

In contrast to U.S. failure to help develop largescale industries in the region, Japan and Europe, in particular West Germany, have initiated an aggressive new policy this week. West German Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher, on his visit this week to Japan, is known to have proposed representation by the ASEAN

nations at the European Economic Community's commission meetings. Both West Germany and Japan have endorsed the necessity for energy development in the developing nations, and it is believed that ASEAN, because of its close ties to both parties, may well be the first to benefit from such large-scale initiatives.

Nucleus Development To Expand Indonesian Economy

In the 1950s and early 1960s Indonesia was ruled by flamboyant nationalist Sukarno who hoped to implement his "konceptsi," a conception of government that would unite the Communist Party, the Nationalist Party, the anticommunist military, and the other nationalist parties into a "guided democracy." Failing to establish viable economic policies — receiving the unfriendly attention of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency — Sukarno's "konceptsi" gave way to the government of General Suharto.

Supporters of the current government are now enthusiastically promoting a new "konceptsi" aimed at establishing an integrated agricultural and industrial policy for Indonesia's population of 130 million. A scheme called "Nucleus Development" is now being promoted by the Jakarta-based holding company, P.T. Multi Jaka Utama, whose directors are now touring Europe and the U.S. According to the company's brochure, the technological sophistication of foreign multinational corporations would be linked with Indonesia's government and private sector for the creation of "industrial growth centers" throughout the country, to serve as a "nucleus for promoting development and to preserve and enhance the productivity of its agricultural surroundings."

In an interview with the *Executive Intelligence*

Review last week, the directors of the company insisted that the scheme is not for a "free export zone," where cheap labor produces low-technology goods like shirts and plastic slippers for export. Instead, the basic idea is premised on developing the labor potential of the region.

P.T. Multi Jaka Utama designed the pilot project shown in the accompanying map on the Java Sea just outside Jakarta. Involving three villages — Bogor, Tangerang, and Bekasi — this is the most densely populated and industrialized area of the country. The plan envisions a total of 5,000 hectares with a 250-hectare industrial zone including an agri-base, chemical, manufacturing, and tank-farming industries. Adjacent will be a residential area for 25,000 workers and their families. Agriculture will be as mechanized as possible, and the rural sector will be integrated with the industrial sector through the development of a modern road network and electric grid, dams, and irrigation canals, along with a modern port and telephone network. Schools and health facilities will be upgraded and expanded.

At the present the area is completely undeveloped, but detailed plans are ready for the entire area. Its proximity to Jakarta and the country's largest port, Tanjung Priok, will serve to mitigate the initial underdeveloped nature of the area.

Attempted Bangladesh Coup — Latest Move In Destabilization Of The Subcontinent

Amid the spotlight turned on Bangladesh due to the presence of the hijacked Japan Air Lines jet at Dacca International Airport, a brief coup attempt by elements of the Bangladesh armed forces took place Oct. 1. Portrayed as a revolt of "left-wing" young officers against the ruling military junta of General and President Zia Rahman, the coup was easily crushed, leaving behind some 100 dead and further instability in that troubled South Asian country.

The coup attempt had all the earmarks of an operation designed to fail, calculated to propel the shaky General Zia further into the arms of a clique of right-wing "Islamic" and pro-Pakistani elements with a strong position within the military and in certain Muslim military organizations. These elements were threatened by a strong revival, over the past six months, of the secular nationalist political forces who formed the base of the 1971 independence movement and who were

supporters of independence leader Sheik Mujibar Rahman, assassinated in the August 1975 overthrow of his government.

The events in Bangladesh are not isolated, but closely linked to the almost-simultaneous declaration of full military rule in Pakistan and the political turmoil in India surrounding the arrest of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Events in all three countries, with the guiding hand of British and U.S.-centered monetarist circles allied with elements of the Saudi monarchy and working with the Peking regime, have been pushing the subcontinent towards regional tension and war. Analysts of the region warn that a consolidation of reactionary "Islamic" regimes in Pakistan and Bangladesh, then linking up with each other, could easily set the stage for conflict with India, leading to wholesale disintegration of the region.

Downward Slide In Bangladesh

Western journalists, prompted by the U.S. State Department, have obscenely portrayed Bangladesh as a stabilized and reviving country under the military rule of General Zia. In reality, the economic situation in the country, whose internal policies are totally under the direction of the World Bank, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the Saudis (who are bankrolling the regime), is a zero-growth disaster. Prices of basic goods like rice, fish and other staples, have skyrocketed.

The already limited industrial production of textiles, jute products and other items has declined some 30-40 percent. In the countryside, past efforts at land reform have been reversed; the World Bank-sponsored "Food for Work" slave labor projects are now the centerpiece of the government's "rural development" policy. The decline of living standards was most forcefully indicated by a severe outbreak of cholera which left at least 300 dead last month.

The unpopularity of the regime has risen with this collapse. Last February, General Zia, then Chief Martial Law administrator, decided to legitimize his rule by making himself President and holding a referendum on that decision. The government claims of 90 percent participation and overwhelming endorsement are ridiculed inside Bangladesh where the people know that only about 10 percent turned out for the affair.

Zia's position was more dramatically exposed in August when local and municipal elections were held, which Zia expected to be tame affairs. To his surprise, the once banned party of Sheik Mujib, the Awami League (and its allies in the National Awami Party and Communist Party) swept the elections, leading Zia to cancel scheduled elections in the capital city of Dacca.

These events have encouraged Zia to lean even more

towards a base of support in the most reactionary Islamic fanatics like the Jaamati I Islami, and to staff his administration almost entirely with people who opposed Bangladesh's independence from Pakistan. The pro-Pakistani elements, who tie into elements of the military who were once part of the Pakistan army and did not participate in the liberation struggle, are the inciters of anti-Indian and anti-Soviet propaganda in Bangladesh. These themes have become the mainstays of the regime, which recently amended its constitution under a martial law decree, removing the stated commitment to "secularism," an important issue in the religiously and communally divided subcontinent, and replacing it with a virtual declaration of Bangladesh as an Islamic-based state. (This version of Islam is not to be associated with the progressive traditions of the Arab world but its most reactionary, British-sponsored currents.)

The regime has been rewarded for this move by the Saudi monarchy, which received Zia on a state visit this year and is pumping funds, including for arms purchases, into the country. Zia also has the support of extreme Maoist groupings who follow Peking's direction.

The British Direction Of The Coup

Into this mess, which features an army divided into numerous unstable factions, came the attempted "coup." From all available reports, it was led by fragments of the military associated with the Maoist-Trotskyist Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-National Socialist Party) whose members were involved in the overthrow and murder of Sheik Mujib. The JSD has been proved to have close ties in its creation to British Intelligence-run Trotskyist groupings in Britain, including the so-called IMG group and its leader Tariq Ali, as well as the Institute for Policy Studies-linked Institute for Race Relations in London.

Informed Bangladesh sources now believe that the intent of the coup was to set up a rightward shift of control to the hard core pro-Pakistani group. Some reports have it that General Zia was a target for assassination under the cover of the coup, a likely scenario. At the least, the aftermath of the coup will reduce the power of Zia's personal clique in favor of the reactionary communalist elements.

The sources fear that the "left" cover will be used for further crackdowns on the nationalist elements, who are already subjected to intense repression, wholesale arrests, and threat of assassination. The coupists staged an attack on an important prison at Bogra, "liberating" JSD-linked political prisoners, who may be unleashed for provocative acts which would ultimately result in further crackdowns on Awami League circles.

— Daniel Sneider