

4. Kissinger and the Brandt Commission

The Brandt Commission's role as the enforcer of Henry Kissinger's "development policies" is well known in the Third World. We reprint here portions of the profile of the Commission published by the influential Indian weekly New Wave. The article, by Leela Narayan, appeared in New Wave's Sept. 17, 1978 issue.

Under flimsy cover of a so-called Independent Commission on International Development Issues, World Bank President McNamara and Social Democrat Willy Brandt of West Germany are working hard to find the "final solution" to the debt and development crises facing the developing nations this decade. Brandt wanted to finish the job Henry Kissinger began in the earlier phase of the "North-South" dialogue between the developed and developing nations. The job is to force the third world to accept "case-by-case" deindustrialization and the imposition of World Bank-International Monetary Fund fascist dictatorship over both the advanced and developing nations.

The Brandt Commission, as it is known, was ostensibly constituted to promote a revived "North-South" dialogue. It is touted as a group of "well meaning independent" individuals who wish to bridge the gap between the demands of the Third World for a new international economic order and the position of the advanced capitalist countries.

Brandt, operating from Commission headquarters at Gymnich Castle in Geneva, and Kissinger, working from the offices of Aspen Institute in the U.S., closely coordinate the Commission's operations. The Commission members, who include Katherine Graham, publisher of the *Washington Post*, Peter Peterson of Wall Street's Kuhn Loeb banking house, Edward Heath of the British Conservative Party, and a hand-picked group of Third World leaders, have been deployed to divide developing nations and thus scuttle their just demands. Weakening the popular base of those Third World leaders as are committed to industrial and technological development figures high on the priority of their tasks. Brandt and Kissinger, who once trained their gun on India's Indira Gandhi, Pakistan's Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Guyana's Fred Williams and others, are determined in converting the Third World into so many replicas of Chile.

The proposal for the formation of the Brandt Commission, mooted by Robert McNamara, coincided with the collapse of the North-South dialogue in Paris, and the failure of the Conference on International Economic Cooperation (CIEC), in the spring of 1977 to reach an agreement on any substantial issue. As France's late President Pompidou and Mexico's former President Luis Echeverria had conceived it, the Paris dialogue was to be a forum to finalise plans

for transfer of technology from the advanced sector to the developing sector — the basis for new North-South cooperation to replace the looting relationships of the past. Henry Kissinger was and is dead set against the establishment of a new international economic order.

'Talking to death'

Kissinger's game, as the *New York Times* admitted in an unusual love for truth in June 1977, was to "talk them to death." The Brandt Commission now intends to talk the Third World into the grave. The spade-work Kissinger did is being expanded in two respects. Kissinger combined a strategy of dividing the developing nations into groups of "radicals," "moderates," and "conservatives" as a prelude to manipulating them and to formalising these synthetic divisions with proposals for "case-by-case" treatment of the issues that were then and are now at the centre of the North-South controversy: trade, raw materials and the massive accumulation of debt by developing nations to the World Bank and the private Eurodollar banks of London and New York.

Kissinger's genocide plan was embodied in two proposals — the formation of an International Resources Bank (IRB) and the so-called Common Fund for Commodities. The IRB was an unabashed proposal for multinational looting of Third World raw materials, designed to ensure repayment of the huge debt. It linked World Bank development funds and International Monetary Fund credits for rapid development of Third World nations' resources in primary metals and commodities. The Common Fund was a "Third World" version of the Kissinger-sponsored IRB scheme, sanitized through the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) after loudly proclaiming it as a grand cartel of Third World producer nations to get protected prices for their commodities. While the Third World was left to haggle over which raw materials would take it onto the Common Fund list, the World Bank and Kissinger shoved their anti-industrial debt collecting policies through an open door

Kissinger's evil influence over the policy-making for the Third World is clear again here. Each one of the formulas propagated through newspapers as a basis for North-South relations bears the imprint of his IRB scheme. Calls for a "basic-needs" or "minimum-needs" approach to Third World development are thinly disguised proposals for genocidal cuts in essential imports to the developing sector. In Kissinger's scheme, the advanced sector would maintain "orderly growth" while supplying the developing sector's "basic needs." This is a euphemism for the de-industrialisation and decapitalisation of Japan, the US and Western Europe. . . .

'Sudpolitik'

Based on this understanding of the Third World, the Commission's blueprint, due to be released next month, can be expected to stridently sell the following lines to the developing sector.

The World Bank's version of the interdependence of the North and the South. According to Brandt himself, who unashamedly uses straight World Bank terminology, this means "fulfilling the basic needs of all Third World countries, within the framework of orderly growth in both developing and industrialised countries . . . after *Ostpolitik* now *Sudpolitik*." The "basic needs" formula is mouthed by many Third World social democrats in terms of "appropriate technologies" and "orderly growth" in the developed nations. This is a frontal attack on all advanced nations, such as Japan, which are oriented towards

expanding world trade in a developing economy. To sell this fraud, Yugoslav commodities expert at the World Bank, Dragoslav Avramovic, has joined the Commission.

An anti-technology pro-disarmament stance. This attempt is to be heavily focussed with the UN special session on disarmament held in New York in May. Informed sources indicate that there is considerable pressure on key developing countries, such as India and Cuba, to take a "moral" position on disarmament by reducing their conventional arms.

Alternate energy development. The Brandt Commission will try to scuttle nuclear energy development programme in favour of solar energy, the first tied to a growing world economy, and the latter to the backward energy needs of village economies.

Appropriate technology at work A survey of seven villages

TASK	Dominican Republic	Ethiopia	Micronesia	Nepal	Niger
Planting	hand	hand	hand	hand	hand
Irrigating	electric pump	occasionally by gravity	none	none	hand (with scoops)
Harvesting	hand	hand	hand	hand	hand
Preserving	none	sun dry	copra in sun; fish salted or smoked; breadfruit buried	sun dry	sun dry
Drinking water	town pipes, water trucks	well, stream	run-off, well with bucket or pump	stream nearby	well
Lighting	electric, mainly kerosene lamp	kerosene, straw	kerosene, flashlight	pitch pine, rarely kerosene	kerosene
Hauling	cart, ox tractor	women, animals	hand, boat, hand-cart	porters	hand, animals
Fertilizing	N.A. *	none	N.A. *	manure, compost; chemical by hand	none

* Not available

Source: Overseas Development Council