

Under Threat, OPEC Stands Firm On Production

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) delivered another blow to Rockefeller interests during the OPEC's semi-annual meeting this week in Stockholm. Both Saudi Arabia and Iran, exhibiting a rapprochement in their previously strained relations, vowed to keep the price of crude oil down through the remainder of 1977, with the aim of keeping any further price rises to a minimum for the next two years. At the end of the two-day meeting, Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani reiterated the Saudis' determination to raise their daily production from the present 9 million barrels a day to the 14 million barrel target over the next two years. According to the *Financial Times*, the Saudis have quietly agreed not to raise their present output for the immediate future in order to allow the other Gulf producers, Iran, Kuwait and Iraq to gain a fair share of the market.

OPEC's firm policy for increased production and limited price rises makes implementation of Carter's zero growth energy program much less saleable to the U.S. public. Only days before the OPEC meeting James Schlesinger warned that "supply interruptions" of oil from foreign sources would speed imposition of gas rationing and controls. Rumors from the OPEC meet of Arab maneuvers against the dollar, coming just as the dollar is taking a severe drubbing on the international markets, have made Rockefeller visibly nervous. Sources in Stockholm confirmed that OPEC is actively investigating alternatives to the dollar, including according to a CBS correspondent, the use of gold. An executive of Italy's public sector Montedison chemical giant commented that the oil producers are "fed up" with the dollar and are dumping it and buying up deutchmarks and Swiss francs.

The Arabs are also buying gold. It is widely known that one formula for a new pan-Arab currency, the Arab dinar, favored by the influential oil-producer Kuwait, is that it be gold-backed. As a well-informed New York market analyst put it, "The European central banks love gold and would welcome the dinar."

Rockefeller Retaliates

In the last month, Kuwait has experienced two hijacking incidents, the most recent four days before the OPEC meeting. According to the *London Times* and the

Manchester Guardian's David Hirst, Syrians operating closely with Israeli military intelligence, were responsible for the incidents. These same networks have conspired to destroy the Palestinians in Lebanon, an operation bankrolled by Rockefeller. This week, Rockefeller anti-Arab blackmail escalated to military threats against the Saudi oil fields by the Israeli military machine.

The gulf states, led by Iraq, have maintained defensive measures against such an Israeli attack since indications of the threat were first received early this spring.

Last week Iraqi Information Minister Tariq Aziz informed *Wall Street Journal* reporter Ray Vicker in Baghdad that Iraq is preparing to counter a "leapfrog" Israeli attack over the Arab confrontation states into Iraq itself. Vicker reported having seen a number of Iraqi oilfields surrounded by batteries of anti-aircraft missiles.

The Shah Comes Under Fire

The Iranian alignment with Saudi Arabia on pricing moderation is a radical departure from Iran's past lobbying for drastic price rises. Just days before the OPEC parley convened, Iranian Oil Minister Jamshid Amouzegar, in an interview with the *Baltimore Sun*, proclaimed Iran's new decision to back a levelling off of the price of OPEC crude through 1979. Iran's hardline on oil prices was a valuable means of selling global energy austerity by Rockefeller dominated institutions such as the International Energy Agency.

Since the OPEC meeting, a wave of attacks against the Shah on the issue of "human rights" has spread throughout the international press. The "radical" branch of the NSC, the Institute for Policy Studies, and its European adjunct, the Transnational Institute have led the drive. According to a high ranking Iranian government official, there is widespread fear in Tehran that the Shah may soon be assassinated by "the CIA." CIA Director Stansfield Turner has issued a statement condemning U.S. sale of the sophisticated airborne surveillance system known as AWACS to Iran. Turner claims Iran could deliver the craft to the Soviets. The Italian daily *Il Giornale* recently reported that the top leadership of the Iranian secret service, SAVAK, was split over whether or not to support the AWACS purchase since some argue, that "it will be an act of aggression against the Soviet Union."