

Trilateral Commission Revives Failed Baruch Plan

by William Engdahl

Committee on the Present Danger member Eugene V. Rostow recently cited the Baruch Plan of 1946 as the model for the current Carter Administration call for an international ban on all nuclear weapons systems. Just as they did 30 years ago, Rockefeller strategists are now making a major move to sabotage international development of the most advanced nuclear technology and related raw materials.

The noble-sounding Carter-Trilateral call for a nuclear weapons ban is the cover for the current all-out international attack on the most advanced scientific and industrial nuclear developments — fast breeder reactors, laser fusion research, nuclear enrichment and reprocessing technologies — all essential to solution of the world's critical energy needs. Manipulated fear of nuclear destruction, fed by a proliferation of Rockefeller-financed studies on dangers of "nuclear terrorism" and related RAND-contrived scenarios, is the psychological battering-ram being used to sabotage crucial technological advances. Only this time, the Wall Street script necessarily calls for self-destruction of U.S. technological capability in the process.

The fundamental flaw of the Rockefeller strategy is that the Carter Administration is engaged in a desperate global "aura of power" bluff to gain what Rockefeller was unable to gain in 1946, when the U.S. had an absolute monopoly on development of atomic weapons. This time around, however, the administration wants to "re-enact" the Baruch plan from a position of fundamental industrial, scientific, and economic weakness.

The Baruch proposal for maintaining strategic monopoly over advanced nuclear technology was the basis for all subsequent U.S. financier faction attempts to keep the rest of the world in relative satrapy status in the development of crucial atomic weapons and energy resources. This approach is the basis of the 1950s "Atoms for Peace" proposal advocated under Eisenhower by then-White House aide Nelson Rockefeller, the formation of the European Atomic Energy Commission, Euratom; and current Trilateral Commission call for a total ban on nuclear weapons and a moratorium on world exports of nuclear reprocessing technology; and the Carter blackmail efforts against Brazil, Pakistan, West Germany, France, Canada, and a host of other countries in recent weeks to cease nuclear development.

The Original

Bernard M. Baruch was a Wall Street financier who played a special role under Woodrow Wilson in exacting the draconian Versailles reparations negotiations against Germany; Baruch went so far as to call for the

dismantling of German industrial plant. During World War II, Baruch tried to persuade FDR to appoint him to head the War Production Board to "do what Hitler did to mobilize the German war economy — total control over prices, labor, production, and raw materials." He became the U.S. representative to the new United Nations Atomic Energy Commission in 1946 from which position he announced the plan which came to bear his name.

The proposal, which grew out of earlier discussions with top national security advisors to President Harry Truman, proposed creation of an International Atomic Development Authority (IADA) which would be entrusted with "all phases of the development and use of atomic energy, starting with the raw material. The IADA would be given: (1) managerial control of all atomic energy activities potentially dangerous to world security; (2) power to control, inspect, and license all other atomic activities; (3) duty to foster the beneficial uses of atomic energy; and (4) research and development responsibility ... intended to enable it to comprehend and detect misuse of atomic energy."

The kicker to this otherwise high-sounding proposal was the provision that only when an adequate system of control of atomic energy — including renunciation of the bomb as a weapon — had been agreed to, would international manufacture of atomic bombs stop and existent bombs be disposed of. In 1946 the U.S. had a monopoly on the atomic bomb; a fact it underscored with the A-bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki Japan months earlier. The Baruch proposal was a mere ploy to insure the continued U.S. monopoly of this decisive strategic advantage as Lower Manhattan ruthlessly established its "American Century" domination.

At this time, Baruch was also advocating the Morgenthau plan for Allied deindustrialization of Germany. He was also advocating the cutoff of U.S. loans to war-ravaged Britain and halting of surplus wheat shipments to a starving Italy as economic warfare to take over strategic British and European raw materials resources worldwide. This was how, along with the IADA, Baruch proposed to enforce "world peace."

Not surprisingly, the intent of the Baruch plan did not go unnoticed by the Soviet Union.

Baruch's plan called for complete freedom of access for a U.S.-controlled supranational Atomic Development Authority (ADA), "in short, no iron curtain (or domestic security — ed.) would be possible if these provisions became law." The ADA was to make worldwide geological surveys, carry out inspections, and seize control of all uranium sources. As Nikita Khrushchev bluntly described the plan, it was designed "not to ban

nuclear weapons or destroy them," but through an international agency, "interfere in the economic life of nations...The U.S. wanted to prevent the development of the atomic industry in other countries, leaving the monopoly of nuclear arms with the United States."

A Baruch aide commented that in fact "the Soviets understood the plan a damn sight better than did the British or the French." However, these latter too were not deceived for long. As early as 1945, U.S. military scientists had illegally seized French stockpiles of uranium and the British began howling that their joint agreement with the U.S. to develop the Manhattan Project had turned into total American control; Britain was cut off from any scientific information regarding atomic research.

In France, Baruch personally and unsuccessfully tried to buy off the chief of DeGaulle's atomic energy program, Frederic Joliot in 1947 if he would sever all ties to France. In the same year, the Truman Administration issued an Executive Order stating that "the United States cannot allow uranium deposits to fall into anybody's hands but ours and those of the British," who by then had been reduced to "junior partner" status in the postwar Atlanticist world.

*"Atoms For Peace ...
Baruch Redressed*

The Baruch Plan itself died of overexposure. In 1949, the Soviet breakthrough in a successful atomic bomb test gave Europe justification for pursuing independent nuclear development and research policies into the 1950s, particularly in France and Britain. In the U.S., even though atomic power had been placed under a civilian Atomic Energy Agency in 1946, peaceful energy applications, most of which had been theoretically developed during the Manhattan Project, including commercial fast breeder designs, were ignored. All attention was focused on military development with the only power applications given to develop nuclear powered submarines. By contrast, Britain, France, and the Soviet Union were integrating civilian and military development by using civilian power reactors to produce weapons grade plutonium in development of so-called dual-purpose reactors.

With its international strategic monopoly of nuclear development and weaponry rapidly eroding, in December 1953 the U.S. government attempted to recoup the initiative with a grand propaganda gesture. In a United Nations address issued on the advice of Nelson Rockefeller and other advisors, President Eisenhower called for development of "Atomic Power for Peace" or "Atoms for Peace" as it became known. As one advisor bragged, the U.S. had executed a coup against the Soviet Union at the expense of giving Europe a "few tiny reactors to play with." As the next step, the U.S. encouraged the creation of the European Atomic Energy Commission (Euratom) two years later. Euratom was initially no more than a continuation of the essential thread of the Baruch Plan for U.S. control under changing strategic circumstances: integration with Europe would be favorable to continued U.S. domination of nuclear policy. Initial U.S. plans to subjugate national development to a supranational nuclear authority with

powers like the right to tax production, has to be diluted after strong European industrial opposition.

Rockefeller was particularly interested in forestalling the independent French nuclear developments which had the potential to shape a militarily and technologically independent Europe. When the U.S. failed in this, Euratom was transformed into a "harmless regional effort to develop nuclear power reactors."

A Euratom committee was set up in 1956 in the aftermath of the Suez crisis, which had caused major European fossil fuel shortages. Euratom was closely tied to U.S. negotiations to form a European Common Market. The committee, headed by Louis Armand, relied on advice from a three-man technical advisory team sent by the Atomic Energy Commission. The Armand report issued in 1957 recommended against European construction of its own uranium enrichment capability since it would allegedly increase the "risk of nuclear weapon proliferation." With the Rockefeller hand played, France decided to go ahead and build its own enrichment plant at Pierrelatte. As the six-country Euratom, including France, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands, moved to sign deals to import U.S. reactor technology, then quite experimental, Gaullist official Michel Debré sharply warned in 1958: "If the (Euratom) Commission fails to base its first effort on a scientific, intellectual, and industrial competition with the U.S., the dependence of the Euratom nations (on the U.S.) will only increase at the great expense of the political independence of the science and future of the west."

Euratom reliance on U.S. reactor technology did act to undermine real and crucial European industrial cooperation. When in 1958 the West Germans and the Dutch decided to opt for long-range collaboration on development of new and potentially far less costly enrichment technology — centrifuge and "jet nozzle" — the U.S. in 1960 forced Bonn to put the research under military classification. A U.S. government official at this time declared, "Whatever the future development and in whatever direction atomic power moves, our position will be an absolutely commanding one from the point of view of raw materials alone."

An attempt by DeGaulle in 1962 to make joint development of a French-West German gas graphite power reactor a part of the 1963 Franco-German Treaty agreements resulted in maneuvers by the Kennedy Administration to draw Bonn back into direct dependence on Washington.

With Euratom acting as the "broker of all nuclear ores and fissionable materials produced or received in the EEC," European nuclear development was substantially held back in any significant degree until the late 1960s and early 1970s. Euratom projections in 1957-58 of 15,000 MegaWatt electric (MWe) installed nuclear capacity by 1967 had been scaled down to 2,000 MWe by 1960.

With DeGaulle's return to power in France in the late 1950s, that country moved for full independence from the U.S. in terms of the entire nuclear fuel cycle and the Gaullist government went all out to develop independent nuclear capability; the famous "*force de frappe*." By 1967 France had developed independence in the entire nuclear fuel cycle with uranium enrichment, mining and

reprocessing facilities, permitting it to develop its own military program. By 1971, France signed a deal with the Soviet Union to supply additional enriched uranium for the developing commercial light water reactor program, as the existing Pierrelatte enrichment plant was providing solely military fuel.

That same year, the French government took the initiative to develop a European-wide gas diffusion enrichment capability, Eurodif, which would have broken the U.S. stranglehold on European enriched uranium supplies. Rockefeller hurriedly offered to "share" U.S. enrichment technology and develop a single European facility which could ostensibly be easily monitored for "nonproliferation" purposes. Europeans spurned the offer, regarding it as an attempt to perpetuate dependence on U.S. technology. Instead, a joint agreement was signed in 1972 between France, West Germany, Britain, Italy, and the Benelux countries for development of joint gas diffusion enrichment technology.

In 1973, Rockefeller through the agent Brandt government in West Germany succeeded in getting Britain, West Germany, and the Netherlands to pull out in favor of the far less ambitious Urenco centrifuge enrichment project, leaving the French, Italy, Belgium and Spain with later Iranian participation to proceed. Eurodif began construction in 1973 despite the setback.

U.S. Uranium Blackmail

In the wake of Chase Manhattan's 1973 oil crisis, Europeans acted quickly to expand all aspects of commercial nuclear power and fuel cycle development to gain greater independence from U.S. energy blackmail. Rockefeller only tightened the pressure valve. In 1974 the Atomic Energy Commission announced that it would no

longer guarantee deliveries of enriched uranium for any future export contracts.

No Ace-in-the-Hole

Eugene Rostow's call for a renewed Baruch Plan approach to ban nuclear weapons and related advanced technology is a bluff against nations which have substantially developed nuclear energy beyond existing U.S. nuclear technology capability. Rockefeller's clamp-down can work only under conditions of total economic warfare against Western Europe, Japan, and the developing sector. That's only possible — as the recent European and Brazilian refusal to back down on committed nuclear technology transfer underlines — with the active collaboration of the Soviet Union in economic attacks on Europe and the developing sector. Indeed, published Trilateral Commission reports say that their strategy for nuclear sabotage relies on Soviet willingness to actively enforce the nuclear proliferation hoax on other countries.

Such a Soviet turn is highly unlikely. The Soviet leadership has recently invited Italy to participate in construction of fast breeder reactors in the Soviet Union. Along with the French, the Soviets currently lead the world in this advanced technology, the same program which the Carter Administration has just slashed to the point of destruction. Carter's short-term attempt to stop European technology export in the last weeks has not proved successful. The de facto withholding of deliveries of enriched uranium to Euratom to blackmail West Germany into breaking its 5 billion D-mark reactor-fuel cycle deal with Brazil has already blown up in Mr. Carter's face. Earlier this week the conservative West German daily *Die Welt* announced that in 1976 Euratom bought 55 percent of its enriched uranium from the Soviet Union.