

# Economic Committee Votes Isolate U.S.; Can New Ambassador Save the U.S. Policy?

UNITED NATIONS, New York, Dec. 16 (NSIPS) — The United States found itself outvoted on three resolutions concerning the New International Economic Order here this week. The vote in the Economic Committee on easier terms for rescheduling of Third World debt was 92 to 1; to “accelerate the transfer of real resources to the developing countries,” 74 to 1; and a compromise resolution on the degree of developed countries’ cooperation so far drew a 105 to 1 vote against the United States policy.

The Eastern European countries abstained on the first two resolutions, but joined with the Group of 77 developing countries to express “deep concern and disappointment at the failure of the Conference on International Economic Cooperation to achieve any concrete results so far.” Most Western European countries abstained on all three resolutions, except for breaking of ranks by the Netherlands, Norway, and Sweden.

The European Common Market countries probably would have voted against the resolution on the CIEC, and against the debt resolution for a general solution to the debt crisis, participants say, except for last minute compromises by the Third World. In the resolution “Debt Problems of the Developing Countries” (printed in last week’s NSIPS weekly), the Third World sponsors removed a paragraph detailing how the debt should be rescheduled. They did not alter the basis of the resolution, however, which was that debt problems should be handled as a general, common problem rather than case by case.

Concerning the lack of progress at the Paris North-South talks, the Group of 77, led by Pakistan, agreed to change the language from a flat expression of regret that “the developed countries have yet to display the necessary political will” to a notation that this is the opinion of the developing countries. “That was the compromise that got that one through,” a Pakistani diplomat said.

In explanation of the U.S. vote against the resolution on debt, Reynold Riemer, the U.S. representative said: “The United States regrets that the delegations concerned felt it necessary to press the type of draft resolutions now before the Committee....Debt problems should be treated on a case-by-case basis in creditor clubs, in a spirit of international cooperation.” Riemer added, “The United States believes that the financing

problems of developing countries can only be addressed in the context of the overall financial situations faced by them, rather than by generalized measures such as across-the-board debt relief, debt moratorium, and the like.” The United States did not elaborate the difference between “overall” and “generalized” situations.

Another U.S. delegate, Ambassador Jacob Myerson, discerned that in the resolution on the lack of progress at the Paris talks, “Certain paragraphs could be taken to mean, not only that the United States was committed to the New International Economic Order, but that it was prepared to accept criticism for having failed to implement the measures referred to in the text.”

Several Western countries — Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Norway, the Netherlands, New Zealand, and Sweden, and Israel — voted in favor of two of the three resolutions which the U.S. voted against. Several of these countries abstained on the debt issue.

The French delegate commented, “I am surprised that so many developed countries were able to vote to take note of... allusions to the developed countries’ lack of political will. France could not accept such a judgment.”

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*The New Ambassador:* The United States has got a plan to reverse all this isolation and opprobrium, however. They commissioned a study from the Ford, Rockefeller, and Carnegie Foundations, the Institute for Policy Studies, and the Harvard Center for International Affairs and found out that they were losing all these General Assembly votes because most of the new nations are black and brown. So the new Ambassador from the United States will be a black, Andrew Young. The State Department told the New York Post this week, “This will set the Third World delegates back on their heels.” William Scranton, the Pennsylvanian leaving the Ambassador’s post, added: “Andrew Young will be terrific — just what the doctor ordered for our problems at the United Nations. I am especially pleased as to what this means for our relationships with Africa as well as elsewhere.”

The African countries are not likely to be fooled, however. In fact, the U.S. already has one black representative in its U.N. delegation, Robert Kitchen,

who serves on the economic committee. Thus he is known as one of the least cooperative of the U.S.'s corps of insulters. Kitchen was seen in the delegates' lounge the other day bellied up to the bar. When asked about the U. S.' isolation in the vote, he blustered: "The New World Economic Order? Do you know what that means? We would have to admit that countries have the right to

expropriate our corporate investments without compensation. How would you like someone to do that with your savings? What if some country didn't pay back its debts? Who would insure your savings? Anyway, no country is really asking for debt moratorium — just the Chads and Upper Voltas of this world and they have legitimate grievances we are negotiating on."

## EUROPE

# Schmidt Launches New Government with Commitment to International Economic Cooperation and Peace

Dec. 16 (NSIPS) — West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt's opening government address before Parliament today announces a fundamental shift in the nation's foreign policy commitments. The priority issue which Schmidt will commit himself to internationally is the success of peace and disarmament, to be achieved through international economic cooperation with Third World, oil producing, Common Market and Soviet Bloc forces. The Federal Republic's long-standing commitment to the Atlantic Alliance and NATO were discussed by Schmidt as a solely complementary feature to a program for world peace. "The West German Army," he stated, "is an army for defense; it cannot and will not be an army of attack."

To put emphasis on the leading role of international economic cooperation in promoting peace and security, Schmidt endorsed the section of the August Colombo resolutions published by the 85-nation Non-Aligned Group calling for disarmament. Stating that "the Federal Republic recognizes that great efforts must be made in the matter of the North-South gap," Schmidt called up the Soviet Union to play a larger role in economically developing Third World nations. He praised the quadrupling of Soviet-West German trade since 1972, adding that a further expansion will be possible following the summer visit of Soviet Party Chief Brezhnev to Bonn.

Schmidt's government declaration constitutes a serious defeat for the Atlanticist and Kissingerian forces grouped around the Federal Republic's Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher. Apprised of the thrust of Schmidt's declaration days ago, Genscher and his allies around Social Democratic Party chairman Willy Brandt unleashed a wide array of attempts to destabilize Schmidt and sabotage his re-election by the Federal Parliamentary deputies at the Dec. 15 vote. Although Schmidt was indeed re-elected by a two-vote majority yesterday, two major events had put his re-election into question:

— On Dec. 13, right-wing Atlanticists in the opposition Christian Union parties reconstituted a parliamentary voting bloc which had been officially split three weeks

ago. In a series of compromise bargaining sessions, Christian Democratic Chairman Helmut Kohl and Christian Social Union Chairman Franz Josef Strauss re-established the Union coalition around a program to "halt Schmidt." The move was to block an invitation from Schmidt to key, pro-development spokesmen from the more moderate Christian Democratic Union to enter his government.

— Simultaneously, leaks were issued to the press revealing that Schmidt intended to cancel a pension increase promised during the election campaign. The well-timed announcement unleashed a wave of protest in the SPD party apparatus, forcing Schmidt to 'back down,' and suffer his first major political embarrassment.

The limited success of these two attacks is partially attributable to the behind the scenes consolidation of personal political power which Schmidt has effected recently. Prior to his government declaration a few major cabinet changes greatly diminished the powers of Kissinger's West German cohort, Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher. The appointment of Hans Juergen Wischnewski — formerly state secretary under Genscher — to Special Minister in the Chancellor's office is exemplary. Venezuelan press sources say Wischnewski will function as special ambassador to all Third World countries.

## Fundamental Change In West Germany's Foreign Policy

*Dec. 17 — The following quotations and paraphrases are taken from West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt's policy declaration, delivered to the Bundestag Dec. 16, 1976.*

### *Foreign Policy*

*General.* The détente policy begun in 1969 will be continued, and will be expanded by a growing partnership with the Third World. "It is crucial for peace