The Line-Up On The Eve Of The Bonn Summit



As the Bonn Summit approaches, international forces on both sides of the development debate are taking a stand on what kind of forum Bonn is to be.

The July 16-17 meeting in the capital of West Germany continues a series of meetings bringing together the heads of government of the seven leading industrialized noncommunist nations, to discuss pressing economic and political issues with the purpose of coordinating policy — wherever possible. The participating nations include the United States, Great Britain, West Germany, France, Italy, Japan and Canada. The last meeting took place in London in July, 1977, and was widely considered as Jimmy Carter's debut among the industrialized nations.

Under the leadership of the governments of West Germany, France, and Japan, which have coordinated their preparations with the USSR, and such developing sector leaders as Saudi Arabia and Mexico, an agenda has been prepared for the mid-July conference which includes the following major policy items:

- 1) supporting the U.S. dollar by investing surplus dollars in high-technology industrial development projects;
- 2) expanding nuclear fission as a global energy source and rapidly achieving commercial application of thermonuclear fusion as the power source of the future;
- 3) implementing capital-intensive regional development plans as the solution to dangerous conflict spots in Africa and the Middle East;
- 4) replacing the International Monetary Fund and World Bank as the dominant international credit institutions, with new institutions which will finance economic development rather than merely collect debt.

This is the agenda which Jimmy Carter will confront in Bonn. Here we present a survey of some of the specific proposals, organizing, and counterorganizing underway on the eve of the summit.

Schmidt Takes The Grand Design To Africa

West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt's June 26-29 trip to Nigeria and Zambia, the first visit to black African states ever by a West German Chancellor, is the best example yet of how Schmidt intends to organize a Grand Design for development among Third World nations.

At the Chancellor's historic May 6 meeting with Soviet President Brezhnev in Bonn, the two men signed a 25-year economic cooperation pact that stressed that a nation's economic well-being is the key to preserving the peace. Both nations pledged to increase economic cooperation between their countries and the Third World. It is clear from the results of Schmidt's African visit he used his agreement with Brezhnev to develop West German ties to Africa.

Schmidt's accomplishments in Africa range from a nuclear cooperation treaty with Nigeria to support for Zambia against International Monetary Fund austerity conditions, items that are clearly designed to facilitate the increase in overall world trade.

Schmidt, however, is not using his African trip merely to flesh out his trade and peace agreement with Brezhnev. At the July 16 Economic Summit in Bonn, he will present the results of his African tour as concrete proof of the feasibility for Grand Design economic development between industrialized nations and the underdeveloped Third World.

Prince Fahd and Schmidt

Before departing for Nigeria, Schmidt held a reception for Saudi Arabian Prince Fahd in Bonn on June 26, highlighted by his speech on North-South relations. Fahd had purposefully arrived in Bonn before the July summit to give Saudi Arabian approval for Schmidt's plan to use OPEC oil wealth to purchase advanced technology from the West to industrialize the Third World. Schmidt's welcoming speech to Fahd shows how he viewed his task:

We stand today before the historic task of linking North and South, industrial countries and developing countries, as well as the oil countries, in a peaceful dialogue for long term cooperation. We want to contribute to the development of an