

the master-mind behind the British government's current policies to turn Britain into an Iranian-style work camp.

### SHAH'S CRISIS THREAT FIZZLES

NEW YORK, N.Y., Dec. 21 (IPS)--A trial balloon attempt by the CIA's Shah of Iran to force a "crisis management" approach across Europe has fizzled out in the mud of European politics.

On Thursday, the Shah threatened to "destroy the international monetary system" should European nations try to revalue their gold stocks at the market price for the metal. Referring to last week's Martinique agreement between U.S. President Ford and French President Giscard, which permits oil-hoaxed European nations to pay off the Arabs with gold at market price, the Shah threatened, "If our purchasing power is lost, everything goes."

European response, however, indicates that this Trilateral trial balloon has already popped, since the threadbare governments of Western Europe could not sustain the appropriate programmed response nor the necessary mobilization against a growingly resistant working class.

#### Threaten Collapse

The Arab oil producers would retaliate against any attempt by Europe to "tinker with the price of gold" by raising the price of oil. He warned, "If they want to strangle us in the nine month freeze [on oil prices set last week by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries], we will be like people who are drowning, having recourse to anything. It is not just a question of a few more percentage points of inflation. It could eventually be the end of the world monetary system."

Banking circles connected to the Rockefeller family told IPS that the object of the Shah's ape act was to compel European governments to subordinate their national policies to a centralized world financial institution, as the Trilateral Commission has proposed.

Higher gold prices would provide Europe's slim treasuries with an additional \$80 billion in foreign exchange--slightly more than the continent's 1975 oil bill--and give Europe a breathing space before bankruptcy. Trilateral banker Robert V. Roosa told IPS, "The Shah is pushing Western countries to shape up. He's a pretty wide-awake fellow. He wants to see the monetary system run well. The Shah's shocking statement was more designed to get people working than to get them to do whatever he said at the time." Roosa, who formulated the Trilateral Commission's proposal for a new centralized institution to control world finance, added that the Martinique meeting represented a "change

in financial diplomacy towards the better," indicating that Western governments were honing in on the Trilateral line.

Last night, however, the oblivious French government announced that it would, indeed, revalue its gold stocks to the market price. And the Shah? There was a "misunderstanding" between France and the Shah, President Giscard told a nationwide television audience. He thought that the Europeans were "organizing" a "gold cartel" to revalue their gold stocks. But France had done this unilaterally! In echo, French Finance Minister Fourcade said that the Shah's remarks were "cute and interesting."

#### No Consensus

Meeting in Brussels the previous day, the European finance ministers fell out on the gold issue, following a French proposal that they all hike the price of their gold reserves. West Germany, which has plenty of dollars, and Britain, which has very little gold, combined in opposition to the French suggestion.

But the Europeans did agree in denouncing the "New Marshall Plan" scheme proposed last month by U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and Treasury Secretary William Simon in separate speeches last month. Together, Simon and Kissinger have represented the U.S. "hard line" toward Europe: no loans to pay for Arab oil until the Europeans screw an austerity program down on the European working class.

Monitoring the left turn of European Communist Parties, Europe's stooge governments did not feel ready to form themselves as an "airtight group" under U.S. control, in Robert Roosa's words, in fear of presenting the Communist Parties with a target the size of a barn door.

This fear is mirrored in the decision of European newspapers to bury or kill the Shah's threat, which came over Associated Press wires Thursday afternoon. Not a single French newspaper ran the story--if Giscard does not believe His CIA Majesty, why should the financial editor?--and the West German papers buried the story on inside pages.

Britain's "authoritative" business daily, the Financial Times, ran the story without mentioning that the Shah had threatened to destroy the world economy! Only the right-wing Daily Telegraph ran an accurate account, citing the actual dilemma facing the Rockefeller financier faction: "Western experts...believe that if the oil-importing countries are genuinely forced to restrict imports to what they can pay for [after paying \$50 billion a year for oil--Ed.], the world will fall into a slump at least as disastrous as the hyperinflationary collapse which the Shah believes would result from revaluation of gold reserves."

## Heading Off Collapse

Even the Shah has been compelled to avert the bankruptcies of Italy, Britain, France, and other European countries. As long as the Rockefeller "energy development" plan is stalled, the only alternatives for the Rockefeller gang and its Persian Gulf hitmen are an uncontrollable breakdown of the world monetary system--or the issuance of "inflationary" credit by way of gaining breathing space, possibly using European gold reserves.

Reversing gears, the same Shah agreed to pre-pay \$1.2 billion to ailing Italy yesterday, in a contract for Italian technological and industrial aid to Iran's development schemes signed one day after his monumental threat.