

to do with it." The problem is that "the OPEC countries can't provide the initiative for this. The responsibility is from our own governments in the developed countries." But, he admitted, there is no centralized institution willing to take responsibility for managing the crisis, because of the political instability of Western governments.

U.S. TROOPS INVADE FRANCE

Jan. 15 (IPS)--The Var Department (equivalent to a county) in the south of France will soon be invaded by U.S. troops of the Sixth Fleet, in violation of former President DeGaulle's 1964 decision to pull France out of NATO. The military base of Canjuers will be put at the disposal of U.S. troops for a special training operation, "in geographical conditions close to those they would face in the Middle East," warned French Communist Party General Secretary Georges Marchais.

Since the summer, the Var Department has been the scene of numerous provoked riots. During the summer, hundreds of soldiers staged a demonstration in Draguignan led by anarchist-Maoist grouplets. Months later, Interior Minister Poniatowski ordered that the departmental capital of the Var be moved from Draguignan to nearby Toulon, wiping out a big source of jobs for local residents and provoking violent clashes with the police.

The proximity of Marseilles, a key area for the show of strength between the French Communist Party and Socialist Party, cannot be discounted as the reason why the Var Department has been targeted for these operations.

BANKERS DECLARE AUTO PLANTS WILL STAY SHUT

Jan. 15 (IPS)--In stark contrast to the U.S. Labor Party program to use idle auto capacity and auto workers for tractor production, the Rockefeller financiers have declared that they will junk exactly half of the auto industry and its workforce. Unspoken still are their contingency plans to turn the operating section of the industry into production of useless tanks and fighter planes.

Lyn Townsend, chairman of the board of Chrysler Corporation, announced on behalf of the Rockefeller faction that as long as the economy remains under its thumb, several hundred thousand now

unemployed automobile workers will never again re-enter the industry to either produce cars or tractors. To fulfill this prediction--splashed across the front page of the New York Times--Townsend disclosed Chrysler's plans to reduce its overhead workforce by at least one-third.

Townsend's constituents are not auto workers or farmers--they're the New York banks which control his corporation. As previously documented in IPS, Chrysler's own moves toward production cutbacks, layoffs, and wage reductions were the banks' conditions for a new \$400 million credit line which Chrysler needed to avert a bankruptcy. As a result of this permanent elimination of half its workforce and operating capacity, Chrysler, according to Townsend's own estimates, has actually improved its financial condition.

Townsend's remarks could easily have been predicted. On the previous day, the chairman of the board of Manufacturers Hanover, the Rockefeller-dominated New York bank which controls Chrysler, declared that workers would have to accept a "deceleration in living standards as a long-term solution to this crisis."

NEWEST HOAX: FORD'S ENERGY PROGRAM

Jan. 15 (IPS)--In a speech rehearsed four times and delivered in the style of a marionette, President Ford outlined on Monday night a combined energy and economic program which, if implemented, will have economic, social, and political consequences far greater than that created by the first Rockefeller-engineered oil hoax.

Despite press play-up of Ford's proposed tax cuts as the central thrust of his speech, this package was but a small concessionary trade-off to the working class in return for its acceptance of war-footing austerity programs on the scale of World War II. "We need within the next 90 days," Ford declared, "the strongest and most far reaching energy conservation program we have ever had."

Threatening the working class with the reality of long gas lines and rationing unless his measures are introduced, their actual implementation will have exactly that effect.

Through the use of emergency presidential powers disclosed in his speech, Ford has set in motion the step-by-step process that will lead to a self-imposed oil embargo. If the \$3 import fee on foreign crude oil does not accomplish the unrealistic goal of a two million barrel a day reduction in imported oil consumption by 1967, this will be supplemented by presidential powers to arbitrarily limit oil imports. The immediate consequence of this would, as Ford himself concedes, create shortages, gas lines, and rationing. In expectation of this inevitability, Ford said today