



NEW SOLIDARITY International Press Service

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NEW SOLIDARITY INTERNATIONAL PRESS SERVICE (IPS)
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I. PRIORITIES

ECHEVERRIA AND TITO CALL FOR "PROGRAMMATIC COLLABORATION" TOWARD NEW WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER

March 13 (IPS) — Mexican President Luis Echeverria and Yugoslav President Josip Tito discussed "programmatic collaboration between the Third World and non-aligned countries" toward a New World Economic Order during their first official meeting in Mexico. The meeting was held a day after President Tito's arrival in that country March 10 for a 5-day visit. President Tito declared that moves toward the solution of the world's "gravest economic problems" were advancing with "distressing slowness," adding that it is necessary to change the world's economic relations "in a more radical way."

Echeverria declared that the commitment of Latin American countries to "opening the way for a new stage" in their relations with the advanced sector, a stage of "the design of instruments, the creation of institutions, of the establishment of priorities" in order to bring to reality the postulates of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. Stressing the importance of Latin American integration, Echeverria emphasized "the importance for the future of the Latin American region" of bettering "the conditions of our trade with the developed world, both in terms of raw materials and energy resources as well as in respect to manufactured products, technology and capital."

President Tito called on Mexico to take a greater participation in the non-aligned group of countries "even within its present observer-country status," adding that "the non-aligned countries assume an important part of the responsibility for overall development in the world." The non-aligned, continued Tito, "with their initiative and activity have become the force without whose participation...it is impossible to find lasting solutions to international problems."

Throughout his speech, President Tito stressed the importance of the resolutions taken last year at the Helsinki conference on Security and Cooperation which "created the conditions for the deepening and extension of the process of detente," and called for detente to "become the permanent characteristic of international relations," adding that "precisely this lead should be followed everywhere."

The speeches were reported in the major Mexico City press.

FRENCH CENTRAL BANK SPENDS 500 MILLION DOLLARS
TO PREVENT FRANC DEVALUATION

March 13 (IPS) — Le Monde economist Paul Fabra reported today that the French central bank, the Banque de France, has spent 3.5 to 4.5 billion dollars since the beginning of the year to prevent a devaluation of the French franc. This amounts to 40 to 50 per cent of France's total foreign currency reserves, excluding gold.

Fabra also reported that in the past three days alone, over 500 million dollars "has been thrown into the battle to stop the Franc from uncoupling from the European snake."

Fabra added that Finance Minister Jean-Pierre Fourcade's mooted of a possible expansion of the European snake to include the British pound and the Italian lira "only feeds the rumor-mill" and invites speculators to renew their assaults on the French franc.

CHIEF OF FRENCH POLICE UNION
ATTACKS GOVERNMENT POLICY

March 13 (IPS) — Roger Cousin, the head of the French special riot police (CRS) union, stated that the government official who negligently ordered the deployment of the CRS last week into a set-up riot situation among demonstrating winegrowers "must be sought out" as the person responsible for the deaths of a CRS commander and a winegrower in the resulting shoot-out. Cousin also attacked the government for "allowing situations to rot" and then mobilizing the police forces — a veiled attack on Interior Minister Poniatowski's practices over the past two years.

Cousin said that "we must ensure the maintenance of public order as long as the government remains legitimate," — the Gaullist doctrine of "legitimacy" first coined to justify General De Gaulle's Free French rebellion against the Vichy puppet government of France in World War II. His remarks were reported in the French daily Le Monde today.

GAULLISTS, PCF, AND LEFT LABOURITES
ABSTAIN ON EURO PARLIAMENT VOTE

March 13 (IPS) — The representatives of the French Communist Party, the French Gaullists, and representatives of the left-wing Tribune faction of the British Labour Party abstained yesterday on a vote by the European Assembly in Strasbourg to ratify the Tindemans proposal to elect a European parliament by universal suffrage in 1978. The

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proposal, a leading component of Atlanticist plans for a fascist, integrated Europe, was supported by the Italian Communist Party and French Socialist Party and was approved by a wide majority. The vote was reported in yesterday's L'Humanite, newspaper of the French Communist Party.

WHO SAYS FLU OUTBREAK "EPIDEMIC"
IN MORE THAN 121 U.S. CITIES

March 13 (IPS) — According to the latest weekly report of the World Health Organization, an arm of the United Nations, deaths from pneumonia and influenza last month "exceeded the epidemic threshold" in over 121 cities in the U.S. The report said that over 33 states had severe outbreaks of flu, with the Mid-Atlantic and New England regions being most affected. The findings were reported in today's Washington Post.

NEW YORK TIMES CALLS FOR
"TOUGH DISCIPLINE" IN BRITAIN

March 13 (IPS) — Complaining that a cornerstone of Atlanticist policy — the British Government's plans to cut public spending by billions of pounds in order to guarantee repayment of the country's debt — was rejected by the British Parliament this week, the New York Times lead editorial today, entitled "Sinking Pound... Rising Austerity," advocates the immediate re-instatement of the defeated proposals. The editorial called on Britain to combine the depreciation of the pound with "tough wage discipline and the austere budgetary policies to which Prime Minister Harold Wilson and Chancellor of the Exchequer Denis Healey have committed their Government."

If not, warned the Times, "a weary British public, facing worsening unemployment and inflation would be more likely to turn to the right than the left."

BRITISH ARMY MAY BE NEEDED, WARNS POLICE COMMISSIONER

March 13 (IPS) — A warning that British army troops might be needed to aid civil authorities for "certain limited purposes," was given yesterday by London Police Commissioner Sir Robert Mark, according to the March 12 London Times. "Latterly, there has emerged a need for contingency plans for military aid to deal with situations in which defensive armour, sophisticated weaponry and specialized training might minimize loss of life in dealing with armed and dangerous men inspired by political motives," Sir Mark explained.

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JAPANESE BANK EXPOSES EXPORT UPTURN BASED SOLELY ON INVENTORY BUILDUP OF CONSUMER GOODS IN U.S.

NEW YORK, March 13 (IPS) — Mitsubishi Bank, one of the largest banks in Japan, has just published a report demonstrating that the current increase in Japanese exports is primarily based on inventory buildup of consumer items in the United States whose actual sales are falling. The report calls into serious question the optimistic forecasts of rapidly rising exports by the Japanese government, according to the March 12 Financial Times of London. The Mitsubishi report says that most of January's export increase was in autos and televisions, the bulk of which went to the United States. But, the report says, this was to replenish inventories which had declined throughout 1975, and that sales of Japanese cars in the United States actually declined by 10 per cent in February this year compared with February 1975.

The report warns that unless the demand for Japanese heavy goods exports picks up, based on increasing capital investment in the U.S., the export boom could peter out, as a comparable one did during the 1958 recession. Japan's January exports in the crucial shipbuilding, steel and chemical industries were down 23.2 per cent, 31.7 per cent and 31.8 per cent respectively from January 1975.

The report also cites a rapidly falling rate of growth of Japanese exports to the Middle East, which were only 8 per cent above January 1975 (whereas exports to the Mideast in Jan-March 1975 had been 14 per cent above the same months in 1974), Japan's exports to Southeast Asia actually fell in January, and exports to communist countries dropped 15.9 per cent.

The Financial Times article points out that Mitsubishi's analysis sharply contradicts that of the Japanese government, whose Minister of International Trade and Industry, Komoto, said last week that the economy could be expected to be well on the way to recovery by early summer as the result of rising exports.

PAKISTAN SEEKS DEBT MORATORIUM

March 13 (IPS) — Pakistan is expected to seek a moratorium on the payment of all debt service charges on its foreign debt from the World Bank-led Aid Pakistan Consortium when the Consortium meets in May, according to the London Financial Times of March 12. The Financial Times reported that Pakistan is facing a "terrible" shortage of foreign exchange "which is holding back several projects of far reaching consequences both in the public and private sectors." The article says there are indications that Pakistan will unilaterally suspend payments on the debt in May if the moratorium is not granted, and points out that Pakistan did this once before, on May 1, 1971. Pakistan is asking that the moratorium last until the objectives

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of specific development loans are attained.

SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTER CALLS FOR DEBT
CANCELLATION FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

March 13 (IPS) — At a press conference in New Delhi, Swedish Foreign Minister Sven Andersen called for the "abolition of all debts owed by the Third World" and indicated that Sweden is completely in favor of a new world economic order and will support those demands by Third World countries at the upcoming March 19 session of the Conference on International Economic Cooperation (North-South) in Paris. Andersen then indicated that he was in India holding meetings with top pro-development leaders in the Indian government. His remarks were covered in the March 6 issue of the Economic Times, India's major financial daily.

PATRIOT ATTACKS COMMONWEALTH DEBT CONFERENCE

March 13 (IPS) — The major left wing Indian daily, the Patriot, March 5, strongly attacked the final resolution of the Commonwealth Conference, which recognized the seriousness of the debt problem but proposed only the restructuring of the International Monetary Fund as a solution. The Patriot said that "it is a pure illusion to think that the IMF, as a 'restructured institution' can be made the basis for a new world economic order." Indicating that the demands being made by Third World nations are such that "the rich countries are in no mood to concede," the Patriot states, "The principle (of restructuring the IMF) is the same as the World Bank 'new look': to undermine and subvert developing countries' efforts to get a legitimate share of world prosperity. The latter (Third World) should reorient their internal economic policies to do without their (World Bank and IMF) 'aid' as long as they are not made truly instruments of development of all nations."

MIKI ACCEPTS FORD'S CONDITIONS ON LOCKHEED SCANDAL DISCLOSURES

March 13 (IPS) — The already highly unstable Japanese government of Prime Minister Takeo Miki received another jolt yesterday after receiving a "personal letter" from President Ford on the Lockheed scandal which stressed that the United States government would refuse to make public the names of any Japanese officials involved in accepting bribes from Lockheed until the end of investigations in the United States according to a report from UPI. A ruling Liberal Democratic Party source commented on the letter's effect: "The U.S. does not perceive that our judicial system is different. We are under heavy pressure to divulge the information which Mr. Ford has not turned over. This could have grave repercussions on our government."

Despite strong public pressure on the government to protest the U.S. decision and Miki's previous public support for

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full disclosure, Miki held an extraordinary session of the cabinet after receiving the letter and decided upon accepting the conditions outlined by Ford, a move immediately attacked by all of Japan's opposition parties.

NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT SEEKS GENERAL GOWON'S EXTRADITION FROM BRITAIN TO FACE COUP ATTEMPT CHARGES IN NIGERIA

March 13 (IPS) — The Nigerian government yesterday requested the extradition of former head of state General Yakubu Gowon from Britain to face charges in Nigeria of involvement in the attempted coup in Nigeria Feb. 13. At the same time Nigeria executed 30 people, including former Defense Minister General I.D. Bissalla, for their role in the coup. Brigadier Musa Yarduah, Nigeria's new Defense Minister, in an official statement on the coup plot, charged that General Gowon had invited Colonel Bukar Suka Dimka, the officer who led the coup attempt, to London while Colonel Dimka was on official business in Madrid, according to today's New York Times. In London, General Gowon reportedly told Colonel Dimka that "everything was ready" and that he would be briefed by Bisalla. General Bisalla and other military officers involved in the coup attempt were angry about the recent cuts in the military personnel and about "the alleged Communist influence in the government," the Times reports.

General Gowon was deposed from his position as Nigerian head of state in a popular bloodless coup on July 29, 1975 for refusing to implement much needed reforms including the reduction in the over-sized Nigerian army.

SYRIA MOVES TO CONSOLIDATE POLITICAL POWER IN SYRIA

March 13 (IPS) — In the wake of General Aziz Ahdab's coup in Lebanon, various right-wing interests are swinging their support to the general after some initial hesitation. This shift is isolating right-wing Christian President Suleiman Frangieh, and is designed to force him to resign according to Western press accounts today. The fascist Christian Falange Party has decided to lend its support to Ahdab, and right-wing former Interior Minister Camille Chamoun is considering abandoning Frangieh and doing the same. Saeb Salam, well-known rightist, Moslem leader, has reportedly stated of Frangieh: "He must resign."

At the same time, Syria is providing the muscle for the takeover by Ahdab. Both the pro-Syrian commando group, Saiqa, and the Syrian-controlled Palestinian Liberation Army, have endorsed the Ahdab takeover, according to today's Baltimore Sun. The Sun reports that a Saiqa spokesman stated openly that his thugs would go into action if any resistance to Ahdab surfaced, either from the extreme right or the left.

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LEBANESE SOURCES SAY ISRAEL GAVE PRIOR OKAY TO AHDAB COUP

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 13 (IPS) — A Lebanese diplomatic source said yesterday that both Israel and Syria had had a hand into the coup d'état by General Aziz Ahdab. The source said that the coup was carried out after an Israeli signal to Syria that the Israelis would not intervene into the situation, giving Syrian dictator Hafez Assad the needed assurance to proceed with the Ahdab maneuver.

PHILADELPHIA MAYOR RIZZO UNDER ATTACK; WAGE TAX INCREASE UNCERTAIN

March 13 (IPS) — Mayor Frank Rizzo has come under heated attack for his refusal to publicly disclose his 1976-77 budget. The March 11 Philadelphia Inquirer accused the Mayor of "closet summitry," and admonished the city council that "the need is to bring Mr. Rizzo out of the closet, not to join him in it."

The Inquirer also disclosed that Rizzo's plan to increase the wage tax on Philadelphia residents is probably against the State Constitution which states that "all taxes must be equal." According to the same article, the main Rizzo whip in the State Senate, Henry Cianfrani, has admitted that the Rizzo tax package does not have enough votes to pass when it comes up next week.

Rizzo showed signs of the strain at a March 11 ceremonial function when he had five members of the press expelled. Spotting the reporters for two local papers Rizzo yelled, "I want them out, I want them out." Commenting on the incident to the Inquirer, the editorial director of the two papers said, "Even his (Rizzo's) people seemed a little surprised...it was really wierd, he was leaning on his cane and screaming."

PORTUGUESE WORKERS TO DEMONSTRATE FOR AGRARIAN REFORM;
INTERSINDICAL AND PCP CONGRESSES THIS WEEKEND

March 13 (IPS) — Portuguese Communist Party (PCP) controlled workers' and small and medium farmers' organizations of Portugal's Southern region of Alentejo are calling for demonstrations tomorrow to defend Portugal's agrarian reform measures. "It is necessary to defeat the reaction," reads the call, prominently covered by Lisbon's daily O Diario, which summons all workers, farmers, students and women to simultaneous demonstrations in the three main cities in the region to protest against the continuous attempts by right wing landowners to reverse the agrarian reforms in the area.

The PCP-led Intersindical, the Portuguese Trade Union Confederation, is co-sponsoring the demonstrations, and will hold a delegates' plenary today to deliberate over wages policy and collective bargaining contracts, which have been frozen by the government since the beginning of the year. The plenary's decisions will be based on discussions carried with the workers throughout the country about that subject.

Tomorrow, the PCP will hold its annual congress, which will discuss the party's strategy in the forthcoming national elections.

End of Priorities