

World Trade by Leif Johnson

Turning industrialists into militarists

A defense buildup on NATO's terms won't expand trade, but will impose a new level of "supranational" economic controls.

With the passage of the Roth-Nunn Amendment to the 1983 Defense Authorization Bill, and its signing by the President on Aug. 23, the United States has sanctioned the conversion of the industrial base of the West into a war machine run by the NATO high command.

The Roth-Nunn Amendment authorizes the President to negotiate with the 13 NATO nations to carry out the following:

1) "To pool their defense efforts and resources to create, at reasonable costs, a credible collective conventional force for the defense of the North Atlantic Treaty areas;

2) "to establish a cooperative defense-industrial effort with Western Europe and between Western Europe and North America . . . ;

3) "to share, equitably and efficiently, the financial burdens as well as the economic benefits, including jobs, technology, and trade, of NATO defense;

4) "to begin negotiations promptly to establish the strategies, structures, policies, and programs to give full effect to the agreements described in clauses 1) through 3)."

The amendment is a culmination of a 10-year effort by NATO agents and proponents in and around government to attach the entire industrial base of the West to a NATO war machine aligned both as a conventional-forces spearhead against the Soviets and a vehicle for "out-of-area" deployments in the Middle East, Central America, the Far East and Africa to

fight a multitude of depopulation wars.

Readers will recall the warning against the "military-industrial complex" by President Eisenhower, no enemy of the military or industry, in his speech on leaving office in 1961. The specific cabal he was referring to had emerged during the Korean war, when it attempted to use the United Nations as a unified Western command.

The timing of the Roth-Nunn amendment is crucial. The financial controllers of the NATO parent body, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) having plunged the West into depression, conducted trade war against European NATO member industries through the U.S. Departments of Commerce and State, and enabled the British to conduct the first "out-of-area" deployment with forces assigned to NATO, now entice nations and manufacturers with the possibility of military orders.

Speaking when the amendment was introduced on May 13, 1982, Sen. John Tower (D-Tex.) said, "If we are going to preserve in the various European capitals a political climate which supports increased defense spending . . . we are going to have to be willing to make some purchases from these countries."

The cost of what the amendment calls the "economic benefits, including jobs, technology, and trade," are the following:

1) A yearly growth in military outlays of each NATO member of 3 per-

cent in real terms, which under depression conditions will further burden national economies;

2) The increasing use of the nations' industries for NATO rearmament instead of civilian production;

3) The loss of national military sovereignty as each nation makes specialized contributions to the overall NATO force and gives up the capability to fully deploy its armed forces for its own purposes;

4) The ultimate deployment of NATO forces, which means war which each nation has no ability to forestall or disengage from.

According to a top former NATO procurement official in Washington, "the Germans won't like this at first, but they will come to soon see the advantages. After all their unemployment is 7 percent, an all-time high for the Federal Republic."

There are in fact indications that the Germans may accept a major role in the NATO conventional buildup in Europe. The June 21 report of the Commission for Long-Term Planning of German Armed Forces follows the arguments of the NATO agents that very sophisticated weaponry has become too expensive for one nation to sustain, and therefore NATO must develop and deploy such technologies on a supranational basis.

The report states: "Scarcity of resources and strict limitation of the Federal Armed Forces mission to defense requires us to adhere to the following principles: the application of particularly expensive peace technology must be restricted to combat-sensitive areas;

"Expenditure must be reduced by forming weapons families and using modular designs (i.e., NATO standardization);

"Collaboration with NATO allies is to be increased."