U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, long viewed by the Soviets as a friend of detente, has come under cautious attack, for his statements in an interview in Business Week magazine, which mooted the possibility of U.S. military intervention in the Mideast if the oil-producing countries hike the price of oil. The Soviet news agency, Tass, reviewed international censure of Kissinger's remarks, which is standard procedure to express Soviet reactions when the official position is still in flux. The article included a statement from the West German paper Frankfurter Rundschau that responsibility for the oil-supply problems of Western Europe lies not with the Arabs but with "the oil magnates who control the oil market from New York and New Jersey."

The Soviets are pulling their punches as yet stopping short of naming the supranational Rockefeller cabal. The powerful "unpredictability factor" of the Western Communist Parties and the USSR would be greatly multiplied by Soviet exposure of the Rockefellers. Otherwise, they are left with bluster typified by the Russian commentator who, contemplating the restrictive ceiling on U.S. credits to his country, mistakenly asserted that the USSR will "go elsewhere" for credit.

CHRYSLER STARTS DUMPING AUTOS IN DEPRESSION PRICE DEFLATION

NEW YORK, N.Y., Jan. 8 (IPS)--This weekend, Chrysler will begin unloading its stocks of unsold automobiles. Chrysler will advertise $200 to $400 price rebates to customers who buy cars and trucks over the next several weeks. Commentators are not surprised that Chrysler, the No. 3 auto maker, which has been having the biggest problem with inventories of unsold cars, is liquidating. The question is will No. 1 and No. 2 follow?

Until the Chrysler move, Detroit had been firmly holding onto the higher 1975 model prices set in the fall. However, the continued plunge in new car sales of 34 per cent in November and 26 per cent in December below 1973, energy-crisis-depressed car sales plus Chrysler's worsening financial position (possibly with a little shove from the banks that last month extended it a credit line) convinced the corporation to start dumping cars to raise cash.

This price cut is the first major sign of price deflation--a general auction of capitalist assets--in this depression. Until now manufacturers and retailers have continued to refinance stock of semi-finished and finished goods through bank loans and have maintained wholesale and retail prices on these stocks. However, if credit is turned off to them this month, they will begin dumping their inventories to raise cash.

Besides bank loans, companies have been raising cash to pay their debts through production cuts and layoffs, thus postponing goods based on those materials falters. Meanwhile the wholesale and retail prices of finished goods have been holding up thus far.

In the consumer goods sector the price of cotton, wool, and man-made fibers has been declining sharply, while wholesale and retail prices of apparel have been holding up. The accelerating decline in the price of grains on the commodity exchanges has just begun to show up in the wholesale price of cereals and bakery goods.

Workers and their wives who might look to this deflationary trend as a future saving are sadly mistaken. Such mass dumping is only a prelude to cutting off production itself; without expanded production the largest decline will continue to be in workers' incomes.

ENERGY PROJECTS ON THE ROCKS

Jan. 8 (IPS)--Within the last ten days, most of the major labor-intensive energy redevelopment projects that Rockefeller counted on to hold together his new economic order have fallen through. The latest of these collapsing dominoes is the much-touted Athabasca Oil Sands project, which covers over 19,000 square miles in Alberta, Canada.

"Rising costs and uncertainty regarding the business terms to be granted and the crude oil pricing policies of the respective governments involved" were the official reasons cited by Atlantic Richfield and Shell Oil when they packed up and left the Athabasca site. In plainer terms, this means that the current price of oil is too low to guarantee them a profitable investment in such a grandiose scheme, a problem that is a direct consequence of Rockefeller's failure to produce a major oil price hike through a renewed oil hoax.

Syncrude, the consortium planning to develop a 7,000 acre tract of the Athabasca oil sands, will lay off some of the 1,600 construction personnel "until the financial picture gets clearer." If no partners are found by Jan. 31, the entire project will be postponed or possibly abandoned altogether. Syncrude re-evaluated costs over the last six months and more than doubled the original $1 billion price tag.

If the London preparatory meeting is any indication, next week's International Monetary Fund Interim Committee meeting in Washington, D.C. will bring little in the way of financial relief for Athabasca. Under the present circumstances, Rockefeller forces need three times the currently available funds simply to salvage their critical investments. This rescue mission will postpone the crash long enough to enable Rockefeller to reconsolidate his forces for another crack at the energy redevelopment projects.