoever tries to interrupt us in this activity against the terrorists faces two alternatives. One is to confront us, with all that this implies, and the second is to either stop the terrorist activity from Lebanon or to leave them alone in their struggle with us."

* * *

Part of the "national emergency" preparations detailed in this week's U.S. REPORT entails the creation of a food shortage as a consequence of the independent truckers' actions and fuel cutbacks.

Reports from California, Florida and other food growing regions say that melons, lettuce and other perishables are being plowed under. Broiler and egg industry spokesmen report that baby chick kills will begin this week unless orderly transport flows can be reestablished.

Mississippi River barge traffic for grain transport is down 20-30 percent due to uncertain fuel supplies.

President Carter has exacerbated the problem by revoking Special Rule No. 9 on June 22. The rule provided normal supplies of fuel to farmers for "essential uses." According to the New York Times, the cancellation was recommended by Agriculture Secretary Bergland, who claimed that "planting is completed in all but a few scattered areas and field work will be finished in those areas in the next few days."

It is not known yet whether the Administration will try to blame the contrived food crisis on the "red menace." However, that line is already circulating: an article in the June 26 Journal of Commerce arguing for a world "food bank" says that Soviet grain purchases will account for major shortages elsewhere in the world. The authorities cited for this view are the two zero-growth think tanks, Worldwatch Institute and the Ford Foundation.

* * *

Colombia peasant federation leader Fausto Charris reports that the "pot lobby" in that South American country is saying that marijuana is on the verge of being legalized throughout the United States.

Charris spoke on June 24 at a rally called by the New York-New Jersey Anti-Drug Coalition at Norman Thomas High School in New York City, after a popular mobilization forced the State Department to grant the antidrug fighter a visa. He is secretary-general of the FANAL, a 120,000-member peasant union in Colombia, and reports that Colombians want to grow food—not dope.

"The solution to marijuana is the same as the solution to nuclear war," said Charris. "It is the development of the Third World."

* * *

The State Department is being urged to make marijuana grown in Mexico safe for American consumption by ending U.S. support for Mexico's marijuana eradication program, in a letter now being circulated by HEW Secretary Joseph Califano.

Mexico sprays marijuana fields with the herbicide paraquat, to kill the illegal crop. Califano claims that paraquat, if inhaled by U.S. smokers purchasing damaged goods from Mexico, causes "a severe form of lung damage called fibrosis."

As for the State Department, it has a slightly different approach. To avoid risk of respiratory injury, State advises use of a water pipe or making marijuana brownies. This is recorded in court papers, part of Foggy Bottom's response to a suit by the National Organization for Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML).

In Illinois, the Federal Drug Administration will soon pass out government-inspected joints, prerolled and packaged, to doctors. Fed heads say the dope is intended for cancer patients.

* * *