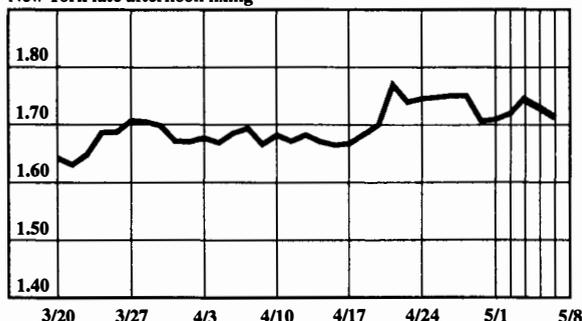


Currency Rates

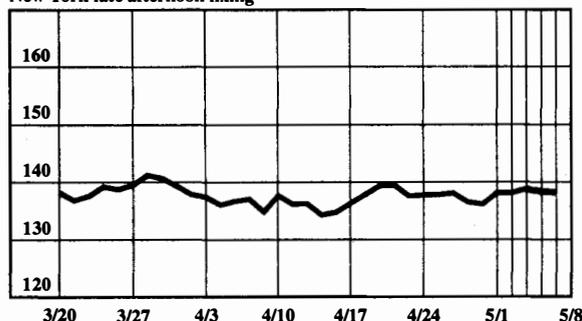
The dollar in deutschmarks

New York late afternoon fixing



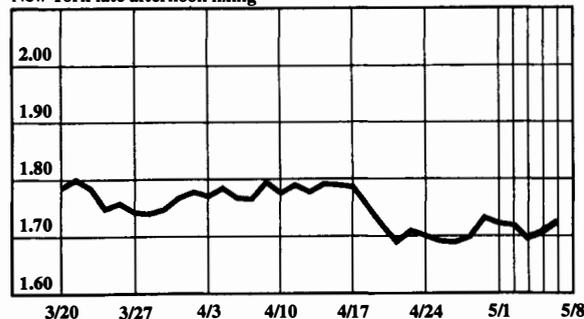
The dollar in yen

New York late afternoon fixing



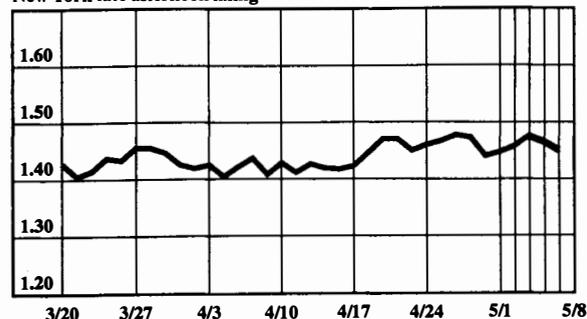
The British pound in dollars

New York late afternoon fixing



The dollar in Swiss francs

New York late afternoon fixing



Volcker named new Trilateral chairman

by Jeffrey Steinberg

David Rockefeller chaired his last meeting as head of the Trilateral Commission April 20-22, announcing to an assembly of about 300 members and guests gathered in Tokyo that he was retiring as North American chairman and passing the mantle to former Federal Reserve Board chairman Paul A. Volcker—the man whose usurious interest rates during the 1980s did more than any other single policy to destroy the U.S. economy.

Rockefeller's address, and other speeches and documents presented at the conference, revealed the kind of "new world order" that the Trilateralists intend to impose: a "free trade" regime in which a supranational bankers' dictatorship sweeps away the sovereignty of nations, while a policy of deindustrialization is pursued under the rubric of "saving the environment."

In Volcker's day at the Fed, this program was given the name "controlled disintegration."

The Trilateral Commission and the 'new order'

Founded in 1973 as a private think tank and lobby drawing members from the United States, Canada, Western Europe, and Japan, the group gained notoriety when one of its members, former Georgia Gov. Jimmy Carter, won the 1976 presidential elections and promptly appointed 17 members of the commission to key Executive positions.

Four years later, George Bush's membership in the commission was a key factor in his loss to Ronald Reagan in the New Hampshire Republican presidential primary election in February 1980.

Described as an "action committee" of the New York Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) and its London counterpart, the Royal Institute for International Affairs (RIIA), the commission has been devoted to peddling a variety of world government schemes. Now, with the emergence of George Bush's "new world order" in the aftermath of the Gulf war, the Trilaterals are jumping into the fray.

Targets: Europe and Japan

Addressing the closing session, Rockefeller said that a free trade accord at the "Uruguay Round" of the General Agreements on Tariffs and Trade is the number one Trilateral priority, and blasted the European governments for their intransigence at the GATT negotiations.

"Much has been said at our meetings here about the inward-looking nature of Europe today," Rockefeller said. "With the tectonic scale of changes on that continent in 1989, and the attention demanded by the truly heroic efforts at European integration, a certain amount of self-absorption is certainly understandable. I would argue, however, that in the world today, sustainable growth and acceptable living standards for all the inhabitants of this Earth depend on a free flow of trade and investment among all nations. If that is so, then a successful outcome of the Uruguay Round must be the number one priority of us all, including Europe. . . . I firmly believe that there is no greater priority for the Trilateral region at this time than a success of the Round, and I hope that all of us will bend every effort to put this crucial agreement through."

Rockefeller next turned his attention to Japan, which he argued should bankroll for the new world order. Chase Manhattan Bank, which Rockefeller chaired for many years, is one of a dozen major U.S. commercial banks dependent on Japanese investment in America to avert bankruptcy. Rather than resorting to the Japan-bashing rhetoric that has characterized the public posture of many Bush administration officials, Rockefeller praised Japan for its "extraordinary economic success" and declared that "Japan is a major player upon the world stage, and all our international structures must recognize that or risk becoming obsolete."

Rockefeller proposed to have Japan brought into the inner sanctum of the U.N. Security Council, in return for writing the checks for the new order:

"I must say here that I am personally convinced that one can't ask an individual or a nation to shoulder greater responsibility, without conferring on them comparably greater authority. That is why I favor Japan's inclusion as a permanent member of the Security Council. I realize there are serious problems with achieving this objective, particularly as it would mean opening up the U.N. Charter to revision. It may be . . . that these problems are insurmountable, and we will have to fall back on a second best alternative, which would be to create an ancillary consultative group of the Trilateral nations who are members of the Security Council, in which Japan would have a real and equal voice. The best long-run solution, however, will be to find a way for Japan to be on a par with the other permanent members of the Security Council."

A further indication that the Trilateral Commission is very much focused upon the pivotal role of the U.N. in furthering the world federalist agenda, was the announcement at the close of the conference that the 1991-92 agenda of the group would focus upon migration and refugee issues.

The commission also announced the release of a new Trilateral report, "Beyond Interdependence: The Meshing of the World's Economy and the Earth's Ecology," which is a followup to the Brundtland Commission report advocating deindustrialization, population reduction, and other such measures to "save" the environment.

Kaifu boosts Tokyo's presence in S.E. Asia

by Linda de Hoyos

Visits to Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, and the Philippines by Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu appear to have significantly boosted ties between Japan and the ASEAN countries, as both Japan and the ASEAN countries seek some maneuvering room against the imposition of the Bush regime's "new world order."

In a speech in Malaysia on May 2, Kaifu laid out the Japanese perspective: the growth of the ASEAN countries, in combination with Japan's, gives the region a potential to hold a significant place in the world. The trend of cooperation, he said, must be extended to "go beyond the economic realm and work in the political, social, and foreign policy spheres as well as to become a major force for stability grounded in freedom and democracy. . . . Now is the time for us to combine our strengths and wisdom to build a regional community that we can be proud of before the world."

Japanese initiative to accomplish this goal is welcomed among most Southeast Asian factions, as an editorial in the Malaysian *Business Times* indicated April 5: "Japan cannot escape from its responsibility of leading the region, particularly in seeking East Asia's rightful economic rights. Already, Japanese economic power has become so influential in the region and, as a member of the Group of Seven developed nations, is shouldering the responsibility of being the voice of the non-Western countries." This view was precisely echoed by Thailand's Foreign Minister Arsa Sarasin, who said, on the eve of Kaifu's visit, that Japan, as an Asian country, should have its primary focus on Asia and represent the "Asian thinking and perception" on issues concerning the region.

These statements are not mere platitudes. Kaifu traveled with a 60-man delegation, including top members of the Japanese trade-industrial organization Keidanren, ready to do work to tighten the Japan-ASEAN economic relationship, which has acted to make ASEAN's growth rate the highest in the world.

Openness to Mahathir's plan

Kaifu further signaled that Japan takes ASEAN's call seriously by stating in Singapore that Japan was "interested" in the plan put forward by Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad for the creation of an East Asian