

JAPAN: MIKI SELECTED TO SUCKER THE LEFT INTO AUSTERITY

Dec. 3 (IPS)--The search for a successor to watergated Japanese Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka is over. According to press reports today Takeo Miki, former Deputy Prime Minister and head of Japan's Environmental Protection Agency, has been chosen to replace Tanaka. Once the "progressive" Miki is slipped into the Prime Minister's chair, his job will be to sucker the befuddled Japanese left into active cooperation with the new government's austerity policies.

Miki comes to his new job well-qualified. He is a former director of the Economic Planning Agency, a key supragovernmental body charged with restructuring the Japanese economy. Miki's successor in that job, Saburo Okita, is a top Japanese member of Rockefeller's Trilateral Commission. Miki also served as head of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, which is playing a leading role in preparing Japanese industry and workers to be shipped out to Rockefeller's "development" labor camps in the Third World.

As head of the Environmental Protection Agency, Miki led the push for zero-growth austerity in Japan. The EPA's anti-pollution rhetoric has spearheaded the drive to ship Japan's "polluting" factories and workers out of the country.

Dark Horse

Dark horse Miki was nominated for the Prime Minister's job after the ruling Liberal Party was deadlocked between the party's two leading contenders, Finance Minister Masayoshi Ohira and right-wing former Finance Minister Takeo Fukuda. Fukuda and powerful Yasuhiro Nakasone, present boss of the International Trade and Industry Ministry, then threw their support to Miki. Earlier, it was Miki and Fukuda who led the attack on Tanaka when the two walked out of the cabinet this summer.

As the leader of the reform wing of the Liberal Party, Miki is the perfect Mr. Clean to lure opposition parties, including the Socialists, into a coalition government. Miki's populist aura is heightened by his support of detente with China and his consumerist policies as head of the Environmental Protection Agency. In addition he is reputed to be free of the stench of big business ties. But informed sources have confirmed that leading Japanese capitalists, satisfied with Miki's past performance, are backing him now precisely because of his ability to castrate the left-wing parties.

12/3/74

IPS B1