

WORLD SITUATIONER

Japanese, Germans support global negotiations on oil

UNITED NATIONS (Reuter) — Japan and West Germany yesterday endorsed proposals for global negotiations on energy, aimed at greater stability in the pricing and supply of oil.

West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher told the United Nations General Assembly: "We cannot evade an energy dialogue any longer."

Saburo Okita, the delegate of Japan, said measures should be devised to recycle surplus oil funds to developing countries lacking oil resources.

Okita welcomed the initiative of the developing countries' Group of 77 to include energy in comprehensive economic negotiations, due to start in January.

They were addressing the assembly on the third day of a special session on Third World development problems.

In his statement, Genscher said there could not be a smooth transition from the oil age to alternate sources of energy unless oil-exporting and oil-importing countries cooperated in a spirit of joint responsibility.

"Although rising prices for a commodity (oil) that is becoming increasingly scarce may be unavoidable, abrupt price increases and sudden portions of adaptation which cause severe setbacks in economic activity must be avoided," he said.

Genscher thus echoed US Secretary of State Edmund Muskie, who appealed here Monday for stable oil prices and supply.

Muskie said the oil nations bore a unique responsibility for the world's economic plight.

But in a speech, yesterday, a leading Asian statesman laid the blame elsewhere.

Mahathir Bin Mohamed, deputy prime minister and trade minister of Malaysia, said: "Recession is mainly the result of an extreme lethargy and laziness of the workers in the industrialized nations. Having got used to an easy life at the expense of the rest of the world, they are not willing to work for a living any more. They would like the world to provide for them, as in the days of colonialism."

Ethiopia invades Somalia

NAIROBI (Reuter) — Ethiopian troops backed by fighter-bombers invaded north-west Somalia yesterday, Mogadishu radio said.

The radio, monitored here, said Ethiopian troops crossed the border near the town of Borama. Ethiopian jets raided other towns in the area, the radio said.

It added that Somali forces had stopped the Ethiopian advance, but fighting continued.

One Ethiopian aircraft was shot down and the pilot died instantly, the broadcast quoted the defense ministry as saying.

It was the first time in their protracted territorial dispute that Somalia had accused Ethiopia of sending troops across the border.

The Mogadishu government has previously said that Ethiopian jets struck at targets along the border. Aid workers have verified some of these raids.

Polish crisis spreads; military maneuvers by NATO, Warsaw Pact slated

GDANSK (Reuter) — Support for the strikers who have paralyzed Poland's Baltic port of Gdansk grew yesterday with stoppages by workers in the industrial cities of Lodz and Wroclaw.

Leaders of the 14-day strike in Gdansk showed no signs of backing down on their demands as the government's chief negotiator returned to the port for fresh talks.

The strikers, pressing Poland's communist rulers for political reforms, have crippled industry in the north of the country.

American east coast dock workers said they were starting a boycott on trade with Poland in solidarity with the strikers.

The action will disrupt grain shipments intended to ease Polish food shortages.

The United States also disclosed that Polish leaders have asked Washington for credit worth \$675 million to buy food.

As the stoppages spread, 20 enterprises were reported struck in Wroclaw and 10 in Lodz where workers issued a list of demands similar to those formulated in Gdansk.

These include the right to form free trade unions and the abolition of censorship.

An offer of free trade union elections and the possibility of the right to strike were rejected as insufficient yesterday by leaders of the Gdansk stoppage.

Strike leader Lech Walesa was in defiant mood as he and colleagues prepared for another round of bargaining with the government's chief negotiator, deputy prime minister Mieczyslaw Jagielski.

"We are demanding, not pleading," he said. Although the government's tactics have been conciliatory up to now, a leading political commentator warned that strikers on television last night not to go far.

Although there has been some degree of political stability to the country after a series of bloody coups, is embarking on more and more overseas visits — last month to China, this month to the United States and now to France.

Next month President Zia will return to New Delhi for the commonwealth conference but his relations with India, which in 1971 backed up the Bangladesh fight for independence from Pakistan with troops, have worsened considerably.

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been no official shift in the censorship position, Polish newspapers are now carrying extensive reports of the Gdansk strike.

One newspaper published for the first time all 21 demands made by the strikers.

But the Krakow Roman Catholic weekly *Tygodnik - Pospolite* said censors had refused to let it publish a letter from Pope John Paul in which he prayed for his native country.

Editor Jerzy Turowicz said no reason was given.

In London, banking sources said the labor turmoil was unlikely to affect Poland's credit worthiness although the strikes would prevent it reaching economic targets.

The strikes are not expected to endanger a West German loan package worth 1.5 billion marks (\$660 million) which is likely to be signed within the next three weeks, they said.

The Soviet news agency Tass said that "anti-socialist element" in Poland were trying to divert the country from socialism.

It said party workers and working people in Poland were calling for effective steps to resolve the crisis.

The crisis, it is noted here with some apprehension, will be coinciding in early September with European military maneuvers of impressive size both by the Warsaw Pact and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

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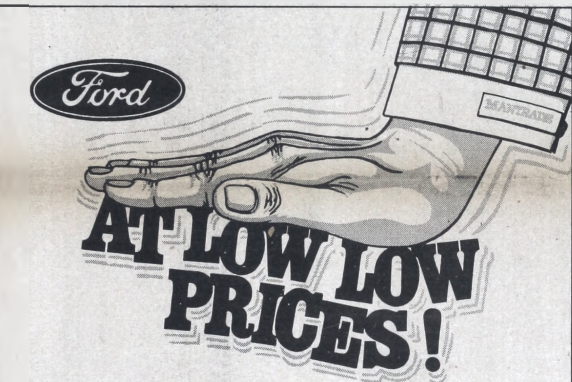
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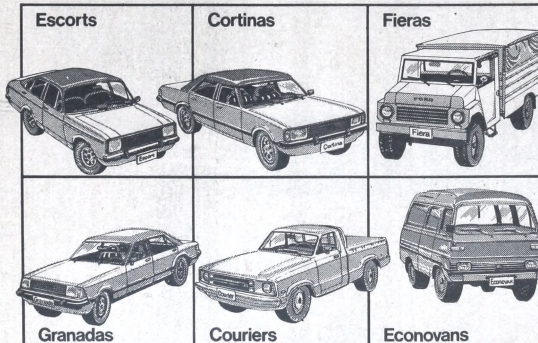
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