

EFTA is the Kissinger plan

The European Free Trade Association gets linked into the "New Yalta" gameplan. Ulf Sandmark reports from Stockholm.

What Henry Kissinger's "Pan-European new order" means for Scandinavia became clear in the press buildup for the March 14-15 Oslo meeting of prime ministers of member countries in the European Free Trade Association. Suddenly, an organization that has had a very low level of activity in the years since its leading member, the United Kingdom, left the association to join the European Community (EC), was deluged with publicity about its overall importance and its "historic" Oslo meeting.

The declaration issued in Oslo by the six members—Norway, Sweden, Finland, Iceland, Austria, and Switzerland—created an "EFTA-track" for joint negotiations with the EC. Previously, each member had engaged in bilateral negotiations with the EC. The declaration is not binding; both Switzerland and Iceland refuse to give away their national sovereignty to any "supranational" body. However, it opens up for negotiation between the EC and EFTA all areas for the formation of the inner market of Europe 1992. Further areas for negotiations are R&D, education, and the labor market (the so-called social dimension).

The swiftness of the schedule for these negotiations has every indication that a coup d'état for the European New Yalta order is well under way. EFTA ministers of trade will meet their EC counterparts in Brussels March 20.

The press leaks before the Oslo meeting all pointed to this new order. The Oslo paper *Dagbladet* March 1 leaked a Norwegian government draft for the Oslo declaration under the headline "Gro wants mini-EC," (Gro being Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem-Brundtland). Brundtland reportedly wants to strengthen the EFTA powers and negotiate the formation of a customs union between the EFTA and EC, joining the common capital, services, and labor markets of the European inner market in 1992. Swedish Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson echoed this plan in an interview in *Svenska Dagbladet* March 6.

The EFTA-track idea first surfaced Feb. 27, at a press conference in Stockholm called by Swedish Conservative Party leader Carl Bildt, after he returned from a visit to Brussels. All routes to the EC should be tested, he said, a line swallowed by most conservatives in Scandinavia.

But Bildt and the chairman of the Industry Association of Sweden, Peter Wallenberg, were both very disappointed at

the Oslo declaration; they wanted to keep negotiating on a bilateral level for Swedish membership in the EC. At the same time, Socialist prime ministers Brundtland and Carlsson were very happy. For them, the Oslo declaration establishing the EFTA-track relaxed internal party pressure coming from the strong anti-EC faction in both their parties.

The Norwegian Arbeiderpartiet had almost split and the entire leadership had resigned after a 1972 referendum had resulted in a "no" on joining the EC. Today the policy of the conservatives to continue to push for direct Norwegian membership in the EC, totally splits the non-socialist parties and makes any alternative to the Brundtland minority government impossible.

In Sweden, an anti-EC front was formed conveniently the weekend before the Oslo meeting by the Swedish Greens, the Communist Party, and the left Social Democrats. Also, Prime Minister Carlsson in his interview raised the issue of Swedish neutrality as a further reason why the EFTA track is better than EC membership.

Soviet-sanctioned 'neutrality'

The strategic aspect of this plan becomes clearer in the context of the Soviet policy on EFTA. Since Soviet leader Gorbachov's Dec. 7 speech at the United Nations, the Soviets have pushed for various supranational solutions. Gorbachov had proposed a U.N. facility to intervene into any country's internal politics on behalf of "protecting the environment." This proposal was followed up in the failed meeting in the Netherlands, where the Brundtland Commission wanted to force Brazil not to build roads and dams in the Amazon because of alleged harm to the environment.

Since February, the Soviets have looked favorably on expanding cooperation with EFTA, especially through Hungary. Austria cannot join the EC because of its neutrality, the Soviets said, but it is possible for Hungary to increase cooperation with Austria.

The Soviets view EFTA as "a basis for the expansion of economic zones in Europe." Setting up EFTA as a mini-EC would split Europe—and more. At the same time, EFTA-countries are situated in the very "zones" that the Soviets have proposed to be "nuclear free": The Nordic nuclear free zone, the nuclear free corridor in Central Europe, and the

Balkan nuclear free zone.

In short, the economic zone of EFTA will at the same time become a neutralized zone. This is especially clear in Swedish Prime Minister Carlsson's very marked position that the Swedish "neutrality reservation" makes it impossible not to cooperate with EC. The four neutral countries—Sweden, Finland, Switzerland, and Austria—will make sure that EFTA policy will not be set by the NATO countries of Norway and Iceland. Sweden had pressured Norway in 1948 against joining NATO in negotiations to form a Nordic defense pact. Now, if EFTA is to include East bloc countries like Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Poland, or even some of the Baltic republics that are now part of the Soviet Union, its policy will be not exactly one of neutrality.

This is exactly the Kissinger plan for the region: He has proposed expanded cooperation within a "neutral" Central European bloc of countries, while the West accepts the fact of Soviet military domination over Eastern Europe without any intervention on the part of liberation efforts there. Furthermore Kissinger is known to have advocated Austrian neutrality as a model for West Germany, back in the 1960s.

The Norwegian representative in the Military Committee of NATO, Gen. Lt. Rolv Eios, warned in fall 1988 of Norwegian military isolation, demanding that Norway join the West European Union. Eios pointed to the proposals from France to divide Europe into zones in negotiations with the Soviets concerning reduction of conventional forces. The other Western European Union countries supported a view of Central Europe as a zone—clearly against the interest of Norway, Eios stated. Even if that proposal was nixed, the zoning idea is a basic concept in the INF treaty, where the limitation on land-based missiles has made it possible for the Soviets to redeploy these missiles to the Northern Fleet, thus increasing the threat to the Northern Flank. The Norwegian military, in fact, have compared the INF negotiations to pressing a sausage: You press it in the middle and it expands at the ends.

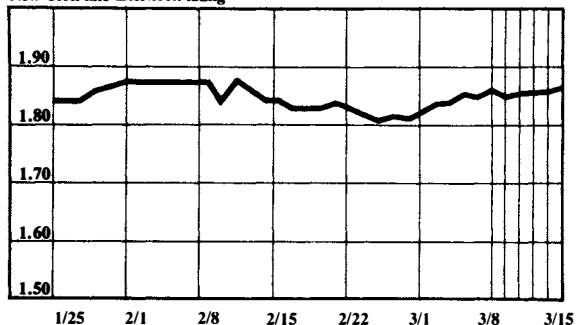
The whole operation to institute an EFTA track into the EC was managed by the Socialist International in backroom deals. The Oslo declaration was an answer to an invitation for negotiations by Jacques Delors, the Socialist president of the EC Commission, presented in his speech to the European Parliament Jan. 18. After much Swedish pressure (according to Carlsson), Delors invited the EFTA countries to joint negotiations with EC and membership in the customs union, the central pillar of the EC. Such negotiations would mean accepting a supranational court to rule on disagreements about the customs union.

Dagbladet revealed March 15, the second day of the Oslo meeting, that the plan to revive EFTA was drafted a year ago when the Spanish prime minister, Socialist Felipe Gonzalez, visited Norway. It was already clear then that Brundtland and he should be the respective chairs of EFTA and the EC this year.

Currency Rates

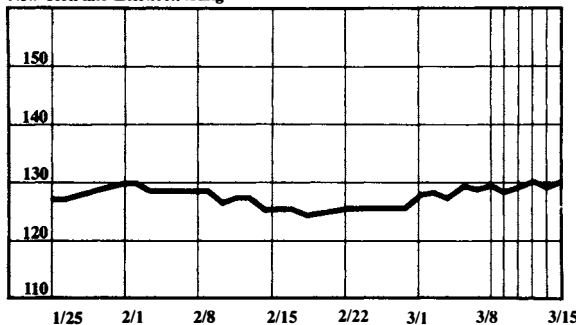
The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



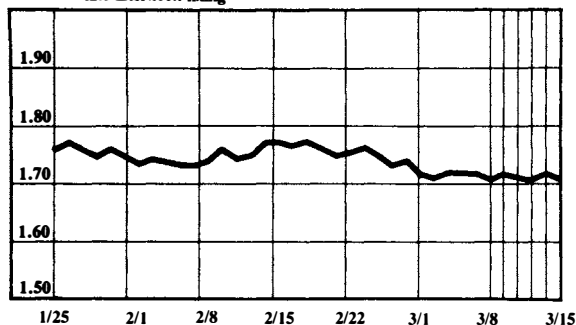
The dollar in yen

New York late afternoon fixing



The British pound in dollars

New York late afternoon fixing



The dollar in Swiss francs

New York late afternoon fixing

