

# Bush export controls punish Third World

by Kathleen Klenetsky

The Bush administration is promoting a policy that will doom the economic development prospects of the Third World just as surely as the thousands of tons of explosives which Operation Desert Storm has dropped on Iraq's civilians, universities, and scientific establishments. This overtly genocidal policy has received the enthusiastic backing of such liberal Democrats as Sen. Albert Gore (D-Tenn.), who in several recent interviews has insisted that the case of Iraq "proves" that the steadily dwindling flow of advanced technology to the South must be halted.

For the past two months, the administration has been hard at work on a new policy for strangling the flow of high-technology exports to the South, seizing upon the hysteria surrounding Iraq's chemical weapons capability to insist that all technologies which might be linked, however remotely, to weapons development, must be subject to stringent export controls.

## 'Technological apartheid'

On Nov. 16, President George Bush issued an Executive Order mandating a series of measures to curb the export of chemical technologies to certain developing countries. Four weeks later, the White House announced that, pursuant to the Executive Order, it had embarked on an "Enhanced Proliferation Control Initiative" (EPCI), a global accord which would impose harsh restrictions and outright prohibitions on a multitude of advanced technologies, coupled with draconian sanctions against countries, such as Japan or Germany, that might refuse to go along with the policy. EPCI is a crucial element in the drive to institute "technological apartheid," in the words of a high French defense official, against the developing sector. (See excerpts below.)

Although details of the EPCI won't be released officially until mid-February, new information about it has recently come to light, leaked in part by U.S. export-oriented businesses which rightly fear that the proposed controls will dry up U.S. high-tech sales to developing countries.

In a Jan. 21 story, the *New York Times* disclosed that a preliminary list of technologies which the Bush regime wants

to restrict under EPCI is circulating in the business community. The *Times* confirmed *EIR*'s Jan. 11 report that a key target of the controls will be so-called dual-use technologies—which, under present conditions, applies to almost any advanced technology imaginable.

According to the paper, the list includes a broad range of technologies that can be used for a variety of peacetime purposes, such as increasing agricultural yields through fertilizer production, which requires some of the same chemicals used in chemical weapons production.

The final list is likely to include a host of "enabling" technologies, said the *Times*, such as desktop computers, which could be used in many business or scientific enterprises, but which could also be employed in a weapons program—as a pencil could, for that matter.

The *Times* also confirmed *EIR*'s report that the U.S. has expanded the list of controlled chemicals used in the manufacture of chemical weapons to 50. But it further revealed that, in addition, a list of 24 different types of manufacturing equipment is being considered for control, including items widely used in common manufacturing operations like the production of medicines, fertilizers, and beer, as well as computer-controlled manufacturing equipment.

## Malthusians love it

Bush's EPCI is a policy of deliberate and systematic murder of the Third World—which cannot industrialize without continuing infusion of technology from the advanced countries. And it's precisely because it is a blueprint for mass murder against non-whites that it has earned kudos from such rabid malthusians as Senator Gore, a protégé of the late Armand Hammer and a leading sponsor of environmentalist and population-control legislation.

According to a top aide, Gore has been a principal proponent of stringent technology export controls, and has recently proposed creating a new global organization, modeled on CoCom, to tighten controls over North-South trade. The aide said that Gore's stand would make him "very sympathetic" to Bush's EPCI.

Queried about charges that controls on dual-use technologies would impede Third World economic development, the aide heatedly replied: "Every time you try to come up with a regime to control technology, you come up against the dual purpose issue. The dual-use question is all too easily used as a cover for countries who want to obtain weapons technology. I don't give a damn if it hurts them [the Third World] economically. If it's a choice between that, and hundreds of thousands of Americans going into battle, then I say, screw 'em."

The aide attacked the Europeans and Japanese for continuing to sell advanced technology to developing countries. "We're going to have to put it to them to decide whether they want to be on our side, or the side of their pet customers in the Third World," he said.

## French author supports Bush starvation policy

*The following excerpts are translated from an article appearing in the Sept. 14, 1990 L'Express magazine in Paris. The author is one "Jean Villars," the "pseudonym for a high official who specializes in defense questions."*

We must face up to the facts: there are not, on the one hand, "good" transfers of high technology, and, on the other, "bad" ones. Indeed, most technology transfers have a double use: civilian and military. . . .

There is without a doubt a threshold of development, which once crossed, unleashes a cumulative effect in the acquisition of military technologies: it then becomes easier for a country to explore collateral areas, because it already has a certain scientific and technological expertise. . . . Over the last ten years, there are more and more networks of South-South technological cooperation, which get around the few barriers set up by the developed countries to bloc the acquisition of military technologies. . . .

Will preventing a Third World country from having access, as a whole, to the most advanced technologies, also compromise their economic development? This excuse is invoked by all the countries which, under one guise or another, have been barred access to Western technology: This would be part of an "imperialist plot," aimed at maintaining the Arab, Asian, or African (choose the appropriate adjective) "masses" in economic underdevelopment in order to better exploit them.

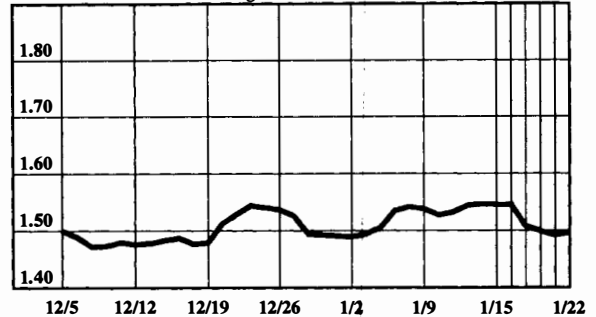
It is preferable to transfer "appropriate technologies" to Third World countries—that is, technologies that consume labor instead of capital, and of an "intermediate" technological level, making them easily "acclimatized" to local cultural and economic conditions, and permitting their immediate use—rather than the highest level technologies which . . . respond only to the desires of megalomaniacal elites and are oblivious to local realities. By refusing to transfer to Third World countries the best by-products of its technological innovation capabilities, the West would be doing a favor to those populations against their own elites. . . .

Technological apartheid is a brutal formula; but it nonetheless remains the last option, before direct military pressure, as a challenge to the blind forces of the Third World. For lack of grasping this, the West will have to resolve itself to seeing its economic growth become hostage to the manipulations of raw materials prices by accidental cartels and, in that case, to waging war, after having put itself in the position of losing the war.

## Currency Rates

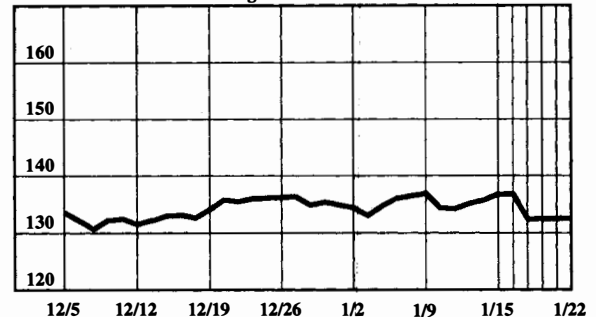
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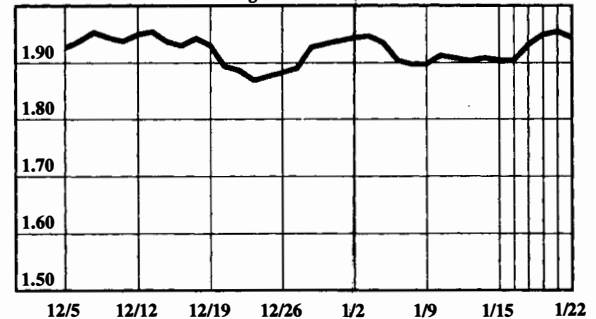
**The dollar in yen**

New York late afternoon fixing



**The British pound in dollars**

New York late afternoon fixing



**The dollar in Swiss francs**

New York late afternoon fixing

