

emerging this week. Justice Minister James Kruger last week warned of this after a "terrorist" — more than likely employed by the government — exploded a bomb in a white restaurant in Pretoria wounding only himself, while a seal and search operation near the border with Mozambique according to the Daily Telegraph Dec. 9, produced a box of Soviet-made grenades. Terrorizing the white population, a South African civil defense leader

warned yesterday that the civilian population would be hit harder than the army if urban terror breaks out, while Tsietsie Mashinini, a student who led last summer's demonstrations in Soweto and who has since been picked up by Institute for Policy Studies-connected "anti-apartheid" circles, threatened that blacks were going to pick up guns and kill whites in the near future.

Africans Reject No-Growth, Look to Europe and Soviets for Development Aid

Exclusive to NSIPS

Nov. 10 (NSIPS) — Ghana's Commissioner for Economic Planning resoundingly rejected zero growth and labor-intensive "development" hoaxes by asserting recently that the threat of world hunger can be averted if industrialized and developing countries join forces in application of science to modern agriculture. Dr. R.K.A. Gardiner told an International Conference on "Agriculture and Industry in Developing Countries" in Italy last month that traditional agriculture based on folklore and folkways is not likely to provide the answer to food shortages in the developing world. He counterposed the necessity of "science and modern technology," emphasizing the role of agricultural machinery and engineering equipment for irrigation and dam construction, land preparation, sowing and harvesting as well as post-harvest activities.

The Ghana official's statements are indicative of the marked change in African nations' view of development possibilities. For years institutions associated with the Ford Foundation and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have bombarded Third World countries with rhetoric claiming that 'natural' limits to growth made development impossible for them. But the steps taken by Italy (in particular), Britain and other countries in threatening to break with the dollar rather than submit to austerity dictated by the IMF has remoralized the developing world, and Africa in particular, demonstrating that there are viable alternatives to austerity.

A recent editorial in the semi-official Algerian daily El Moudjahid exemplifies this change in view. El Moudjahid attacks the Club of Rome affiliate, the Club of Dakar, like its parent organization a rabid propagator of no-growth rhetoric, and denounces its proposals as "superficial transformations...a new form of exploitation." What is necessary for the Third World, says El Moudjahid, "is to engage in a real industrialization process, and not to satisfy oneself with a few little bits of marginal industrial activity, engendering no real surplus value for the country."

Another aspect of this same shift in attitude is the increased emphasis on region-wide and continent-wide development perspectives. The participants in the extraordinary session of the Organization of African unity

(OAU) ministerial council which met in Kinshasa, Zaire Dec. 6-10 called for a common strategy of development, and proposed that the OAU take a greater role in expanding economic cooperation between African countries and giving assistance to regional economic organizations such as the recently formed West African 15-state economic union, Ecowas. The conference has proposed the formation of a permanent body in the OAU to coordinate activities to realize the program of economic development and cooperation of independent African states.

The Debt Question

Debt is the key factor holding up rapid development. In an apparent effort to give the lie to the New York bank dictat that no debt renegotiation is possible, president Omar Bongo of the equatorial country of Gabon declared that he is stopping his country's debt payment until 1979. Up to now the New York banks have been using the "deal" forced on beleaguered Zaire, in which all past debts were supposedly to be paid irrespective of how much austerity this would demand, as the precedent.

In an interview published Dec. 6 in Danielle Hunebelle's International Newsletter, Bongo said that he is trying to consolidate Gabon's \$1.2 billion public debt and would refuse to pay back any loans until 1979. "Our loans are too short term," he said. "I've made a decision. Until 1979 I will not pay anyone, nor will I repay anything."

Later in the week Bongo reportedly retracted his statement, indicating heavy arm-twisting by those who knew that if Gabon were successful with its debt moratorium, the flood gates would break open, and every debt-ridden African country would demand to renegotiate their debt.

As West Germany swings into line with the European anti-dollar forces, it is attempting to alleviate the debt situation on a smaller scale in bilateral negotiations with particular countries which have contracted debts to West Germany. This week a delegation from Zaire is going to Bonn to begin debt negotiations, and in addition, Guinea will send a delegation to Bonn in the near future to conclude similar negotiations which were initiated on a trip to Guinea last month by Wischnewski, State Secretary in the Foreign Ministry, to renegotiate 62 million marks of debt.

Arab Cooperation

Arab oil-producing countries are playing a key role in the anti-dollar fight by making bilateral oil-for-technology deals to guarantee oil for Europe if the Rockefeller-controlled multinationals go ahead with threatened cut-offs. The oil-producers are also increasing their ties with African countries, with the goal of facilitating trade and development.

Radio Baghdad announced Dec. 8 that a meeting of both the Arab and African Chambers of Commerce will take place soon in Tripoli, Libya, to discuss the creation of a common Chamber of Commerce between the two sectors. According to Radio Baghdad, this will permit an increase in joint cooperation in economic and development matters. The creation of a \$200 million Arab Fund for African Development will also be discussed, as well as a fund of \$500 million for development projects. Simultaneously, an Iraq-Guinea treaty has been announced that increases ties and cooperation between the two countries.

Soviet, Cuban, and Indian Cooperation

The Soviets are forming strong economic relations with Angola to facilitate development. A 26-man

Comecon delegation is presently in Angola to set up a cooperation treaty similar to those which both Iraq and Mexico have with the Soviet Union.

Cuba has also just concluded more economic and technological cooperation agreements with Angola, on the occasion of the visit to Cuba by Angolan Prime Minister Lopo do Nascimento. Cuba will send more doctors, technicians, and qualified workers to train the necessary professional workers in Angola, in addition to helping build up rural equipment, light industry, and communications there.

Likewise India has been playing an active role in development and economic cooperation with Africa. Early this month a four-day meeting was held of all 14 Indian ambassadors to Africa, plus the ambassadors to India from Nigeria, Ghana, Senegal, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Guinea, and Zaire, with discussion concentrating on technological and economic aid for infrastructure. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi addressed the meeting, and asked for immediate blueprints for development so that work could begin right away. In addition, Nigeria has worked out a transport deal for oil with an Indian company, for the express purpose of allowing shipping of oil to Europe and India outside control by the multinationals.

ASIA

Japanese Elections A Blow to Miki, Ruling Party

Dec. 8 (NSIPS) — Japan's ruling conservative Liberal Democratic Party and its leader, Prime Minister Takeo Miki, suffered the worst defeat in LDP history in the general elections three days ago. For the first time the LDP failed to win a majority of the seats in the lower house of the Diet (parliament) and lost far more seats than expected.

The defeat has thrown the country into crisis, prompting calls for Miki's resignation to "take responsibility" for the defeat and a push for his replacement by former deputy prime minister Takeo Fukuda, the leader of the anti-Miki forces in the LDP and the arch-reactionary representative of Wall Street interests in Japan.

The blow to the LDP promises to prolong and worsen the political chaos which has prevailed since the Wall Street-inspired Lockheed scandal hit Japan almost a year ago. The LDP will retain the government, due to the entrance of nine elected "independents" into the party giving them a bare two seat majority in the Diet, but its power is severely weakened. This situation makes it extremely difficult for Japan to take strong steps toward an independent policy in collaboration with Europe and the developing countries for the creation of an anti-dollar new world economic order.

PARTY	SEATS		PERCENT	
	1976	1972	1976	1972
LIBERAL-DEMOCRAT	249	265	41.9	46.8
KOMEI	55	30	10.9	8.5
COMMUNIST	17	39	10.4	10.6
SOCIALIST	123	112	20.7	21.9
DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST	29	19	6.1	7.0
NEW LIBERAL CLUB	17	5	4.2	—
INDEPENDENTS	21	4	5.9	5.6
TOTAL	511	491	100	100

NOTE: This is the first time in post-war history that the LDP has received less than a majority of the Diet seats. Although nine "independents" have announced they are joining the LDP, giving the LDP a bare majority of 258 (250 needed), even that number is below the 271 level necessary to control the Diet committees.