

## EDITORIAL

# The end of OPEC?

The first victim of the "Crash of '79" is the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, which drove the final nail into its own coffin when the majority of OPEC members recently gave their support to the outlaw government of Iran. OPEC, once a vehicle to express the legitimate demands for industrial development of raw materials-producing countries below the Tropic of Cancer, has become an unambiguous tool of the British oligarchy.

By faithfully following the British "petropound" policy of outrageous oil price increases, OPEC has handed the knife to the likes of Henry Kissinger, who for at least six years has been trying to convince Americans that OPEC is responsible for the decline in U.S. living standards. The current outrages of the Ayatollah Khomeini—whose filthy feet are being kissed by the leaderships of Syria, Libya, Kuwait, and Algeria—have given Kissinger and his cohorts in the U.S. government what they want.

No one should take self-righteous satisfaction in the story of OPEC's degradation, now that the organization's stupid price rises have overwhelmed its previously positive thrust for technology transfer. The OPEC decline is destined to be repeated with slightly altered script in the rest of the world.

When OPEC functioned in the political climate created by the Nonaligned Movement, it was aimed at breaking the devastating control which the British Empire in particular, and its American junior partners, had over these raw materials producing countries. Within OPEC, countries could begin to accumulate the funds to develop their countries into more than a huge series of oil rigs in the desert.

Yet OPEC never broke the most obvious kinds of control by the British and American oil multinationals. The oil majors retained 95 to 98 percent of what are called "downstream" capacities—refineries and transport—and hence, virtual fingertip control over oil flows.

After the Yom Kippur war and the 1973-74 Oil Hoax, OPEC was faced with the potential for a significant upgrading of its political role. Having orchestrated the oil price rise by means including the blackmail of the Saudi leadership, Henry Kissinger and his London cronies proposed to take the increased OPEC revenues directly back into the International Monetary Fund and World Bank. Seeking

an alternative, some OPEC governments looked receptively toward the 1974-75 proposals of the American economist Lyndon LaRouche.

The most open indications of this receptivity were the invitation of LaRouche to Iraq in 1975 and the most lasting cooperation initiated between particularly France and West Germany, and leading OPEC countries. Returning from Iraq, LaRouche formalized his proposals in a Bonn press conference of April, 1975, as the "International Development Bank."

Under the IDB, the socialist and capitalist industrialized sectors together with OPEC nations would generate a new gold-backed monetary system, using the oil and advanced technological capacities to provide cheap energy and cheap credit for industrializing the entire underdeveloped sector.

Numerous assassinations and coups weakened this thrust. The IMF tightened its "conditionalities" screws on loans. Peasant hordes were stepped up through the British-run synthetic Islamic Revival. Then such British satrapies within OPEC as Kuwait began to up the pressure for oil price rises.

West German Finance Minister Matthoefler said it clearly enough last week: Britain is controlling OPEC policy. And with exceptions in Iraq and Saudi Arabia, OPEC as a whole is now acting as an enemy of the human race.

The most stupid possible reaction to this is for the United States to "retaliate" by invading the oil fields, fulfilling the Dark Age prophecies of the London *Economist* and the authors of the "Crash of '79" scenario. The financial houses, the oligarchs, the agents of the British-sponsored fundamentalist revival against technological progress—and the U.S. government officials who persist in open support of the Muslim Brotherhood, must be targeted and wiped out.

The best combination for accomplishing that task is an ad hoc alliance among Western Europe, the United States, the Soviet Union, and key developing countries. That same alliance can then move to the broader task of replacing the fatally flawed OPEC as an instrument for development, with a new world monetary system modeled on LaRouche's IDB.

—Nora Hamerman