

# Business Briefs

## Research & Development

### Asian countries respond to U.S. with science center

A "center for Asian science and industrial policy research" has been founded in New Delhi in order to "seek geopolitical cooperation among developing Asian countries and evolve a collective science and industrial policy," the Press Trust of India announced in early May.

Headed by Dr. Dharendra Sharma, a workshop of science policy experts from several unnamed countries concluded that the center was needed to "encourage cooperation and collective research . . . in view of the official U.S. action in placing China, India, and Thailand under the blacklist of the Special 301 Trade Provision"—a provision that places sanctions against any country that does not comply with Washington's notion of "free trade."

The center was termed "the right response" to the U.S. policy, which is accused of trying to impose growing control "in the form of trade, banking, patent, and industrial laws." Said Sharma, "Laws passed by governments and parliaments in Western countries are being imposed on Third World countries."

## International Trade

### France tries to edge in on Japan in Indonesia

French Industry Minister Roger Fauroux wound up a three-day visit to Indonesia on May 8, where he told the press that one of France's major aims was to challenge Japan's trade and investment domination in the region. "We are determined not to leave free room just to Japan," Fauroux said. "It is not written anywhere that Japan has monopoly rights on Indonesia, and I don't think Indonesia wants that."

Japan poured \$2.24 billion worth of investment into Indonesia in 1990, while France's investment in Indonesia totals \$239 million since 1967.

Fauroux said France would fight for con-

tracts in telecommunications, electricity generation and, other infrastructural projects. Companies from Japan, France, and the United States are currently being considered for a \$10 million site study contract for Indonesia's first nuclear reactor.

Indonesian President Suharto plans to inaugurate the controversial Kedung Ombo dam in Central Java on May 18, a project in which the Japanese have a hand, the Indonesian daily *Suara Pembaruan* reported May 17. The \$281.3 million dam, funded by the World Bank, the Export-Import Bank of Japan, and the Indonesian government, and involving Japanese contractor Hazama-gumi Ltd., was completed in January last year.

The project straddles the three districts of Sragen, Purwodadi, and Boyolali, over 17,606 hectares in the provinces of Central Java and Jogjakarta, and will supply water to 70,000 hectares of now-dry land. The dam has been opposed by environmentalists.

## Third World

### Malaysia attacks U.S. plan for G-7 control

Malaysia's *Business Times* praised Germany and Japan for their refusal to bow to U.S. pressure to cut interest rates at the Group of Seven (G-7) advanced industrial nations meeting the last week in April. Developing sector nations are relieved that Tokyo and Bonn "stuck to their guns," says the newspaper.

Nevertheless, the editorial continues, there is great concern over "the U.S. now wanting the G-7 to go beyond the economy sphere and venture into the political arena as well." It quotes U.S. Undersecretary of State Robert Kimmitt, that the U.S. wants the G-7 to "meet frequently to fashion our response to existing situations, anticipate and avert future crises, and pursue broader policies."

Says the *Business Times*: "The U.N. Security Council made a misjudgment in allowing the U.S. to lead combined forces to oust Iraq from Kuwait instead of arranging for a U.N. force to handle the task. That act, and the victo-

ry which Washington has claimed as its own, has obviously gone to its head. Washington is attempting to exploit the momentum generated by the Gulf war to create a 'super council' of just seven nations which will decide what's right and what's not in the world. . . . The G-7's domination of the world economy is bad enough. There will be more acrimony if it is to also push its collective weight around in political affairs, which is bound to also mean intervening in domestic, bilateral, and regional affairs of nations."

## Technology

### Only 25 semiconductor plants by the year 2000

The world will only be able to afford 25 semiconductor factories by the year 2000, because they will cost \$2 billion each, a panel of industry experts assembled by the National Advisory Committee on Semiconductors has concluded, the *New York Times* reported May 16.

The panel of 90 experts forecast that facilities to produce semiconductors will be so costly, that no single company will be able to afford one, so technology and resources will have to be shared to a degree never before achieved by U.S. industry.

The panel expects 10 of the 25 factories to be located in the United States.

## West Asia

### Turkey, Iran in economic deal

The recent trip of Iranian President Rafsanjani to Turkey, his first as President, has led to the announcement of a \$10 billion rail, electrical, and natural gas agreement between the two countries.

Turkish Oil Minister Mehmet Kececiler told a Teheran press conference on May 8 that the deal has the following components. Iran

will supply 3 million tons of crude oil to Turkey, and the Turks will supply 10,000 tons of refined motor oil to Iran, and a natural gas pipeline will be laid between the two states, which will branch into Bulgaria and Greece. Its capacity will be 10 billion cubic meters, of which Turkey will use half for domestic consumption.

Turkey was previously dependent on Iraqi petroleum and natural gas.

Turkey will also supply 7 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity to Iran through 1994, after which the two countries will exchange 2 billion kilowatts of electricity per year. On July 1, Turkey will repeal a law which restricts the number of Iranian trucks in Turkey. Finally, the Teheran-Istanbul railway, which had been abandoned, will be reopened.

Turkish sources say that Pakistan will shortly be incorporated into this deal.

## AIDS

### Scores of Illinois doctors, nurses stricken

During the last decade, 126 doctors, nurses, laboratory technicians, and other health care workers in Illinois have died of AIDS, the state Public Health Department reported. Another 68 currently have the disease, it said.

Statistics released by the department indicated that 14 nurses, 5 physicians, 1 surgeon, 3 dentists, 19 health aides, 11 lab technicians, and 15 other medical workers currently are infected with HIV. In the last decade, 18 physicians have died of the disease, as well as 36 nurses, 2 dentists, 1 surgeon, 25 health aides, 9 lab technicians, and 35 other health care workers.

The statistics were released May 14 at the request of Rep. Penny Pullen (R-Park Ridge), who is sponsoring legislation to notify patients who have been treated by HIV-infected health care workers. No state law requires patients to be notified if they came in contact with a health worker who had AIDS, and there is no record that any patients have been told.

## Christian Economics

### Pope attacks monopolistic capitalism

Pope John Paul II used the 100th anniversary of the encyclical *Rerum Novarum* on May 15 to attack "monopolistic capitalism." The Pope addressed a large group of political, economic, and labor leaders on the church's social doctrine, on the occasion of his release of a new encyclical, *Centesimus Annus*.

On May 19, a Sunday, 100,000 workers from all parts of the world gathered in St. Peter's Square to continue the celebration, culminating in a march of 20,000 Catholic organizers.

"We know that productive capital, in the full sense of this word, increases quickly in particular in the industrialized countries," said the pontiff. "However, this increase is not always going to the benefit of a multitude of persons, but the capital remains concentrated in the hands of few individuals. Now, the social doctrine of the Church has always defended the participation of a large number of people in productive capital.

"There is also the danger that capital takes possession, that is, conquers and usurps the authority of the state, reinforcing in this way its economic and social monopoly."

The Pope denounced the emergence of "new poverties" in the developing countries and industrialized nations, blaming it on "an unjust distribution of goods." But, the Pope claimed, "a moral reform must go together, better yet, precede structural reforms. . . . The deepest root of social evils is moral in nature: the exclusive desire for profit and the thirst for power."

The Pope's new encyclical attacks the "capitalist" nations of the West for misinterpreting the collapse of the socialist bloc. "The Western countries . . . run the risk of seeing this collapse as a one-sided victory of their own economic system and therefore failing to make necessary corrections in that system. Meanwhile, countries of the Third World are experiencing more than ever the tragedy of underdevelopment, which is becoming more serious with each passing day."

## Briefly

● **SOUTH KOREA** wants to work more closely with Indonesia on developing energy resources, including nuclear power. Seoul's Energy and Resources Minister Lee Hee-il announced May 6: He told the opening of an annual bilateral energy meeting in Jakarta that nuclear power would be included in future technical cooperation programs between the two countries. Indonesian Mines and Energy Minister Ginanjar Kartasasmita was at the press conference.

● **THE INDIAN** government will soon permit the marketing of Centchroman, a weekly abortifacient pill that prevents the implantation of a fertilized egg in the uterus, according to *Science* magazine. It is expected to be on the market in about six months, and will license the new contraceptive for sale, as well as for distribution through the Indian welfare system.

● **U.S. WHEAT** production will fall by 25% this year from last year and world production will fall 6%, according to USDA estimates the May 10 *Wall Street Journal* reported.

● **DONALD TRUMP** intends to invest in Brazil's gambling "industry." On the expectation that the Brazilian Congress will shortly repeal the 40-year-old anti-gambling legislation, Trump, whose empire is crumbling into bankruptcy, announced that he intends to "invest in the gambling sector of Brazil," in the words of Trump's Brazilian representative, Roberto Vianna Pinto.

● **THE HOUSE** Banking Committee's Financial Institutions Subcommittee voted 35-0 May 16 to bar any government agency from reimbursing foreign depositors in failed U.S. banks. While banks like Morgan Guaranty and Citibank—with large foreign deposits—pay insurance premiums only on domestic deposits, the FDIC has been providing coverage on both foreign and domestic deposits.