

Malthusians move to end nuclear sales

by Paul Gallagher

President Reagan's commitment to restore the United States as a "reliable supplier of nuclear technology" to the world, has been all talk so far. The administration's toleration of Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker's economic wrecking has destroyed demand for nuclear exports in nation after nation. With U.S. power plant exports dead, the administration has now been drawn, particularly since taking London's side in the Malvinas invasion, into using its nuclear fuel supply agreements to foul up nuclear programs like India's and Argentina's. In recent days a high-ranking State Department official characterized the Reagan policy as "essentially still following the Carter administration's example," one which made the U.S. notorious among pro-nuclear political strata worldwide.

Now Mexico, the most recent nation to have its nuclear plans wrecked by the Volcker policy, has rejected International Monetary Fund austerity and spurred a move toward international monetary reorganization, which could generate vast demand for nuclear power in the underdeveloped sector. Continuing their economic and political war against the nations of "the South," the hard-core anti-nuclear Harriman Democrats in Congress, and Henry Kissinger's friends in the administration, have set off a controlled "policy fight" aimed at *legally blocking all U.S. nuclear technology exports to the Third World no matter what real demand exists.*

The mid-September moves, centered in the Senate and House Foreign Relations and Foreign Affairs Committees and the State Department, had as their target the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, and U.S. treaty commitments under the International Atomic Energy Treaties of 1957 ("Euratom") and 1968. On the other side of the U.S. fight over national nuclear policy, this fall will also see an important test of the Atomic Energy Act in the U.S. Supreme Court, which could result in a constitutional reaffirmation of President Eisenhower's 30-year-old commitment to "provide electricity to the energy-starved regions of the world."

The DOE's "no-nukes" list

In the second week of September, a spate of articles in the *Washington Post* and *New York Times* reported that the administration is "making concessions" to moves in both the House and Senate Foreign Relations Committees, to pass

new non-proliferation legislation. On Sept. 11, Deputy Energy Secretary Kenneth Davis announced a list of 63 Third World countries which now require extraordinary U.S. approval to receive any U.S.-licensed nuclear technology, whether from the United States or from any third country. The list includes virtually every developing nation which is seeking nuclear power development and its application promises a futile new "Soviet gas pipeline"-like tangle between the United States, France, and Japan.

Three days later, Secretary of State George Shultz, in a personal press conference, upgraded the department's informal nuclear exports monitor, Richard T. Kennedy, into a full-time troubleshooter for nuclear non-proliferation, with liaison to the National Security Council.

The day after Shultz's press conference, the congressional Malthusian caucus, led by Sen. Alan Cranston (D-Cal.) and Reps. Richard Ottinger (D-N.Y.), Edward Markey (D-Mass.) and Jonathan Bingham (D-N.Y.), took action to ensure that U.S. nuclear exports will not be revived, even under conditions of increased developing sector demand.

On Sept. 15, Bingham introduced into the House Foreign Affairs Committee a bill, presented as amendments to the Atomic Energy Act, which would completely destroy that act and all U.S. nuclear technology exports. The amendments would: require special exceptions for exports of reprocessing and enrichment technologies to *anywhere*, even Europe and Japan; bar export of U.S.-enriched uranium except for research reactors (very small quantities); bar countries receiving even "non-critical" nuclear technologies from the United States from exporting reprocessing technology to third countries; and make all nuclear exports a national security matter, to be approved, co-equally and case-by-case, by the Secretaries of State and Defense.

The Bingham amendments would block U.S. nuclear exports even under conditions of economic recovery; the administration's "opposed" position, at least in the calculated moves of Kissinger-crony Shultz, would preserve only a nuclear trade with Europe (which would rather make everything itself anyway) and Japan hermetically sealed from the Third World, which does actually need the technology.

How the "freeze" movement is being used

A full scenario for pushing the duped "nuclear freeze" movement into a complete identification of atomic energy with nuclear bombs, in time for the November American elections, is being retailed by the one-year-old lobbying group, the Institute for Nuclear Control. The first objective of this campaign is to create a mass movement in support of the complete and permanent cessation of all U.S. nuclear exports to the developing sector.

The promotional literature of the Institute for Nuclear Control reveals that it was at first called The Nuclear Club, a play on the semi-secret Nuclear Club of Wall Street of the early 1970s, which passed U.S. atomic weapons secrets to Israel. The Institute features Senate "Three Mile Island in-

investigator" Paul Leventhal; top nuclear physics spook Ted Taylor of Princeton; and the Council on Foreign Relations' well-known expert on 14th century depopulation, Barbara Tuchman.

Its scenario was presented in detail in the September issue of *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, and in a Sept. 12 *New York Times Magazine* feature. The major objective is twofold: to portray the International Atomic Energy Agency as "powerless" to stop the rampant spread of nuclear weapons to new nations through civilian power programs; and to popularize the *British-initiated* slander that Argentina and India are about to become the plutonium-suppliers for a "new elite of nuclear nations outside the advanced sector."

Argentina is the prime target of attack of both the *Times* and *Bulletin* scenarios. The *Bulletin* slander, headlined "Falklands Fallout," claims Argentina is using the Malvinas War as a justification for its ambitions to develop atomic bombs for itself and Germany, and must be stopped; the *Times* article adds Brazil to the Argentine plot to nuke the world. It should be noted that the *Bulletin* author admits that the British deployed naval nuclear weapons massively around Argentina while the Malvinas crisis was in progress, a charge dismissed by so-called "peace movement" spokesmen like William Sloane Coffin to this magazine.

The stated purpose of the *Times* feature was a second wave of "nuclear freeze" movements, this time for "a complete end to the spread of atomic power." It is unencumbered by the truth in even the simplest facts of nuclear technologies, claiming, for example, that "every nuclear plant is a potential bomb factory." The *Bulletin* articles, written by those who know better, are preceded by a long interview with pollster and psychological warfare expert Louis Harris, who says: relations between the superpowers are deteriorating; the fear of nuclear war is now stamped on the mind of the public; now it can be manipulated into a blind identification of all nuclear power questions with nuclear weapons and "defense spending."

Resurrecting the Baruch Plan

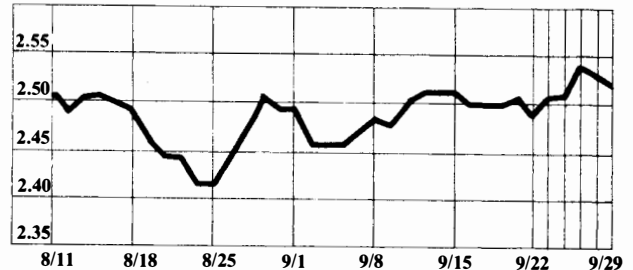
The anti-nuclear Bingham amendments themselves accomplish this, by formally merging national nuclear policy with defense policy, in a way specifically ruled out by the Atomic Energy Act itself. Defense/national security control of nuclear exports, and banning of fuel-cycle technologies to friendly nations, resurrect with precision the notorious "Baruch Plan." This was rejected by the world, and then dropped by the United States in 1947 as foreign policy. In the form of the 1946 "May-Johnson Bill" it was rejected as atomic power enabling legislation by Congress, due to overwhelming scientific opposition. The 1954 Atomic Energy Act, as passed, the 1957 Euratom agreement, and the International Atomic Energy Treaty, all explicitly reject both policies.

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Currency Rates

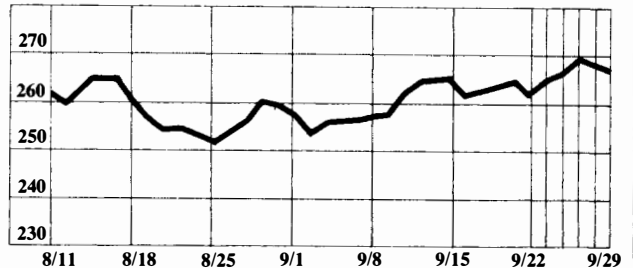
The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



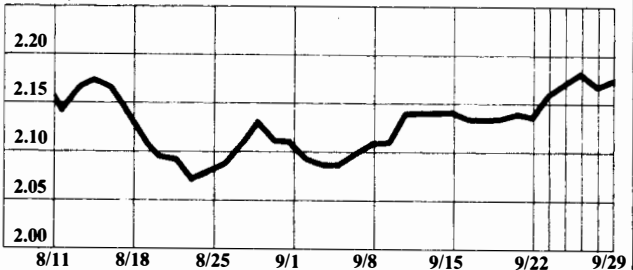
The dollar in yen

New York late afternoon fixing



The dollar in Swiss francs

New York late afternoon fixing



The British pound in dollars

New York late afternoon fixing

