

Big seven meet to cut oil use

The Tokyo meeting emphasized coal and shale oil, and then nuclear energy as an alternative to oil. Solar energy and new technology were ignored.

By David Fleishman

TOKYO

CONFRONTED WITH IMPENDING crisis, the heads of the world's seven leading capitalist nations (U.S., Japan, Canada, Britain, France, West Germany, and Italy) met for two days last week in Tokyo. Amidst calls for unity and determination, their attempt to postpone as long as possible a substantial restructuring of the global economy produced only a compromise agreement on limiting oil imports.

President Jimmy Carter bowed to Japan's rising economic power and met separately in Tokyo with Prime Minister Ohira Masayoshi for three days prior to the summit. The two leaders tried to develop a joint approach to particular issues where differences between them and the four European countries were anticipated.

Pressing for their own advantage, the U.S. and Japan proposed limiting oil imports only until 1980, through a system of separate quotas for each importing country. The European Four, following guidelines established at an earlier Common Market summit in Strasbourg, demanded more meaningful, longer range restrictions and a more flexible shared import goal for the seven summit nations as a group.

Before approaching the difficult business at hand, all seven leaders quickly agreed to condemn "the tragic plight of refugees from Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia," as a threat to peace and stability in Asia. The seven summiteers called on the three Indochinese nations to "take urgent measures to see that human hardships and suffering are eliminated," ignoring their own 20-year effort to completely destroy Indochina's ability to feed itself and former president Nixon's pledge of reconstruction aid.

When the summit finally got down to business, the only question dealt with substantively was oil import limitations. There was no serious approach to the current daily global shortfall of 2 million barrels of oil, to restructuring domestic economies for more energy efficiency and productivity, to north-south relations, or to currency and trade issues.

The two summit heavies, Japan and the U.S., accepted the European Economic Community's desire for longer-range limitations, through 1985. Also, the EEC was allowed to set its import goal as a bloc, with each country's quota worked out at a special EEC forum. However, the Europeans were forced to pledge no increase of oil imports over their 1978 levels, between now and 1985.

Canada, facing a decline in domestic production, was permitted a 1 percent annual rise in its imports. The U.S. will be allowed to return to its 1977 import



French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing (left) and German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt talking before the Tokyo economic summit meeting began.

level, the highest of the last four years, while Japan will, by 1985, be importing 30 percent more oil than in 1979.

Alternatives to oil importation proposed in the summit's Tokyo declaration emphasize the U.S. focus on coal and shale oil, with a warning about the associated pollution problems. Later, a document presenting the Japanese government's view declared that, "without the expansion of nuclear generating capacity...economic growth and full employment will be hard to achieve." There is no mention of solar energy, and only one vague reference to "new technologies."

Regarding the growing demands of the

poorer developing nations for a new economic order, the second major summit issue, the declaration stresses the importance of north-south cooperation and concludes that a "good investment climate in developing countries will help the flow of foreign investment."

Economic writers for Japan's leading daily, *Asahi Shimbun*, believe that the summit's limited success in agreeing to slow the increase in oil imports may, at best, delay protectionist moves by each industrialized nation. But they predict that the summit's lack of serious attention to domestic measures may lead to even tougher OPEC demands. Another result

may be stronger anti-inflation policies at home in the industrial countries and a slowdown of their economies. This, in turn, would cause higher unemployment and greater social unrest.

When Japanese economists look at Jimmy Carter's dismal failure to enact his 1978 energy legislation in the country that has only 26 percent of the industrial west's population but accounts for 70 percent of its annual oil consumption, they see a gloomy omen for the future. The Tokyo summit came up with only a set of voluntary guidelines, which now must be implemented at home if they are to have any meaning at all. ■

Police turn out for summit

Tokyo was under occupation by more troops during the summit than when American GI's patrolled the streets and General Douglas A. MacArthur tried to recreate Japan in his own image. The overwhelming security measures in Tokyo contrasted sharply with the last summit, held in West Germany, where political terrorism was becoming almost a weekly event, and Bonn police took no more than the usual precautions.

In Tokyo, over 400,000 special riot police were mobilized to ensure that "the Japanese people would not be embarrassed" by uninvited guests. Government officials pointed out that Japan's radical leftist Red Army had not been heard from for years, a clear indication that trouble was brewing somewhere.

In response to this unseen threat, police required everyone living or working in downtown Tokyo to provide their name, address, phone number and photograph for a special pass to enter their places of business or homes. Churches in the area were called on to cancel all activities for the duration, to prevent undesirables from hiding in their midst.

All interchanges along the 250-mile Tokyo-Osaka freeway became check-points visited by plainclothes policemen, disrupting work and threatening reprisals for any disturbances during the summit. Foreigners arriving at Tokyo's new Narita Airport received courtesy calls from plainclothes security agents wherever they were staying the following day and questioned about their intended activities. *ITT's* correspondent was stopped on the street in Kyoto, over 200 miles from Tokyo, and searched by plainclothes police in honor of the summit.

During the summit itself, all traffic was banned from freeways within several miles of the appointed hotels, embassies, and meeting halls. Downtown office workers and residents, in addition to needing a pass, were allowed to enter or exit their buildings only once in the morning and once in the evening. All of this was accompanied by lavish media coverage of the pomp and circumstance of a world summit.

In Japan, where civil liberties were virtually unknown until they were imposed by MacArthur in 1945, there was

hardly any protest against the intrusion of questionable security measures into the lives of millions of citizens. While *Asahi Shimbun* likened the situation to that of Seoul before the imposition of martial law there, the only organized objection was a cry for compensation from downtown merchants whose stores were nearly inaccessible for two weeks.

Privately, however, many Japanese voiced a concern about the apparent over-reaction of the police establishment. One Tokyo taxi driver explained that since the end of the Narita Airport protests, the riot police have had nothing to do and needed to fabricate the summit more serious note, a staff member of the National Christian Council of Japan told *ITT* that the activation of 400,000 riot police, the curfew, and widespread identity checks may all be part of a dry run to test how far the government can go with such controls in the future. He pointed out that Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic party is essentially the same group of men who launched World War II in the Pacific and stridently suppressed all dissent. ■

IN SHORT



Brown pledges to stop Diablo Canyon plant

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CAL.—The largest anti-nuclear rally in California history was staged last weekend as part of a growing movement to prevent the licensing of the controversial Diablo Canyon nuclear reactor. An estimated 40,000 people jammed Highway 101 en route to the rally site at San Luis Obispo's National Guard headquarters, where the surprise speaker of the day was Governor Jerry Brown.

Brown decided just hours before the

demonstration to pledge to do everything in his power to stop the nuclear plant from operating. He gave no specifics, but this was his strongest anti-Diablo statement. Despite the fact that Brown had been booed at the May 6 Washington, D.C., demonstration for his waffling on nuclear energy in California, the governor received tumultuous applause.

Some 30 speakers and entertainers faced a crowd primarily from the area between San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara. It was a young group, but with a Southern California twist. Styrofoam beer chests abounded. Throughout much of the day, bronzed youths lounged in the sun on blankets and lawn chairs, languidly taking in the music and speeches.

Most participants were incensed about the idea of living alongside a nuclear reactor just two and a half miles from an active earthquake fault. One local man told *In These Times* that he and a number of his friends were asked by Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E), which owns the facility, to work at Diablo Canyon. They all refused.

"Before Three Mile Island," said Meg Simonds of the SLO Abalone Alliance, "most of these people were closet anti-nukers." Last year 5,000 people showed up at the Diablo Canyon demonstration.

The reactor is already completely constructed, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) decision on its licensing is not expected until early next year, pending a report on the Three Mile Island accident. For six of the 12 years that Diablo Canyon has been in the offing, the NRC and PG&E have been pushing the U.S. Geological Survey to approve the structure for seismic activity. USGS asked for structural changes, some of which PG&E made. But engineers point out that the Hogri fault offshore is capable of an earthquake three times greater than the plant is designed to withstand.

—Elaine Herscher

Environmentalists halt Nuke Plant

CHARLESTOWN, RHODE ISLAND—Anti-nuclear activists won a major victory in Rhode Island last week (June 20), when the federal General Services Administration (GSA) denied a utility the surplus federal land it sought for a nuclear power plant site. The ruling climaxes a decade-long struggle between environmental groups and the New England Power Co. (NEPCO), and has probably ended any chance of a nuke being built here.

NEPCO fought hard but became mired in its own mistakes. It went looking for an ocean site after the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) adopted a policy that precluded the utility's first site on Narragansett Bay. With secret state encouragement, the firm quietly set its sights on an unused naval airstrip adjoining a federal wildlife preserve on the Atlantic Ocean.

The Nixon-run GSA sold the Charlestown site to NEPCO in 1974, apparently violating agency rules. Environmentalists promptly sued, the sale was voided a year later and the GSA was ordered to invite applications from any group interested in obtaining the land.

The fight began to escalate NEPCO launched a public relations campaign while business and labor groups issued ringing endorsements. The state development agency voted to float \$400 million in tax-exempt bonds for the plant's anti-pollution equipment, but environmentalists sued and defeated it.

They knew the value of delay: many legal twists and environmental studies have stemmed from the suit filed in 1974. Meantime, the nuke fell more than four years behind schedule and its cost climbed from \$1.6 billion to nearly \$3 billion. Also, the federal agencies involved in this case are no longer run by Nixon-Ford appointees.

The coup de grace was Three Mile Is-

land: State officials began changing their tune and soon NEPCO suspended its license efforts, after having spent \$30 million on the project. A week later the GSA divided the land among the town of Charlestown, the EPA and the federal Fish and Wildlife Service.

NEPCO will appeal, but it seems very likely that nuclear power in Rhode Island has been dealt a blow from which it will never recover.

—Bill Solomon

Alabama prisoner commits suicide

HOLMAN STATION, ALA.—On June 17, 1979, John Hannett, a prisoner in the Segregated Unit of the Holman Prison in Alabama committed suicide by hanging himself in his cell because he was "driven from the rim of sanity by guard brutality, fear and unbearable prison conditions," according to Reverend Lee H. Ball, Alabama advocate of prison reform.

Ball called for a full investigation of Hannett's death and removal of prison guards guilty of beating inmates before more men are driven to suicide.

Alabama's prison system, often criticized for its inhumane conditions and already under a massive three-year-old federal court reform order is the same system in which John Louis Evans is awaiting execution.

Evans, rather than tolerate the prison's conditions told his attorneys to halt their efforts to stay his execution so that he could die.

—Laura Cianci

Electrical workers get 30 percent increase

NEW YORK—Delegates from the International Union of Electrical Workers have approved a new three-year contract with General Electric Co. covering that company's 120,000 workers. The contract, which is expected to set the standards for other negotiations in the elec-

tronics industry, contained several significant improvements, including substantial wage increases, a dental care program, reduced retirement age (from 62 to 60) and increased pensions.

The Wage and Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) increases of \$2 an hour represent a 30 percent pay increase over the life of the contract. Union negotiators won a .2 percent pay adjustment for every point the cost of living rises, to be paid twice a year. In addition, the new COLA provision eliminates inflation caps and corridors (gaps in coverage) of the old contract that allowed workers' real income to decline.

IUE officials estimate that the new contract's wage and benefits package

worked out to a 40 percent increase over the previous pact period. However, they are not making a big play over this accomplishment, which far exceeds the Carter wage guidelines.

"We don't want to wave any red flags in front of the government," said one union official. "If Carter wants to check the percentage, he can."

The second major round of contract talks in the electronics industry are under way at Westinghouse, where agreements covering 35,000 workers expired July 15. Negotiators with the 13-union industry-wide coordinated bargaining committee say chances for a strike there are more likely as management may well reject the GE-style terms.

—Josh Martin

POLITICKING

• Last April 10, Santa Monica, Ca. voters passed a strict rent control initiative. (ITT, April 18) In a June 26 election to select a five-person rent control board, three men and two women representing Santa Monicans for Renters Rights, the coalition that sponsored the initiative, won all the seats. They defeated a slate put up by the Santa Monica Civic Union and the Apartment Association. Commenting on the clean sweep, former Apartment Association president John Jureka said, "the inmates are running the institution."

• Minnesota's Democratic Farmer-Labor Party (DFL) was thrown for a loop last year when Republicans captured the governorship and both Senate seats and went from a 104-30 seat disadvantage in the State House to a 67-67 tie. In December, an abortive attempt was made to unseat DFL co-chairs Rick Scott and Claire Rumpel. But two by-elections June 19 showed that the DFL was back on its feet. In a heavily contested race, DFL candidate Frank Rodriguez won a St. Paul State House seat and gave the DFL a

majority. Rodriguez was the first Hispanic to win office in Minnesota. And DFL candidate Irving Stern took a State Senate seat in a normally Republican district.

• The California Campaign for Economic Democracy (CED) is pushing ahead with its plans for a national tour in the fall. The tour will promote economic democracy as the basis for a Democratic platform in 1980, but tour organizer Stephen Rivers acknowledged that its thrust will be "de facto anti-Carter." Speakers on the tour will include CED chair Tom Hayden, Jane Fonda, Farmworker president Cesar Chavez, Machinist head William Winpisinger, NOW president Elie Smeal, Ms. editor Gloria Steinem, and Berkeley U.S. Rep. Ron Dellums. The tour is scheduled to kick off Sept. 23 in New York City and to end in Los Angeles on Oct. 25.

• The Democratic Agenda, which helped lead the opposition to Carter at the mid-term convention of the Democratic Party in Memphis last December, is planning a pre-1980 conference for Washington on November 16, 17, and 18. The conference will undoubtedly attract many of those left Democrats seeking to draft Teddy or to encourage some other liberal alternative to Carter.

—John Judis