

Business Briefs

Energy

Red Army says nuclear power needed

Krasnaya Zvezda (Red Star), the newspaper of the Soviet military, has published an editorial declaring that the "U.S.S.R." should support nuclear power projects. The outlook flies in the face of those who argue that, after Chernobyl, nuclear energy should no longer be used.

Citing advocates of "alternative" energy sources, like solar, wind, tides, and hydropower, the editorial said that these alternatives do have some use, but will not be able to meet the future needs of the country. "We do need nuclear power plants," although these have to be checked carefully, and the building and exploitation of them has to be strictly controlled.

Development

G-77 told science is 'shared heritage'

"The principle that science is the shared heritage of mankind," has been consistently eroded in recent years, Malaysian Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi said Oct. 2 in New York City at the 15th annual meeting of foreign ministers of the Group of 77.

The minister noted that transnational corporations in the North controlled the flow of technology which was crucial for economic growth and development in developing countries. "Knowledge is becoming increasingly privatized and the South is being excluded. . . . They decide where to locate productive operations and on what terms they will provide services and transfer of technology, guided entirely by their worldwide corporate interests, which are often in conflict with the interests of developing countries."

Malaysia fully subscribed to the need to implement the Vienna Program of Action on Science and Technology for Development adopted in 1979, the minister said. He added that Malaysia would welcome the establishment of a U.N. financing system for science and technology for development as envisaged in the Vienna plan.

Health

Cholera discovered near Odessa

Ukrainian health authorities are on special alert after cholera broke out in the Odessa region. About 50 infected Ukrainians have been taken to hospitals, and dozens more are under close medical observation. Authorities are considering closing day-care centers and even schools, a measure recently taken in Moscow after a pattern of diarrheal infections among children appeared at the end of September.

The outbreak of cholera reflects poor health conditions and an undersupply of medicine, especially for the elderly, children, and infants, in large parts of the former Soviet Union.

Many pharmaceutical firms are either run down or were closed because of protests by radical environmentalist groups, on grounds that the chemicals used in producing medicines were toxic. Repeatedly over months, officials of various Soviet cities and republics have called on the West to donate medicine and medical technology.

Ecological Fascism

French writer blasts 'sustainable development'

A leading French writer has attacked the concept of "sustainable development," as advocated in the report *Our Common Future* of the Brundtland World Commission on Environment and Development. Writing in the daily *Libération*, Prof. Alfred Grosser of the Institute of Political Studies in Paris said that for "this grand ecologist business," the concept of "sustainable development" has been chosen as only the latest of several attempts in the past 30 years to come up with an all-encompassing "paradisiac version of what relations between human beings should be."

But, asked Grosser, why are such ideas needed when the human race has developed perfectly good ideas, common to the Enlightenment and Christian traditions, of justice, liberty, and truth? These values may have been often violated, but they nonetheless maintain

one common aspect: "They place mankind above the rest," whereas ecologism "places the earth, nature, at least, on an equal footing with mankind. I am against this. To defend the environment against the polluters, I don't need a new value. I just have to respect other humans, those of today, those of tomorrow." He said that what matters is "human resources," not "nature in and of itself."

Finally, he warned, there is a short path from ecologist nature worship to the ideas of Adolf Hitler. "Neither Marx nor Tarzan" is the title of his commentary—Tarzan referring to those who would elevate "Nature" and "Forest" over the belief in the grandeur of man.

AIDS

Mexico announces new detection method

Mexican officials announced Oct. 1 that "researchers have discovered a low-cost method of detecting the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) virus through human saliva, which is nearly 100% effective. A statement from the state-run Mexican Social Security Institute said tests using the method had been used on 1,000 AIDS-infected people in Mexico, the United States, and Malaysia, and had proven 99.8% accurate.

The saliva method of detecting the AIDS virus is faster and less expensive than traditional blood tests. Results of the saliva test are available within 30 minutes, the statement said. It added that the chemical agent used in the tests, dubbed Immuno-Punto, was "totally Mexican and its discovery puts our country in the forefront of the search for new methods of diagnosing AIDS."

Usury

Chevènement attacks IMF policy

Jean-Pierre Chevènement, who resigned from his post as French minister of defense in protest against the Gulf war, asked a radio interviewer Oct. 1, "What is democracy worth without de-

velopment?" He was commenting on the coup in Haiti on the RTL radio station. He added that as long as International Monetary Fund policy does not allow the necessary economic development of Third World countries, there is no point being euphoric about democracy.

The former minister gave the example of the 60% fall of the cocoa price, in order to show that, under such international policies in respect to raw materials, the poor countries have no chance for development.

'Free Enterprise'

Romanian intelligence chief hits 'free market'

Attacks by the head of the Romanian secret service on "free market" economics created an uproar at the national parliament in Bucharest in late September. Virgil Magureanu charged the cabinet of ousted Prime Minister Petre Roman with having ruined the country and provoking the miners riots by an exclusively market-oriented economic policy. Consumer price liberalization and an inflation rate of above 200% were leading to a situation that could result in a broad revolt of the population, the secret service boss warned.

Magureanu said that not only economic policy had to be changed, but new people had to be at the top of government who understood the dangerousness of the situation, which he characterized as "driving at an uncontrollable speed towards the bottom of economic catastrophe." He also warned that his agency had picked up evidence that the miners' protest was but the prelude to an outburst of mass violence throughout the country, because "the discontent of the masses in the factories of the capital and other parts of the country is spreading."

Infrastructure

Schmidt says east needs large-scale program

Former German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt said the development of large-scale infrastructure projects is needed in eastern and central

Europe, in a televised discussion on the ZDF station Oct. 3. Schmidt appeared with Interior Minister Wolfgang Schauebele and Countess Marion von Doenhoff, publisher of the Hamburg weekly *Die Zeit*.

Schmidt said it was correct for the Kohl government to have brought the *deutschemark* into eastern Germany and to have moved quickly for unification. However, bringing the "free market" to eastern Germany created problems, especially as the products produced there no longer had markets in the West, where eastern German goods are not competitive, nor in the East, given the collapse of the Soviet markets. This brought about massive unemployment.

Under such conditions, Schmidt insisted, what should have been done, but wasn't, was to have employed these workers in a productive way in large-scale infrastructure programs, in transport, communications, railways, water, and energy. He said it was absurd to call on western businessmen to go into eastern Germany if the communications networks there are not built up with the aid of sophisticated satellite technologies.

Population

Iran announces drive to reduce birth rate

The Islamic Republic of Iran announced that Iran plans to set up its policy of reducing the Iranian birthrate. Health Ministry family planning director Dr. Hamid Assadpour, in comments to the Iranian News Agency on Sept. 24, said, "Iran has plans to reduce its population growth rate of 3.2% per year to 2.9% in 1993-94."

The reason, Dr. Assadpour said, is that "the 12 million farms in Iran produce food for only half of the country's 60 million population which means food for the other half has to be imported."

Assadpour blamed Iran's population growth on "illiteracy, public ignorance of the threat of a population explosion, and the scarcity of birth control devices." Many Islamic schools of thought consider birth control to be objectionable on religious grounds.

Briefly

● **A CONFERENCE** on Lyndon LaRouche's Paris-Berlin-Vienna "Productive Triangle" program to make Europe the industrial engine for a world economic recovery, will be held in Berlin under the sponsorship of the Schiller Institute Nov. 22-23.

● **MIKHAIL GORBACHOV** and International Monetary Fund director Michel Camdessus met Oct. 5 in Moscow, and signed a formal agreement whereby the "U.S.S.R." will have associate status with the IMF. According to Radio Moscow, Camdessus stated that with such status, the U.S.S.R. could "count on large-scale aid for economic reform."

● **BRAZIL** will create a "Sustainable Development Foundation" the Oct. 4 *O Globo* reported. With the financial support of 29 companies, each of which will contribute \$100,000, the foundation will be presided over by Israel Klabin, whose brother Roberto is the president of the Council on the Environment of the U.S.-Brazil Chamber of Commerce.

● **POLAND**, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia signed an agreement as a first step toward an Eastern European Economic Community, at a special government summit in Krakow, Poland, Oct. 4-5.

● **BANKRUPTCIES** in Great Britain topped last year's by 71% during the first nine months of this year, with 33,500 cases reported. The weekly bankruptcy rate is 930, as compared with 545 at the end of September last year, according to a new study compiled by Dun and Bradstreet.

● **THE WORLD BANK** has indefinitely postponed a decision on whether to make a loan to Thailand for the Pak Mun Dam, a hydroelectric project, the Bangkok press reports. The bank put the brakes on the project after a report by the U.S. Agency for International Development cited flawed environmental impact studies. Thailand is reportedly determined to go through with the project.