

# TRIALOGUE

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\*Executive Committee

\*\* ACTIVITIES OF THE TRILATERAL COMMISSION \*\*

A Report from the Director:

As of now, six policy projects are well under way, covering such crucial topics as monetary reform, trade, energy, relations with the developing countries, the future of the oceans, and the political implications of changes in value systems in the trilateral world. In addition, meetings have recently taken place to enhance the active involvement of Trilateral Commission members in our planning procedures and policy study program, as well as to inform influential segments of the wider public about the nature and scope of the Commission's endeavors. I attended a number of these meetings, not only in the United States but also in Japan and Europe, from which I recently returned. What follows is an update on these events, as well as a brief look at our agenda for the coming months.

THE TRILATERAL POLICY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

MONETARY TASK FORCE -- In view of the impact of the recent rise in oil prices on the world monetary system, the Trilateral Commission is considering an update to the report of its Monetary Task Force, "Towards A Renovated Monetary System," published last fall (Triangle Papers #1). Professor Richard N. Cooper, the North American rapporteur of the Task Force, has made some pertinent recommendations and these have been circulated among financial experts both within and outside the Trilateral Commission, eliciting a broad range of comment and suggestions. It is expected that a revised version of the draft will be presented for further consideration to the Executive Committee of the Trilateral Commission at its Brussels meeting scheduled for late June.

TRADE TASK FORCE -- In accordance with the schedule they adopted last December, the members of the Trade Task Force met recently to discuss the preliminary draft of their report. On March 21, the North American rapporteur, Philip H. Trezise, of the Brookings Institution, met in London with the Japanese and European rapporteurs, Messrs. Nobuhiko Ushiba (former Ambassador to the U.S.) and Guido Colonna di Paliano (a former Commissioner of the European Community). Their report will define the broad political, economic and social setting of international trade policies in the light of the current GATT negotiations, and will analyze such pressing problems as agricultural bargaining and the potential shortfall in food; trade distortions arising from both tariff and non-tariff barriers; export controls; institutional reform; and the special interests of the developing countries. Pertinent policy recommendations will be offered in each of these areas. Mr. Trezise is due to consult shortly with various trade policy experts in the U.S. and Canada to obtain their suggestions. Mr. Ushiba has already held extensive consultations with Japanese officials and with the individuals he has chosen to comprise the Japanese Trade Task Force. Mr. Colonna is engaging in similar consultations in Europe. After consideration by the members of the Trilateral Commission, the report will be presented to the Executive Committee in June for renewed discussion and possible endorsement.

ENERGY TASK FORCE -- The Trilateral Energy Task Force is now preparing an interim report on the political implications of the present world energy crisis. This interim report, to be discussed at the Executive Committee meeting in June, will focus primarily on the short-term aspects of the energy problem, including such urgent issues as the economic and social effects of the crisis in the trilateral world and the bases for appropriate political responses. A second report dealing with some of the longer-range aspects of energy will be prepared in the fall, in time for the fall meeting of the Executive Committee. The North American component of the Energy Task Force, consisting of North American rapporteur John C. Campbell, of the CFR; Paul Langer, of the RAND Corporation; Walter Levy, noted oil expert; Ronald Ritchie, Chairman of the Institute for Research on Public Policy, Montreal; and Carroll L. Wilson, of the Alfred P. Sloan School of Management, MIT, gathered in New York on March 15. The Japanese Energy Task Force held a similar planning session in Tokyo on March 19, under the direction of the Japanese rapporteur, Shinichi Kondo, former Ambassador to Canada. On March 29 Messrs. Campbell and Kondo met in Brussels with their two European co-rapporteurs, Wolfgang Hager and Guy de Carmoy, currently Professor at the Institut d'Etudes Politiques in Paris. This meeting followed a four-day series of discussions on energy which took place in Brussels under the joint auspices of The Brookings Institution, the European Community Institute for University Studies, and the Japan Economic Research Center. The rapporteurs of the Trilateral Energy Task Force took an active part in these sessions.

STUDY GROUP ON LDC PRIORITIES -- The Trilateral Study Group on LDC Priorities is currently preparing an interim report for June and will later prepare a lengthier report to be submitted to the Executive Committee in the fall. The first document will lay special emphasis on the plight of the world's poorest countries -- the so-called 'Fourth World' -- in the present energy crisis, and will offer recommendations for immediate action by the trilateral nations to help alleviate the enormous balance-of-payments deficits these resource-poor LDC's will incur as a consequence of skyrocketing prices for petroleum, food, fertilizer and other vital commodities. The interim report will also outline a series of longer range issues for the forthcoming second report. Among the topics likely to be treated in this more wide-ranging report are the basic rationale for liberal aid and trade policies in the 1970's and 1980's; the need for greater reliance on multilateralism in future aid programs; and the prospects for structural changes within the trilateral countries to permit a more flexible accommodation to the trade requirements of the LDC's. The rapporteurs of the Study Group, Professor Richard N. Gardner of Columbia University, North American rapporteur; Dr. B. J. Udink, former Dutch Minister Without Portfolio Responsible for Aid to the Developing Countries, European rapporteur; and Dr. Akira Onishi, Project Director of the International Development Center of Japan, the Japanese rapporteur, met with Trilateral Commission members from the Washington area on the morning of March 18. They later called on Robert McNamara of the World Bank and Dr. H. Johannes Witteveen and other officials of the International Monetary Fund for further guidance. On March 19, the Study Group participated in discussions on North-South relations with a group of spokesmen from various developing countries. The rapporteurs were joined in these discussions by Mr. Bernard Wood of the Canadian office of the Trilateral Commission. This session, arranged under the sponsorship of the

Overseas Development Council and the Charles F. Kettering Foundation, gave primary consideration to a list of questions prepared by Professor Gardner which the Study Group may address in its two projected reports. On March 22 the Study Group rapporteurs met with another group of Trilateral Commission members in New York City.

OCEAN CONSULTANT -- Dr. Ann Hollick, Executive Director of the Ocean Policy Project at the School of Advanced International Studies, has been commissioned to explore the feasibility of a future report on ocean policy by the Trilateral Commission. Dr. Hollick engaged in extensive consultations on this subject with North American Trilateral Commission members throughout February and March, and departed for Japan on April 7 to meet with Japanese Commissioners and Japanese ocean policy experts from outside the Commission. Upon her return to the U.S., Dr. Hollick will complete her draft of the feasibility study for submission to the Executive Committee in June.

VALUES TASK FORCE -- Preliminary arrangements have been concluded for the initial meeting of the Trilateral Task Force on Values. This group consists of Professor Samuel P. Huntington of Harvard University; Professor Michel Crozier, University of Paris; and Professor Joji Watanuki, of the Institute of International Relations at Sophia University, Tokyo. Their present mandate is to assess the effects of values and attitudes currently prevailing in North America, Western Europe and Japan on the future of the trilateral relationship. This study may examine such topics as the concept of citizenship; the status of the work ethic; the perception of domestic and international priorities; and the broader implications of the emergence of post-industrial society. Where feasible, relevant policy conclusions are expected to emerge from the analysis. A planning session is scheduled for April 20 and 21 at Stanford University.

#### REGIONAL TRILATERAL COMMISSION MEETINGS

SAN FRANCISCO, FEBRUARY 19 -- With William M. Roth of the Trilateral Commission serving as host, a regional dinner meeting was held in San Francisco on Feb. 19 featuring local T.C. members and over twenty invited guests. The group heard North American Chairman Gerard C. Smith offer a brief overview of Commission activities, following which I outlined the current and planned work of our Task Forces. Philip Trezise of the Trade Task Force then discussed the issues which he and his colleagues will tackle in their upcoming report.

CHICAGO, FEBRUARY 22 -- A similar meeting was held three days later in Chicago, with John H. Perkins serving as luncheon host. In addition to Chicago-area Commission members, about a dozen prominent local businessmen, journalists and academicians were present. The format of the meeting essentially resembled that of the San Francisco discussions.

CANADIAN MEETING -- Under the auspices of the Canadian group, a meeting of Canadian monetary specialists was convened in Toronto on March 18 to discuss Prof. Cooper's proposed update to the Monetary Task Force report and the effects of the latest developments in the international monetary situation. In addition to the Canadian Commissioners, the group included ten invited experts from different levels of government, the universities, private financial institutions and the financial press.

JAPANESE COMMISSION MEETING -- A full meeting of the Japanese Commission took place on March 11 at the Keidanren Kaikan in Tokyo. In addition to attending this meeting, I also met with the members of the Japanese Executive Committee.

EUROPEAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING -- The European Executive Committee met in Brussels on April 5, in preparation for our June Executive Committee meeting in Brussels. Gerard Smith and I took part.

FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES -- In addition to the continuing activities of our policy development program as noted above, the following events have been added to our calendar for the coming months:

- April 24 - Canadian regional dinner meeting in Toronto, featuring discussions on energy and trade issues; Foreign Minister Mitchell Sharp and some 40 guests are expected to attend.
- May 29-30 - North American Trilateral Commission meeting, New York.
- June 23-25 - Trilateral Commission Executive Committee meetings, Brussels.

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\*\* TRICOM FOCUS \*\*

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THOUGHTS ON THE ROLE OF THE TRILATERAL COMMISSION

A Canadian Contribution

The Canadian members of the North American Commission proposed the following statement at their December 1973 meeting and they invite comments from members of the Commission:

One of the unusually promising features of the Trilateral Commission proposal is its commitment to a continuing dialogue over a period as long as three years (as contrasted with many "one-shot" international endeavours) and its recognition that the first priority is to "develop the habit of working together" among participants from the different regions. Given the basic nature of some of the communication gaps we are attempting to bridge, this process cannot be overly rushed.

The Canadian Group would, therefore, suggest the following points as general guidelines for our endeavours, at least for the first year. After that time, it would be appropriate to re-assess the approach in the light of experience.

1. The first priority must be to establish confidence and communication among Commissioners. This should involve members of the Commission to the greatest possible extent.
2. We must work to establish the credibility of the Commission among broad groups in our countries. The setting of realistic targets for achievement and the fullest possible involvement of every Commissioner in expanded trilateral dialogue are prerequisites to effective impact.
3. While our discussions must focus on important issues in order to have relevance and precision, the Commission should not necessarily attempt to advocate very specific plans of action for immediate implementation by Governments. In many areas, any number of specific plans might work if the underlying principles were commonly accepted. This latter area is, perhaps, the most appropriate domain for the Trilateral Commission.
4. Another role which might be a very valuable, and probably unique, contribution of the Commission in the near future would be to attempt to provide "distant early warning" of areas where breakdowns in international co-operation might occur over the next few years. To counteract one of the most important root causes of present international problems -- the inability to anticipate international difficulties early enough for effective common action -- the Commission might also give high priority to devising continuing international machinery for "distant early warning" of problems just over the international horizon.

The Canadian Group has submitted some suggestions which are similar to those of the Japanese Commissioners on ways of increasing the informal contact among all Commissioners of the three regions. One possibility is that a tri-regional Triialogue could be initiated and that Commissioners willing to undertake Trilateral Commission engagements (formal or informal) in other regions could announce their travel plans and availability.

We would find it most useful to have reactions to the above suggestions and comments on other possible approaches to organizing Commission activities.

The following statement by Senator William V. Roth, Jr., of the Trilateral Commission is part of a speech delivered before the Rotary Club of Wilmington, Delaware, on December 20, 1973, and reprinted in the Congressional Record:

## European Members

- \*Giovanni Agnelli, *President, FIAT, Ltd.*
- \*P. Nyboe Andersen, *Member of the Danish Parliament*
- \*Klaus Dieter Arndt, *Member of the Bundestag*
- Raymond Barre, *Former Vice President of the Commission of the European Community*
- Piero Bassetti, *President of the Regional Government of Lombardy*
- Georges Berthoin, *Former Chief Representative of the Commission of the European Community to the U.K.*
- \*Kurt Birrenbach, *Member of the Bundestag; President, Thyssen Vermögensverwaltung*
- Franco Bobba, *Company Director, Turin*
- Frederick Boland, *Chancellor, Dublin University; former President of the United Nations General Assembly*
- Alastair Burnet, *Editor, The Economist*
- Jean-Claude Casanova, *Director of Studies, Fondation Nationale des Sciences Politiques*
- Umberto Colombo, *Director of the Committee for Scientific Policy, OECD*
- Guido Colonna di Paliano, *President, La Rinascente; former member of the Commission of the European Community*
- \*Francesco Compagna, *Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of the Mezzogiorno*
- Jacques de Fouchier, *President, Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas*
- Paul Delouvrier, *Chairman, French Electricity Board*
- Barry Desmond, *Member of the Lower House of the Irish Republic*
- Werner Dollinger, *Member of the Bundestag*
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- R. Ewalenko, *Director of the Belgium National Bank*
- Francesco Forte, *Professor of Financial Sciences, University of Turin*
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- Giuseppe Gilenti, *Director of General Affairs, La Rinascente*
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- Jozef P. Houthuys, *President, Belgian Confederation of Christian Trade Unions*
- Daniel E. Janssen, *Deputy Director General, Belgian Chemical Union, Ltd.*
- Roy Jenkins, *Member of Parliament*
- Karl Kaiser, *Director of the Research Institute of the German Society for Foreign Policy*
- Michael Killeen, *Managing Director, Industrial Development Authority, Irish Republic*
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- Thorvald Stoltenberg, *International Affairs Secretary, Norwegian Trade Union Council*
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- Herrn-Oskar Vetter, *Chairman, German Federation of Trade Unions*
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*The Trilateral Commission was formed in 1973 by private citizens of Western Europe, Japan, and North America to foster closer cooperation among these three regions on common problems. It seeks to improve public understanding of such problems, to support proposals for handling them jointly, and to nurture habits and practices of working together among these regions.*

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