

What's at stake in Thailand

This report is based, in part, on discussions which took place during author Chris White's recent visit to Japan and Thailand.

The wrecking operation against the Kingdom of Thailand, coordinated by friends of Henry Kissinger and his fellow Trilateralist Lane Kirkland's AFL-CIA, amounts to a declaration of war against all the countries of Southeast Asia, and against the policy commitments among those countries and Japan, which ensured that last year, for example, while the world economy as a whole continued to slide into economic dissolution and collapse, the economies of East Asia continued their recent pattern of growth, estimated for the year at 5.8%.

Two perspectives for Southeast Asia

Since the middle of the 1980s, Thailand has been the centerpiece for the implementation of a policy which the Japanese call "flying at the head of the flock." Under this policy, the kingdom's manufacturing sector has grown at rates in excess of 12% per year for each of the last five years, and achieved 13.8% growth during 1991.

Under this policy, industries which are becoming outmoded relative to the internal advances achieved, or intended, in Japan itself, have been shipped out to nations of Southeast Asia, such as Thailand, Indonesia, and Malaysia, where the development of export-based manufacturing capabilities has been used to promote internal improvements and upgrading.

Prior to the U.S.-led overthrow of Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos six years ago, Thailand and the Philippines were quite comparable. Per capita Gross National Product was about the same. Export earnings were about the same. Over the intervening period, Thailand's per capita GNP has doubled, and the volume of exports has equally doubled. The Philippines under U.S. puppet Corazon Aquino stagnated.

In the process, 5% of Japan's domestic manufacturing capacity has been shipped out. This has been mutually beneficial. Japan has alleviated an internal labor shortage, not by importing workers, but by exporting certain classes of industry. Countries such as Thailand have developed new capabilities. Where Thailand used to be mainly an exporter of primary products, such as rice and forest products, the share of primary products in its exports has declined, as food processing, manufacturing and assembly industries have been added as capabilities.

In food-rich Thailand, this has not been done at the ex-

pense of domestic consumption. For example, well before Florida's Vindicator food irradiation plant came on line, the technology of nuclear irradiation of food was being employed in Thailand to help preserve foods for domestic consumption and for export. Thai sausages, a local favorite, and chickens, were equally part of the feed for the local irradiation plant.

The policy has not been ad hoc. By the end of this century, the intention is that Taiwan and the Republic of Korea would be brought up to the level of economic functioning which characterized Japan itself by the end of 1980s, and that the nations of Southeast Asia, with a population in excess of 250 million, would be developed to the levels which Korea and Taiwan attained at the end of the '80s. The realization of this intent is presently the agenda of working groups brought together from the ranks of governments, industries, universities, and research institutions of the countries concerned.

The aim is to create the economic conditions which can permit the balance in East and South Asia to be shifted away from the peasant-based economies of the continental and subcontinental land masses, to a coastal manufacturing and sea-based trading operation, in which the littorals of the Java Sea, the South China Sea, and the Sea of Japan come to predominate economically.

A principle of least action

The late plasma physicist Winston Bostick used to point out that the "flying vee" flight pattern of a flock of geese involves a principle of physical least action. The air through which the birds fly is organized into a more coherent form, better capable of supporting flight, with less effort expended for the same result by each bird. The effect ripples backward from the lead bird through the weaker members of the formation, and produces vastly superior results than it would if the birds flew alone, or adopted some other formation.

So it is with the Japanese conception of "flying at the head of the flock." Advances are supposed to help organize a pathway for the more productive advance of all. Thus, as discussion proceeds on elaboration of the end-of-decade target for East Asia as a whole, so a parallel process is under way inside Japan itself.

This involves two aspects: One includes an ongoing scientific and technical research commitment to develop economic alternatives to the oil- and carbon-based fuels which almost exclusively provide power to a modern economy.

This involves work on the technology of a hydrogen-powered economy, in which water would be the source of hydrogen, and water the by-product of hydrogen use, on fuel cell applications for generation of electricity, among others, on magnetic levitation for transportation and the related matter of the electric car, and on magnetic pulse power sources for ships.

The other aspect involves the improvement of Japan's domestic economic infrastructure such that the country would become the manufacturing and trading gateway for all of East Asia by early in the 21st century. Here, the focus is on the area between the Bay of Ise and the city of Nagoya on the Pacific Coast, and the opposite coast on the Sea of Japan. The idea is to build up a new bi-coastal, multi-modal transportation hub, capable of supporting and serving the new industries which will come to dominate in the next century. This hub will be, as it were, perpendicular to the Tokai route between Tokyo and Osaka, by way of Kyodo and Nagoya, which has so far been the main axis for development in Japan.

Thailand, never colonized, food rich, with about 55 million people occupying an area comparable to that of France, is the strategic key to the whole perspective. Japan, dependent on imported resources, lacks strategic depth economically. The buildup of development potentials in the nations of Southeast Asia, which are separated from Japan by sea and ocean crossings as wide as those which separate the U.S. eastern seaboard from northern Europe, has been an effort to build up such depth.

The war against Thailand

The AFL-CIA-sponsored war against Thailand, which the Asia Foundation speaks of openly as the first in a new domino theory, to be spread into Indonesia and Malaysia, is a war against this whole approach.

This is clear from the internal protagonists. Anand Banyachul, the interim prime minister imposed by the U.S. embassy in the wake of the violence it provoked, is the man who, as a previous prime minister, created the conditions for the AFL-CIA's current operations. A former ambassador to Washington, D.C. and intimate of Henry Kissinger, he wrecked Thailand's tariff structure and deregulated interest rates and prices of food, oil, and electricity, all in the name of the free market. He also permitted the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and environmentalist groups which helped organize the recent events, to set up shop and operate in Thailand.

Then there are the two generals who have been most prominently associated with stirring up the unrest. One of them, Chavalit Yongchaiyut, a former chief of staff of the Thai Army, is funded by the notorious Bank of Bangkok, a dope bank and the local affiliate of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, and is close to the local interests of Seagram's liquor lord, the U.S. dope baron Edgar Bronfman, through Tejapaiboon and the local Kloster Beer interests. Chavalit funded motorbike terror gangs during the recent events at 380

baht a head (\$1 is roughly 25 baht). Together with portable-telephone-toting bank clerks, they made up the hard core of what Cable News Network and other news outlets called "the rising Thai middle class."

The other officer, Maj. Gen. Chamlong Srimuang, is widely known as the Pol Pot, or the Ayatollah Khomeini, of Thailand. A Teraveda Buddhist, Chamlong derives his political program from the Buddhist bible, the *Phra Tripidok*. He is considered a heretic by Thailand's mainstream Buddhist monks. He has an eight-point program, and a demand that the Thai Constitution be modified to encompass them. They include: that man and wife should live together as brother and sister; that one vegetarian meal per day is sufficient for all; that five or six coconut shells of water, per day, is enough for all; that one should be satisfied with living arrangements of about the same dimensions as a coffin, seven spans from the outstretched little finger to thumb wide, and 12 spans long, with a privy dug in the middle, covered for sleeping, and the wife/sister in a bunk on top.

The NGOs which Anand permitted into the country have in the meantime become the political base of Chamlong. His is effectively the program which the U.S. embassy and the friends of Kissinger, together with the AFL-CIA, are supporting, against Japan's perspective for the region.

It shouldn't be much of a surprise. Chamlong's program is what the International Monetary Fund calls its "basic needs" program. It is quite comparable to the regime in a Hitler concentration camp, as also in its genocidal effects. It is a policy which is intended to destroy the basis for existence of nations and populations.

In 1974, during the post-Watergate administration of Gerald Ford, Henry Kissinger ordered his National Security Council staff under Gen. Brent Scowcroft to prepare policy documents on population growth as a threat to U.S. national security interests. The documents were classified and the policy adopted under the document heading National Security Study Memorandum 200. Among the 18 countries identified as particular threats to U.S. policy, because of their population growth, were Thailand and Indonesia.

In the same period, the New York Council on Foreign Relations commissioned study groups which prepared the so-called 1980s Project, and went on to staff the Carter administration, which implemented the project. The CFR declared two models of so-called Third World development acceptable: Mao Zedong's China, then still in the last fling of the Cultural Revolution, and an unidentified country in Southeast Asia. It was not named, because at the time of writing the proportionally biggest genocide in recent history was under way within its borders; the country was Pol Pot's Cambodia. There, the teachers, the doctors, the literate, even the bespectacled, were slaughtered, while modern machinery and even electrical wiring were destroyed as inimical to the interests of the "New Cambodia."

This is what Kissinger et al. are attempting to unleash in Thailand.