

Arab Cooperation

Arab oil-producing countries are playing a key role in the anti-dollar fight by making bilateral oil-for-technology deals to guarantee oil for Europe if the Rockefeller-controlled multinationals go ahead with threatened cut-offs. The oil-producers are also increasing their ties with African countries, with the goal of facilitating trade and development.

Radio Baghdad announced Dec. 8 that a meeting of both the Arab and African Chambers of Commerce will take place soon in Tripoli, Libya, to discuss the creation of a common Chamber of Commerce between the two sectors. According to Radio Baghdad, this will permit an increase in joint cooperation in economic and development matters. The creation of a \$200 million Arab Fund for African Development will also be discussed, as well as a fund of \$500 million for development projects. Simultaneously, an Iraq-Guinea treaty has been announced that increases ties and cooperation between the two countries.

Soviet, Cuban, and Indian Cooperation

The Soviets are forming strong economic relations with Angola to facilitate development. A 26-man

Comecon delegation is presently in Angola to set up a cooperation treaty similar to those which both Iraq and Mexico have with the Soviet Union.

Cuba has also just concluded more economic and technological cooperation agreements with Angola, on the occasion of the visit to Cuba by Angolan Prime Minister Lopo do Nascimento. Cuba will send more doctors, technicians, and qualified workers to train the necessary professional workers in Angola, in addition to helping build up rural equipment, light industry, and communications there.

Likewise India has been playing an active role in development and economic cooperation with Africa. Early this month a four-day meeting was held of all 14 Indian ambassadors to Africa, plus the ambassadors to India from Nigeria, Ghana, Senegal, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Guinea, and Zaire, with discussion concentrating on technological and economic aid for infrastructure. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi addressed the meeting, and asked for immediate blueprints for development so that work could begin right away. In addition, Nigeria has worked out a transport deal for oil with an Indian company, for the express purpose of allowing shipping of oil to Europe and India outside control by the multinationals.

ASIA

Japanese Elections A Blow to Miki, Ruling Party

Dec. 8 (NSIPS) — Japan's ruling conservative Liberal Democratic Party and its leader, Prime Minister Takeo Miki, suffered the worst defeat in LDP history in the general elections three days ago. For the first time the LDP failed to win a majority of the seats in the lower house of the Diet (parliament) and lost far more seats than expected.

The defeat has thrown the country into crisis, prompting calls for Miki's resignation to "take responsibility" for the defeat and a push for his replacement by former deputy prime minister Takeo Fukuda, the leader of the anti-Miki forces in the LDP and the arch-reactionary representative of Wall Street interests in Japan.

The blow to the LDP promises to prolong and worsen the political chaos which has prevailed since the Wall Street-inspired Lockheed scandal hit Japan almost a year ago. The LDP will retain the government, due to the entrance of nine elected "independents" into the party giving them a bare two seat majority in the Diet, but its power is severely weakened. This situation makes it extremely difficult for Japan to take strong steps toward an independent policy in collaboration with Europe and the developing countries for the creation of an anti-dollar new world economic order.

Results of Japanese Elections				
PARTY	SEATS		PERCENT	
	1976	1972	1976	1972
LIBERAL-DEMOCRAT	249	265	41.9	46.8
KOMEI	55	30	10.9	8.5
COMMUNIST	17	39	10.4	10.6
SOCIALIST	123	112	20.7	21.9
DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST	29	19	6.1	7.0
NEW LIBERAL CLUB	17	5	4.2	—
INDEPENDENTS	21	4	5.9	5.6
TOTAL	511	491	100	100

NOTE: This is the first time in post-war history that the LDP has received less than a majority of the Diet seats. Although nine "independents" have announced they are joining the LDP, giving the LDP a bare majority of 258 (250 needed), even that number is below the 271 level necessary to control the Diet committees.

Japanese Left Parties Face Post Election Shakeup

Dec. 11 (NSIPS) — The post-election crisis shaking Japan is not confined to the Liberal Democratic Party. On the Japanese left, a crisis of similar proportions is developing as the Japanese Socialist and Communist parties review their failure to gain from the conservative LDP's losses. In particular, the Communists, who lost more than half their seats in the parliament, must now seriously reassess their policies of the past decade in pursuit of a Japanese version of "Eurocommunism", the so-called "national road" to socialism in their country.

The central issue of debate on the left in Japan is the replacement of the single-party rule of the conservatives which has prevailed during the entire postwar period with the exception of a brief coalition government led by the Socialists in 1948. There are two basic alternatives which have been discussed: a united front of the Communists and Socialists; or a broad coalition, including other "moderate" parties, and possibly dissident conservative elements. The election results will now bring this debate to a heightened stage of struggle both within and between the left parties. The loss of a majority of the Diet (parliament) by the LDP, although temporarily solved by the addition of some "independents" to the conservative lineup, makes the question of an alternative government no longer an academic but an immediate political issue.

Neither the Communists nor the Socialists, who gained insignificantly in the elections despite their position as the major opposition party, can avoid the conclusion that their pursuit of a coalition at all costs and at the expense of the most fundamental principles has resulted not in their gain but in the gain of the right-wing anti-communist opposition parties, particularly the Bhuddist Komei and Democratic Socialist parties. The Communists, led by their chairman Kenji Miyamoto, responded to a Socialist proposal for a coalition government made during the election campaign by first balking at an alliance with the avowedly anti-communist parties and then offering to join any such coalition so long as it was vaguely committed to the "peoples welfare" and preserving "democracy". Even the insistence that such a coalition have as a fundamental principle of agreement the abrogation of the NATO-type U.S.-Japan Security Treaty alliance, for years the baseline of "leftism" in Japan, was dropped in the hurried rush to prove their "respectability". The irony of this agreement is that the Komei and DSP are avowed enemies of the Communists, have led McCarthyite slander campaigns against them in recent months, and consistently refused to join any coalition with them.

The Socialist Party Split

Both the Communists and the right-wing parties have focused their attentions on the wooing of the major party, the Socialists. The JSP is profoundly split, divided into at least five major factions, and has been paralyzed for fear of making that split formal, something which has occurred in the past when the SP broke up into "Left Socialists" and "Right Socialists" in the early 1950s, then

reunited and were split again when the DSP was formed in the early 1960s as a right-wing CIA created splinter formation.

The split is in fact unavoidable. The leadership of the party, Chairman Narita and Secretary General Ishibashi, have defacto led the party into the right-wing camp while covering that decision up with centrist games of offers to the Communists to join an impossible all-party opposition coalition. The Socialist leadership's program is increasingly an abandonment of traditional left themes in favor of zero-growth austerity, clothed as a transition from a "growth" society to a "welfare society" and including support for massive deficit spending by the government financed by sales of debt creating bonds. This is already close to the fascist corporativism of the so-called Society to Think About a New Japan, an alliance of the Komei, DSP, and right-wing Socialist, whose announced program for Japan is a Swedish-way "civic socialism" complete with deindustrialization, decentralization — community control, and anti-progress policies.

At the center of this is the fundamental issue of the Japanese alliance with U.S. imperialism, its role as a military outpost against the Soviet Union and the socialist camp in the Far East. Increasingly the right-wing opposition has sought to put forward formulas to back the maintenance of the alliance — now even the Socialists, who always called for the end of the alliance and the "neutralization" of Japan, are going this way. Secretary General Ishibashi, a suspicious character known to maintain regular liaison with U.S. Embassy officials in Tokyo, will visit the U.S. in February to discuss the issue and no doubt to follow up the contacts made last year by right-wing Socialist leader Eda Saburo (member of the New Japan grouping) who held talks with the highest circles of the Eastern Establishment — including the Brookings Institution, the New York Council on Foreign Relations, and the Rockefeller-founded and controlled Japan Society of New York.

These elements in the SP face fierce though sometimes unsophisticated opposition from the major left-wing faction, the Socialism Society (Shakaishugi Kyokai) which though hardly represented in the party's parliamentary delegation, controls a major portion of the actual party machine, which is based almost entirely on the major left trade union federation, Sohyo. Kyokai, while feuding constantly with the Communists over who is more "Marxist-Leninist" (although the CP of late no longer wishes to be identified as such), favor a CP-SP United Front, have sharply attacked the right-wing factions of the party, and internationally support the Soviet Union and the socialist countries, opposing the Maoist and "neutralist" elements in the SP leadership. Their position will be strengthened by the election results — added to by the incredible loss of their Diet seats by the leaders of three of the major SP factions, right-winger Eda Saburo, centrist Katsumata (Ishibashi's faction) and Maoist "leftist" Sasaki. Provided the Kyokai overcomes its fear of the Communists, and goes beyond its pronounced tendency for syndicalist trade union militancy over politics, and most important is prepared to split the SP itself, some far reaching changes are afoot.

The Communists also face profound choices. While following the Miyamoto line of making themselves "lovable" seemed to have won the CP dramatic gains over the past years, increasing their Diet seats from 4 in the late 1960s to 39 and over 10 per cent of the vote in 1972, such dubious gains must now be cast into doubt. The CP loss was not as dramatic as it seemed however — they received almost the same vote percentage but lost seats due to the peculiar Japanese election system which allows a kind of built in fraud. Japanese election districts have multi-seat constituencies, ranging up to five or six seats, but the voter only writes one name on the ballot, thus allowing for de facto cooperation between parties not to run against each other in certain areas so as not to "split" the opposition vote. The CP found itself running against not only the conservatives but also the right-wing opposition which has set up cooperation agreements including the Socialists in many areas.

With even this proviso however, the CP is in for a fight. While there are no clear factional lines inside the tightly run party, observers have noted growing evidence of a more militant and "internationalist" tendency that seems to be more associated with party Secretary General Tetsuo Fuwa than Miyamoto. Evidence for this is found in recent moves to end the longtime hostility between the JCP and the Soviet Communist Party, moves resulting in the decision to send a delegate now on its way to Moscow led by Politburo member Tomio Nishizawa to hold talks on "normalization" of relations between the two parties. In addition Fuwa will head the JCP delegation to Hanoi this coming week for the party congress of the Vietnamese Workers party, with whom they have close relations, and a good location for talks with other communist leaders. Fuwa will go on from Hanoi to Italy for talks there with the PCI where it could stand to learn some valuable lessons on how to function as an ally of anti-Atlanticist and pro-development capitalist elements.

U.S. Plans to Revive SEATO Meeting Trouble

Dec. 7 (NSIPS) — The Philippine government of Ferdinand Marcos has effectively charged U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger with attempting to "pressure" the Philippines into signing an agreement to maintain the extensive United States military installations in that country. In New York, Philippines Foreign Secretary Carlos Romolo confirmed reports that he had met with Kissinger in Mexico and discussed the negotiations for bases which have been going on for several months. Romolo then stated, "There was never an agreement" as alleged in the U.S. press. Romolo charged that "this seemed an effort to pressure us into signing an agreement." Kissinger reportedly offered Romolo \$1 billion in military and economic aid to maintain Subic Bay naval base and Clark air base, two of the largest U.S. military installations on foreign soil.

In the Philippines, as government spokesmen two days ago told the press that the government not only disavowed reports that it had come to an agreement on a new treaty on the U.S. bases, but the Philippines continues to demand national sovereignty over the bases if they are to remain in Philippine territory.

Pressure to maintain the U.S.' bases in the Philippines is part of broader plans by the U.S. to revive and expand the Southeast Asian Treaty Organization (SEATO), the defense pact which was useful in the U.S. war in Vietnam in the 1960s.

In a press conference Dec. 1, Thailand's prime minister Thanin Kraivichien, who came to power during the Oct. coup, called for the formation of a military alliance that would include the states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Singapore. Thanin had reportedly made this proposal to the leaders of Singapore and Malaysia whom he visited last week and is expected to repeat the proposal when he visits Indonesia and the Philippines.

Thai interior minister Samak Sudaravej charged that Vietnam was "looking for a chance to invade us (Thailand—ed.) on D-Day, Feb. 15." The charge, for

which no grounds were cited, went on to accuse the Vietnamese of trying to induce Vietnamese refugees living in Thailand to fight among themselves, put the blame on Thailand, and send its forces to help.

Thailand's defense minister Admiral Chaloryu announced that the government would be seeking \$1 billion in loans to purchase sophisticated weaponry to combat the "threat" posed by the neighboring communist states of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. In addition, plans have been made for the building of a weapons factory and a \$275 million naval shipyard with U.S. aid. According to the Dec. 3 issue of *Far Eastern Economic Review*, the shipyard will be capable of building small, fast guided-missile cruisers.

Various pro-development countries throughout the region, such as Indonesia and Malaysia, have made it clear that they will not tolerate regional militarization. Indonesian Foreign Minister Adam Malik stated in a Jakarta press conference, "There can be no question of and no need for transforming the already existing bilateral cooperation in military affairs into a joint military pact." In a reiteration of the Indonesian government's policy of detente with Vietnam, the government announced last month that it will actively aid Vietnam in acquiring Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries funds for its reconstruction efforts. Indonesia, which never belonged to SEATO, has also opposed expansion of the U.S. military base at Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean.

President Suharto of Indonesia and Prime Minister Hussein Onn of Malaysia, both of whom oppose Thailand's anti-Indochinese policies, are under attack by Lee Kuan Yew, Prime Minister of Singapore, a close U.S. ally who last week met privately with Thai Prime Minister Thanin. Lee is reportedly behind a series of anti-communist arrests directed at Prime Minister Onn's political allies, and is also "arranging" a meeting between Indonesian president Suharto and the Thai Prime Minister.