

Trilateral business leaders pay tribute to the Soviet Empire

by Mark Burdman

While the Soviets intensify their low-intensity warfare against West Germany and their military buildup against the West in general, suddenly, a spurt of offers is coming from Moscow, for "joint ventures" with Western companies.

The partner in the carrot-and-stick game is that group of industrial and financial leaders in the West known as the Trilateral Commission, created by David Rockefeller in 1973 for the purpose of creating a "New Yalta" world order in which the Soviet Empire would play a dominating role. This Western partner's willingness to negotiate "East-West trade deals" amounts to payment of tribute to the rulers of the emerging world empire. Concretely, it means building up the Soviet war machine, or, as Pepsico's Donald Kendall put it, "infusing the new and more sophisticated technology of the non-communist world into the East."

From June 16 to 18, Vienna, Austria was the site of a meeting of almost 300 businessmen and government officials, East and West, under the auspices of the International Council for New Initiatives in East-West Trade, headed by Dzhermen Gvishiani, deputy chairman of the Soviet State Planning Committee and son-in-law of the late Soviet premier, Aleksei Kosygin. This "New Initiatives" group was founded by Gvishiani and the late head of the Club of Rome International, Italy's Dr. Aurelio Peccei, during the 1973-74 period. Its creation coincided with that of the Trilateral Commission, and it had a similar purpose: to provide a framework for negotiating the New Yalta arrangement, premised on the economic buildup of the U.S.S.R. and its satellites.

To the June 16-18 meeting, the Soviets sent a delegation of over 20, including representatives from economic, trade, shipping, and research agencies and companies. Other Warsaw Pact nations were also well-represented: the Bulgarians, for example, had individuals from the Bulgarian Foreign Trade Bank, the Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce, and the ministries of transport and of trade.

From the United States, Donald Kendall of Pepsico led the pack, accompanied by Amory Houghton of Corning Glass, Jack Reed of Archer Daniels Midland, and others. The biggest representation of all, according to conference organizers, was from West Germany, the country now most intensively targeted for Soviet destabilization: directors or man-

agers from Siemens, BASF, RuhrGaz, Daimler-Benz, CommerzBank, DeutscheBank, and more. The mover and shaker was Otto Wolff von Amerongen, whose family has been in the forefront of building up the U.S.S.R. since the Bolshevik Revolution. He is an executive committee member of the Trilateral Commission and director of the East Commission of German Industry, based in Cologne.

The conference keynote was supposed to have been delivered by West German Economics Minister Martin Bangemann, who was obliged to pull out because of the coincidence with the Lower Saxony elections. Bangemann, one of the leaders with Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher of West Germany's Free Democratic Party, sent a telegram of support to the event.

Others at the event included Hannes Androsch, director of Austria's KreditAnstalt bank; Jean-Baptiste Doumeng, the "Red Billionaire" of France, head of the Inter-Agra company; and Jean de Flassieux, a French Trilateraloid and head of Crédit Lyonnais, the French bank most involved in East-West economic deals.

'Most sophisticated technology' to the East

According to an aide to von Amerongen at his East Commission in Cologne, von Amerongen had been involved in a pre-planning meeting for the Vienna conference on May 15 in Cologne, attended by the U.S.S.R.'s Ivan Frolov, editor of *Kommunist* magazine.

Praising Frolov as a "forward-looking thinker," the aide said that Soviet economic strategy toward the West was changing under the Gorbachov team. This was partially due to Gorbachov's shift from "extensive economic development" to "intensive economic development and modernization." Because of this, the old days of discussions about large gas-pipeline deals and energy supplies to the West were coming to an end, replaced by "innovative" ideas, particularly "joint ventures"—Western firms being allowed into the U.S.S.R., for specific projects. This would, Frolov told the Cologne group, help build a "community of cooperation for survival" in Europe.

On June 18, Gvishiani told the Vienna meeting that Moscow was seeking "new forms" of economic cooperation and

was "very close" to working out specific joint ventures with Western companies, whose identities he did not reveal.

In response, Pepsico's Kendall declared: "The joint venture seems to be one of the ways to *infuse the new and most sophisticated technology of the non-communist world into the East*. Both East and West should place higher emphasis on the use of joint ventures."

According to a report in the June 19 *Financial Times* of London, "the most interest in the idea in the West" has been expressed by West Germany.

To wit: On June 9, one week before the Vienna event, the Soviet news agency Tass reported that Soviet Central Committee member Geydar Aliyev received a "prominent representative of West German business circles, president of the board of Deutsche Bank, Friedrich Wilhelm Christians." Christians, said TASS, also met with other Soviet leaders. "Matters of the deepening of mutually advantageous economic, scientific, and technical cooperation of Soviet organizations with West German firms was discussed." Deutsche Bank was in attendance in Vienna, at the June 16-18 meeting.

On June 18, the *Financial Times* reported that Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov was proposing "joint venture" projects in select high-technology areas, and the modernization of Comecon-bloc projects, with firms from Japan, Sweden, Great Britain, and elsewhere.

The special cases of Vienna, Varna . . .

The June 16-18 meeting was nicknamed "Vienna Three." It is third in the New Initiatives conference series in the Austrian capital (1974 and 1979). Vienna is by no means a fortuitous site. In recent years, it has become an absolutely central point of Soviet operations and spying into the West, a role that will expand with the building of a large United Nations complex in the city, at which, reportedly, the Soviets plan to station an enormous staff. In autumn of this year, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) talks will be shifting venue to Vienna from Helsinki, Finland, and, according to an aide to Gvishiani, the June 16-18 meeting results will be forwarded as a working paper to that CSCE meeting.

Historically, Viennese banks, particularly KreditAnstalt, played a key role in the financial arrangements that helped bring the Bolsheviks into power.

The Soviets already have a cluster of organizations associated with intelligence specialist Gvishiani in Vienna. Gvishiani is chairman of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), which he set up in 1967 with then U.S. National Security Council chief McGeorge Bundy, the unofficial head of the U.S. Eastern Establishment. During the week of the New Initiatives meeting, IIASA scheduled an international governing board meeting in nearby Laxenbourg.

In the spring of 1985, IIASA was the leading sponsor of a conference on "East-West trade" at Duke University in

North Carolina. Conference documents stated that the future of American industry lay toward the East bloc, because the Third World debt crisis and the growing industrial depression in the United States foreclosed opportunities in these sectors. In effect, American industrialists were advised to "go East" on the basis of the computer evaluation of an Institute headed by a leading figure in the Soviet state-planning apparatus!

From June 24-25, IIASA will be sponsoring a conference on "world economic modeling" in Sofia, Bulgaria. The parameters for this model have been developed at the University of Bonn, in West Germany, with the assistance of the Academies of Science of Moscow and Sofia, among others.

Aside from "Vienna 1," "Vienna 2," and "Vienna 3," the New Initiatives group has also had its "Varna 1" and "Varna 2" East-West trade conferences in the Bulgarian port city of Varna. "Varna 2," held Sept 28-30, 1985, was entitled, "East-West Trade: Status and Prospects," and convened 140 participants from 24 countries as well as representatives from IIA-SA, *Business International* magazine, and others.

Varna is one of the most important Warsaw Pact training centers for intelligence and subversion operations against the West. It is a favorite meeting ground for special joint planning operations of the Bulgarian and East German secret services.

Varna was the locale of a Sept. 27-29, 1983 New Initiatives group seminar on "Problems of European Transport Infrastructure," co-sponsored by representatives of the Bulgarian Transport Ministry and such West German industrial firms as Daimler-Benz.

. . . and, of course, Venice

The third "V," in the New Initiatives group's itinerary, after Vienna and Varna, is Venice. In autumn 1987, Gvishiani's group will meet on "Five Year Plans of the East bloc countries" in Venice, under the co-sponsorship of the Agnelli-Fiat group of Turin.

According to a report in the Italian financial daily, *Il Sole 24 Ore* June 15-16, Gianni Agnelli was one of several prominent Italians—all of them members of the Trilateral Commission—who were to attend the June 16-18 meeting in Vienna. *Il Sole* called this part of a "new Ostpolitik," that could help bring about "stable East-West relations." The paper's lead editorial, entitled, "Italy Looks East (and toward its markets)," cited recent overtures by Soviet leader Gorbachov to Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi for overall talks on the Mediterranean.

Fiat kingpin Gianni Agnelli has been key in this season's spurt of East-West trade initiatives. It could reasonably be said that the kickoff event in the series was an April 18-20 conference in Milan of the New York-based Institute for East-West Security Studies, co-sponsored by the Italian foreign ministry and financed, in part, by Fiat. This institute's head, John Mroz, was scheduled to fly in from the United States to attend the Vienna meeting.