

Henry Kissinger's 'appropriate technology'

Environmentalism versus developing and industrial nations

In August of next year the United Nations will convene a special conference in Vienna on "Science and Technology for Development," a major international event which is already a factor in the policy planning of governments across the globe. Preliminary statements on science and technology policy, particularly as regards the task of development for and of the mass of humanity in what is called the developing sector, have already been submitted to the United Nations Secretariat charged with preparation of the conference.

While none of these documents are yet public, our sources reveal that the dominant emerging theme is a cry for "appropriate" (or in the language of the developing agencies, "intermediate") technology. This is not surprising — as we reveal in this report, an effort was mounted from the moment the UN General Assembly first decided on holding the conference to make sure that the transfer of *real* science and *real* technology to the developing sector never takes place.

The "appropriate technology" mafia that has moved to dominate all international discussion of development is led in this effort by none other than former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. While still officially holding that post (as opposed to his informal maintenance of that position in the present Administration), Kissinger organized to channel U.S. participation in and control over this conference and the events leading up to it along appropriate technology lines. Simultaneous to Kissinger's efforts within the government, a gaggle of Senators and Congressmen, with the late Senator Humphrey in the lead, began moving for a revision of our foreign aid legislation which dictated that all American aid be channeled into the same format.

The import of this fight on Capitol Hill should not be underestimated — at stake is whether the United States will be known as an industrial leader, the center

of science and technology in the world, or whether we will now say to the rest of the world that science, like God, is dead and our industrial progress is only a model for the environmentalist bogeys of pollution, waste, and technocracy.

Kissinger, Humphrey, and the rest in the U.S. here are merely the domestic wings of an international gang of "limits to growth" austerity advocates. The castle keep of these latter-day feudalists is the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank (otherwise known as the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development), headed up by Robert McNamara. Last year, the World Bank and McNamara created an "independent" commission of individuals under the direction of West German former Chancellor Willy Brandt to oversee their attempt to determine the content of relations between the developed and developing worlds, the "North-South dialogue."

The Brandt Commission, whose background and history is also examined below, is the most prominent agency of the deindustrialization strategy of the appropriate technology mafia. Just recently the Commission held a closed meeting in Tarrytown, N.Y. which was graced with a special presentation by Henry Kissinger, a *de facto* member of the group, described by Brandt as the man best qualified to know "how we can sell our proposals to the rest of the world."

The threat to the industrial nations

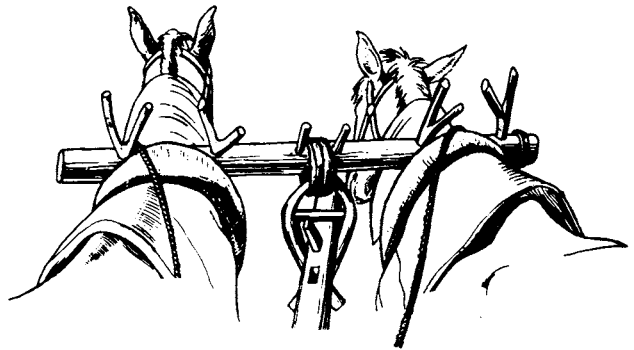
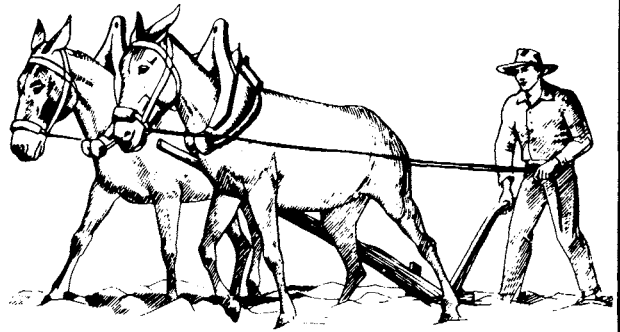
The efforts of the IMF, the World Bank, Kissinger, the Brandt Commission, and so on to force appropriate technology down the throats of the developing *and* the developed sectors are a necessary complement to their drive to halt European-centered moves to restore stability to the international monetary system.

The recent Brandt Commission meeting itself focused on this subject.

The new European Monetary System agreed on this summer in Bremen has a much greater aim than mere currency stabilization. What terrifies the Kissinger crowd and its political home base, Great Britain, is that the EMS strategy is the core of an international effort, to which the Saudis and other Arabs and the Japanese are linked, to create a credit market to fund long-term development projects in the Third World and to expand world trade with an emphasis on real technology-transfer to the developing sector. Expansion of East-West economic cooperation is also a primary aim.

The IMF and the friends of the IMF in London, New York, and the Grand Cayman Islands are determined to halt the EMS at all cost. The reason is simple: the EMS pulls the rug out from under the speculative money markets run by the Eurodollar financiers in London and elsewhere, the same financiers who have been running the campaign against the dollar. These mercantilists run the IMF as their debt-collection agency in both the developed and developing sectors. A Third World country desiring credit for the kind of industrial expansion that provides the markets for industrial producers in the U.S. and Europe is told by the IMF, on behalf of itself and the Eurodollar lenders, that such development is simply "not appropriate" to the higher requirements of debt servicing.

Therefore these barons of finance have funded and built up an immense propaganda campaign over the past decade or so with the Malthusian theme song of "limits to growth." In the interests of their austerity plans, the developing sector has been told it must seek only "labor-intensive" means of economic development, that it must abandon any hope of ever achieving advanced-sector levels of technology and what might be termed energy intensiveness. The



These diagrams are from a manual for developing nations published by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization in 1969. The introduction to the manual, titled "Farm Implements for Arid and tropical Regions," notes that "the use of power machinery can only be afforded where the farming system provides sufficient cash income to pay for it" Animal-drawn plows are the highest-technology implements offered in the booklet.



basic argument — that “fixed limits to resources” determine that the developing nations can’t develop (and we can’t expand world trade) — has been supplemented with the importation of the more spiritual” types of environmentalist antisience into the Third World.

Appropriate technology’s British godfather

The godfather of this new spiritual awakening is a (now thankfully deceased) British “economist” by the name of E.F. Schumacher, whose book *Small is Beautiful* is the bible of our environmentalists at home and the appropriate technology crowd worldwide. Schumacher was no wild-eyed hippy, but a top-level insider of British policymaking circles and the British Colonial Office (now known as the Overseas “Development” Ministry). This Oxford grad began in the 1940s with the Fabian Society, through which he involved himself with the planning for the creation of the postwar international monetary system. In his written wartime commentary on the IMF proposals of Lord Keynes and the U.S.’s Dexter White, he criticized even the British proposal for not going far enough in creating a transnational agency that would be outside the control of any sovereign government.

His concerns were centered on the U.S. He viewed the Keynes proposal as a compromise, what the U.S. could be manipulated into agreeing to given that (as he explicitly stated) the U.S. would never agree to the kind of grand raid on the U.S. Treasury that bankrupt Britain wanted to carry out at the end of the war. But Schumacher confidently predicted that within 25 years the system would collapse anyway, and then the British could again get what they wanted — control over the international monetary system.

This gentleman’s subsequent career carried

through many agencies, including involvement in the British occupation of Germany, but he dedicated the last 15 years or more of his life to eradicating America’s “edge” over Britain — namely science and technology. The author of the term “intermediate technology,” he was the founder of the “Intermediate Technologies Group” in England in the early 1960s, which together with the International Development Service, a Colonial Office institution based at Sussex University, was the initiating force behind the appropriate technologies crusade.

Its spread since has been wide and effective. Remember the *Whole Earth Catalogue*, that do-it-yourself guide for the rock-drug counterculture which would have us all building our own outhouses in the spirit of “getting it on with nature”?

In this report we also feature an extremely competent statement by the scientific authorities of the Fusion Energy Foundation on why appropriate technology simply doesn’t work, except as a method of mass murder. We leave it to the men and women of the American business community and labor movement to imagine for a moment what their economic future will look like in an appropriate technology world.

The vast markets for American capital goods, science, and technology that are potentially represented by a massive effort at the full-scale development of the developing nations is virtually unlimited — and the EMS and the efforts associated with it promise to provide the monetary and credit system to make that possible. What has been appropriate for America’s growth and development — the highest level of science and technology known in human history — is no less appropriate for the billions in the developing nations of the world.

— Daniel Sneider

1. The Kissingerians plan U.S. policy

In November 1976 Henry Kissinger, then Secretary of State, called together some 800 business, labor, and other private-sector leaders for a meeting to plan the U.S. role in developing the Third World, and to prepare for the 1979 UN “Science and Technology” Conference. The gathering took place only months after the Non-Aligned movement’s historic Colombo resolution calling for debt moratorium and high-technology development, which promised the final defeat of Kissinger’s International Resources Bank scheme to mortgage all developing nation’s economies for debt repayment, unless the Colombo current could be stamped out.

Among those at Kissinger’s meeting were a number of his most loyal cothinkers: Sterling Wortman of the Rockefeller Foundation, infamous for its disastrous Green Revolution policy; Orville Freeman, president

of Business International Corporation and, during his tenure as Secretary of Agriculture in the Kennedy Administration, responsible for shutting down U.S. food exports to the underdeveloped sector; G. William Miller, the asset-stripper head of Textron, who has since been installed as the head of the Federal Reserve; James P. Grant, president of the Overseas Development Council, which purveys the Kissinger-World Bank line among businessmen; and Frank Pace, Jr., president of International Executive Service Corporation.

Pace led off the meeting with a statement of purpose designed to make even “appropriate technology” sound good. “It is important to establish goals,” he said, “not for the purpose of intermediate or appropriate technology in the developing countries, not for the purpose of developing new high-level technology,