

Are Kissinger and friends pushing Pacific Basin economic development?

by Linda de Hoyos

As part of his January whistle-stop tour of Asia, which took him to seven countries, Henry Kissinger did not fail to make an appearance in Bangkok, Thailand. Traveling on a plane from Singapore to Bangkok with Thai Foreign Minister Siddhi Savestila, Kissinger held a press conference during a short stopover at the Bangkok airport and met with Saburo Okita, the former Japanese foreign minister who is now a member of the consulting firm, Kissinger Associates.

Kissinger's publicized appearance in Bangkok served to put the imprimatur on a whole roster of conferences and seminars held in Thailand by colleagues of Kissinger who descended upon the country during the month of January. The subject of these operations was "Pacific Basin Economic Cooperation"—a euphemism for Kissinger's free enterprise concept of the destruction and looting of the ASEAN countries in coordination with Moscow.

- On Jan. 6-11, a conference was held in the northern Thai city Chiang Mai, sponsored by the Kissinger-allied Institute of East Asian Studies, Berkeley; the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Jakarta, which functions in association with Kissinger's own CSIS in Washington; and the Institute of Security and International Studies, Bangkok. Speakers included U.S. think tankers and representatives of the U.S. State Department, including Undersecretary of State for Asian and Pacific Affairs Paul Wolfowitz.

- From Jan. 12-14, many attendees from this conference moved south to Singapore, where Henry Kissinger and Singapore potentates held court for invited leaders of the ASEAN countries. This "gathering of old friends" included Indonesia's defense chief Benny Murdanni, Thai Foreign Minister Siddhi, Philippines Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile, Malaysian Education Minister Abdullah Bin Ahmad Badwai, and Indonesian Economics and Finance Minister Ali Wardhana.

- On Jan. 15, Kissinger arrived in Bangkok after a plane ride with Minister Siddhi, where he held his press conference at the Bangkok Airport.

- Jan. 15-16, a conference sponsored by the Honolulu-based Pacific Forum was held in Thailand with co-sponsorship from the Thai Foreign Ministry. The title of the confer-

ence was "Southeast Asia 1985-1995: Prosperity and Security."

The attendees at these conferences represent the same Anglo-American power establishment that imposed the November 17% devaluation on the Thai currency, the baht, through the International Monetary Fund and advisers from the Wharton School of Economics situated at the National Economic and Social Development Board. The devaluation begins the process of putting the Thai economy in the same barrel that has destroyed the economies of Ibero-America and now the Philippines.

The conference deployments are a significant upgrading of the operations against the national sovereignty, economy, and national security of this front-line state which has been unswerving in its loyalty to the United States as an ally. They took place precisely at the point that Thailand is under increasing pressure from a Vietnamese ground offensive on the Thai-Kampuchean border.

In the face of this security danger and the increased economic stress of Kampuchean refugees coming into Thailand, the November devaluation has forced a decrease in defense spending and placed an almost insurmountable roadblock in front of Thailand's plans to acquire the F-16A jet fighter to combat Soviet MiG-23s now stationed in Cam Ranh Bay. While Pentagon officials continue to pledge their commitment of military assistance to Thailand, Bangkok sources say that this is an offer of outdated equipment for which Thailand has no need.

The Pacific Basin hoax

According to a U.S.-based business source, Kissinger also went to Thailand with the aim of bringing to a halt the drive for the construction of the Kra Canal. "Henry will put that project back to bed," the source said. The great project was put on the Thai national agenda by two conferences over 1983-84 co-sponsored by the Thai Communications Ministry, the Fusion Energy Foundation, and *EIR*.

This hostility to the Kra Canal, which would function as the nexus point for industrializing of all Southeast Asia, calls the question on exactly what kind of "Pacific development" and "high-technology transfer" as discussed at the confer-

ences. According to the chairman of the Pacific Forum, Admiral James Vasey, the conference in Bangkok was designed to come up with policy options toward Southeast Asia that will be presented to the Reagan administration. For the economies of Southeast Asia, Vasey projects the development of infrastructure, particularly for energy purposes, and the development of light—not “smokestack industries” which would “not be appropriate.” This emphasis on light industry is exactly what was imposed on Ibero-America in the 1960s, with the result that those economies have progressed negatively toward industrialization, whereas an emphasis on heavy industry is the secret to the Japanese and now South Korean “economic miracles.”

As for high-technology transfer, this is to be done through attracting foreign investment into Southeast Asia. Southeast Asia offers an excellent opportunity for foreign investment, says Vasey, because of its “less-expensive labor.” That is: “High-technology transfer” is a cover phrase in the “Pacific Basin jargon” for the exploitation of cheap labor by foreign capital.

A sample representation

The Pacific Forum brought together a prestigious spectrum of the policy-making elite of all the ASEAN countries and Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, and Australia, with representation from the United States and Great Britain. The presence, however, of two individuals underscores the actual policy content behind the drive for Pacific cooperation as promoted by the Pacific Forum and like organizations.

- Saburo Okita, member of the board of Kissinger Associates. Okita is “Mr. Pacific Basin” in Japan, where he served as foreign minister under then Prime Minister Ohira in 1982. Within Japan, Okita is a member of the Miyazawa-Suzuki faction, which is known to oppose Japan’s participation in the Strategic Defense Initiative. Okita is also a member of the Trilateral Commission and the Club of Rome, both organizations which are ideologically and in practice opposed to the industrialization of the underdeveloped sector. Within Japan, Okita is the point-man for realizing the demands of Kissinger’s U.S. and European financial backers to open up Japan’s financial markets and force the yen to absorb responsibility for the unpayable world debt.

- Naya Seiji, director of the Resource Systems Institute for the East-West Center, Hawaii. Seiji is an econometric programmer at the East-West Center where the Club of Rome econometric program for Asia was originated in the late 1970s. The East-West Center is one of a group of private think tanks in the United States charged with coordination of the “New Yalta” division of the globe between the British-European oligarchy and the Soviet Union. The director of the East-West Center in the late 1970s was Harlan Cleveland, also director of the Aspen Institute international affairs program. The Aspen Institute is now directing the Eastern Establishment back-channel to the Kremlin against the Strategic Defense Initiative. The East-West Center is only one example

of such organizations represented at the Pacific Forum meeting, pointing to the fact that the dual downgrading of ASEAN security and upgrading of focus on its potential for looting is part and parcel of that New Yalta, with the Philippines an excellent case in point.

During 1975-79, the chairman of the board of governors of the East-West Institute was Herbert Cornuelle, who also sits on the board of the Private Investment Company of Asia. Cornuelle’s presence at the East-West Center provides a lead for another aspect of the Pacific Basin cooperation envisioned by Kissinger and company: drugs. Cornuelle is a past president of United Brands, the Dope, Inc. shipping company that brings cocaine and marijuana from Ibero-America into the United States and which has a charted history of association with organized crime. Among the members of the board of Cornuelle’s Private Investment Company of Asia is George Moore of Citibank. Moore is the manager in the United States of all the holdings of the Cisneros family, the premier dope-trafficking family of Venezuela (see page 32). PICA was incorporated in Panama, with operating headquarters in Singapore. Its counsel is Coudert Brothers, which also represents Sol Linowitz, the director of Marine Midland Bank—with major operations in Panama—which was bought up by the Asian dope-financing bank, the Hongkong and Shanghai.

These are but opening lines for investigation, but it is enough to make clear that for Thailand and all of ASEAN, the caution flags should be up.

Who attended the Pacific Forum conference

Alfred Deakin Brookes, chairman of Pacific Institute, Melbourne. Founding director of the Australian secret intelligence service. Member, policy council, Pacific Forum.

John Colvin, H.M. ambassador, retired; vice-president, director for international relations, Asia/Pacific, Chase Manhattan Bank.

U. Alexis Johnson, former U.S. undersecretary of state and ambassador to Thailand and Japan; currently director of the Atlantic Council.

Guy J. Paulker, consultant to Rand Corporation; member of Research Council, Pacific Forum.

Robert Scalapino, director of Institute of East Asian Studies, University of California, Berkeley; member of board of Council on Foreign Relations.

John Gunther Dean, U.S. ambassador to Thailand.

H. A. J. Staples, Her Britannic Majesty’s ambassador to Thailand.