

development and agriculture. These "special projects," already on the drawing boards last spring, will be run by the huge Rockefeller-allied Italian corporations, Fiat, Montedison, Eni (a government-owned conglomerate), and others. Under the La Malfa plan, workers now being laid off collapsing industrial jobs will get one year's guaranteed wages--time for "retraining" into the technologically downgraded jobs.

For the "privilege" of helping to save Italy's capitalist system for Rockefeller, Italian workers will also have to agree to hold wage increases down to three per cent for all of 1975 (at two-digit inflation rates this means further cuts in already rock-bottom living standards) and to accept a 10 per cent overall reduction of energy consumption, dumped almost exclusively on the home user. Meanwhile, since the savage credit squeeze is to continue unabated, small and medium industries will continue to fold, clearing the ground for fascist "restructuring."

The Eni-owned financial daily Il Globo noted with satisfaction today that the unions now seem ready to negotiate a policy of incomes containment with La Malfa. The day the new government was announced, Giorgio Benvenuto, blustering "militant" of the metalworkers federation leadership, suggested in an interview that the unions should reconsider the "special projects" (to which they have always been opposed), provided they have a voice in planning them. Benvenuto further proposed that the problem of democratically elected regional governments could be leaped over by having the "special projects" be administered through local control!

JAPANESE JOIN "INDEPENDENT" FRENCH OIL FARCE

Nov. 21 (IPS)--The Japanese government, replying to Secretary of State Kissinger's proposed international oil fund and structure for the International Energy Agency (IEA), has made a bid to join the farce of an "independent" Europe. This illusory independent Europe, aligned with the Arab oil producers, has been led by the French, who have headed up phony opposition to the Kissinger proposal.

French Foreign Minister Jean Sauvagnargues met with Japanese Foreign Minister Kimura today in Tokyo and announced Japanese support for the intent of the French proposal, which emphasizes joint discussions with the oil producers. Kissinger has proposed that oil consumers develop "solidarity" among themselves first, to pave the way for "constructive dialogue" with oil producers.

While the Journal of Commerce reported that the Japanese would "mediate" between the French and U.S. proposals, Japanese

spokesmen in New York City stated clearly that "in spirit we support the French proposal." Japanese efforts to identify themselves with the "independent" line worked out at the Trilateral Commission's Bellagio conference last month were highlighted by their support in the United Nations for the "self-determination of Palestine" and statements made to IPS that if the Israelis launched an attack at this time, the Japanese government probably would break off diplomatic relations with Israel.

Regarding the IEA, a Japanese spokesman said, "We are like Europe--we won't join any organization which takes a hostile position toward the oil producers." Further asserting their independence, he stated, "We can no longer sit back and keep quietThe policy of Japan and the U.S. cannot always be the same."

New at the game of being "independent," the spokesman slipped and revealed the real content of the "independence" ploy. After noting support for the French proposal, he proceeded to explain that after all, there was no argument between France and the U.S. as to the "terminal objective," only a difference of "procedure." Asked what that objective was, he quickly replied, "To reduce consumption."

THE MEANING OF REVALUATION: SCHMIDT ENFORCES KISSINGER AUSTERITY

Nov. 21 (IPS)--In the week since Henry Kissinger and William Simon, the Rockefeller twins at the U.S. Departments of State and the Treasury respectively, read out the script for the next oil hoax, West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt has emerged as their enforcer for Brazilian-style looting of the Western Europe sector.

West German officials refused comment on the Kissinger-Simon proposals for massive cuts in energy consumption, credit austerity, and slave-labor "energy development" this week. But at a meeting of the finance ministers of the European Economic Community this week, Schmidt's representatives dumped a "Europeanized" version of the U.S. proposals on the conference table.

According to the Schmidt plan, West Germany will up-value the German mark against other European currencies, ostensibly to enable West Germany to import more from France, Italy, or England--if its EEC "partners" agree to deflate their own economies, thereby demonstrating that currency "valuation" is nothing more than a measure of how much loot can be gouged out of the bodies of workers.

But West German industrialists were quick to point out that a revaluation of the mark would be "catastrophic," since it would