

stayed out of these demonstrations, due to an inability to resolve the "moral dilemma," as a French Jewish leader expressed it, "between our support for Israel and the revulsion against its actions in Lebanon." The same strata did not hesitate to contribute financially to the campaign of those who did decide to go public. Hundreds of paid advertisements were published by various professional, political, and religious groups willing to express their opposition to Israel. These included a letter published by Pierre Vidal Naquet in France, from his Israeli friend, Professor Benjamin Cohen, denouncing the "Goebbels-type lies" of the Likud government to its own population. Others were calls to members of "the three religions of Abraham" to join to end the fighting.

Then there were the activities of the peace movement as such. On June 17, a press conference in Paris organized by the Orientalist Maxime Rodinson featured Israeli peaceniks General Peled and Uri Avneri, who had recently participated at the founding conference of the "International Jewish Peace Union" sponsored by the Paris-based magazine *Israel and Palestine*. The conference's final communiqué had called for an "immediate Israeli withdrawal to the international border" and upheld "the right to national self-determination of the Palestinian and Israeli peoples within the framework of the two states."

### The case of Nahum Goldmann

Summing up the statements of the peace movement and the sentiments of those who had decided to remain silent was a series in the French dailies *Le Monde* and *Liberation* by Nahum Goldmann, founder of the World Jewish Congress. The views of this once-isolated figure are finding wide echoes.

In one article in *Liberation*, Goldmann raised the courage and determination of the Israeli people, but warned against "transform[ing] Israel in certain ways into a protectorate of the United States that would contradict the meaning of Zionism itself: Jews could not have suffered through two millennia only to see their ancestral fatherland being dependent on the good will of a superpower.

"The only hope for a peaceful solution lies in a change of policy of the superpowers, which up to now have contented themselves with making platonic declarations. Concerning the United States, they tried to eliminate the Soviet Union from any agreement in the Middle East, something which is impossible. . . . The joint pressures of the superpowers could bring Israel and the Arab states to recognize each other and to establish relations—initially of cooperation, later of friendship, [announcing] a new era of political, economic, and cultural development for Israel as well as for the other countries of this region. . . ."

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## Latin America

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# Which policies for post-war Argentina?

by Mark Sonnenblick

Argentina's top military leadership still has not come to grips with the fact that Britain's war against it was not for mere possession of some God-forsaken islands, but was for the larger "principles" which have always motivated England's imperial system. London's *Daily Telegraph* contemptuously enunciated those principles in a June 21 editorial message to a rudderless Argentina: "Whoever leads Argentina next will have to gain acceptance for a degree of austerity which its hedonistic society has never known."

Important sectors of the army appear to be taking economic marching orders directly from Argentina's enemy, as per the *Daily Telegraph* dictum. The army high command has unilaterally appointed retired General Reynaldo Bignone as President, effective July 1. Bignone is a committed advocate of the British-inspired monetarist policies which, since 1976, have ravaged not only Argentine industry and society, but also its war-winning capabilities.

The navy and air force—cognizant that the continuation of such policies would sink Argentina into civil war—withdrew from the government. The army is thus presented with the problem of ruling a three-legged junta with one leg, a sure recipe for instability. It hopes that British and American backing for such an arrangement will enable it to consolidate its power.

The other two services have pulled their officers out of all government positions and reportedly opened contact with dissident generals, colonels, and other army officers, and with civilian forces from the "Multipartidaria" umbrella group of opposition political parties, who also want an end to monetarism. The Buenos Aires daily *Clarín* revealed June 20 that a 35-point ultimatum presented by Navy Commander Anaya in April to then-president Galtieri included a demand that Friedmanite Economics Minister Roberto Alemann be fired and his monetarist policies reversed. The air force has also drafted an economic program for Argentina's post-war recuperation, which includes salvaging Argentine industry and restoring workers' incomes stolen by Alemann's wage freeze.

What's at stake is Argentina's foreign debt of nearly \$40 billion. Everybody recognizes that even with the

coming bountiful harvest, Argentina will not be able to pay the \$14-\$15 billion in debt service due this year without some form of refinancing or re-negotiation. This "debt bomb" can be London's weapon against Argentina, as mandated by the *Daily Telegraph*, or it can be Argentina's weapon against London, as proposed by *EIR* founder Lyndon LaRouche, Jr., whose recommendations have been widely publicized in Argentina.

Inside Argentina, the targeted use of debt against London is receiving growing backing from a nationalist spectrum ranging from the left-wing Montoneros to the anti-communist officers who once went to war against them. "We have confronted the enemy on the battlefield of its choosing. Why not also on the economic battlefield?" writes noted economist Raul Cuello in *El Economista*, a business weekly printed on paper the color of London's *Financial Times*. Cuello adds, "What I find incomprehensible is the attitude of those who oppose 'on principle' . . . that Argentina declare a cessation of international debt payments. . . . I think we will come out strengthened in any future negotiations. . . . To such effect, Argentina must take advantage of its situation to coordinate financial and commercial action with the rest of the Latin American countries who have understood that the Malvinas is not just an Argentine cause."

Popular Left Front head Jorge Abelardo Ramos demanded June 15 that "a moratorium be declared on debts to all the international usurers who invaded our territory. All mining, industrial and financial assets of the countries which blockaded Argentina and attacked its soldiers should be confiscated. . . . In this situation, diplomacy should do nothing other than invite Latin America not to pay back its debts to the usurers and to establish a Latin American system of mutual defense. . . ."

The defense of Argentina's economic future is also under intense discussion throughout Latin America. Following their June 18-20 meeting, the foreign ministers of Panama and Venezuela issued a joint statement which bolsters the efforts of those in Argentina who are resisting British blackmail efforts. It stated, "The blood of our Argentine brothers has not been spilled fruitlessly; starting April 2, the days of the British colonial presence on our continent are numbered."

"The governments of Venezuela and Panama announce their commitment to provide ever more solidarity and support on all levels to the righteous Argentine cause, and they invite the great family of Latin American nations to preserve continental unity and stay alert to the designs of imperialism and colonialism. . . . They exhort the Argentine people, in these critical moments resulting from a crucial battle, to preserve the needed

national unity based on participation of all sectors. . . ."

In Buenos Aires, Argentine Foreign Minister Nicanor Costa Mendez released the communique to the press, with his thanks.

### **A Latin American common market?**

Hundreds of businessmen from the five Andean Pact countries (Venezuela, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, and Bolivia) met in Buenos Aires June 24-25 to ink deals buying from Argentina the foodstuffs which Europe had boycotted. The Andean countries will buy—and sell—Argentina, instead of buying foods from the United States and the British Commonwealth. That meeting and the re-activation of the Latin American Economic System (SELA), which has languished since the mid-1970s, could be the germ of a Latin American common market.

LaRouche argues that such a common market would be good for Latin America as a mean for promoting industrial development and shielding the continent from the plans of the British and their allies to promote genocidal wars and famine throughout the region. LaRouche also argues that such initiatives are in the real interests of the United States—a view welcomed by those Latin Americans who still hope to reconstruct U.S.—Latin American relations from the rubble left behind by former Secretary of State Alexander Haig.

LaRouche's proposals have been widely reported in the Argentine, Mexican, Colombian, Venezuelan and Panamanian press. The major Caracas, Venezuela, daily *El Universal*, ran an extensive report on how Latin America could deal with its unpayable \$234 billion foreign debt. *El Universal* cites LaRouche:

"I have proposed that the government of Argentina help to prevent the triggering of a domino-like collapse of the international monetary order, by limiting its unilateral action on financial relations to expropriating British financial claims against Argentina under the title of 'contraband of war.' Such a selective action, I have explained, would avoid generating a threat against the integrity of an already tottering international financial system, a system already pushed to the edge of chain-reaction collapse by the lunacy of passage of the Moy-nihan-Kasten bill in the U.S. Senate."

With this quality of ferment in Latin America, London's fears that a new Argentine regime may trigger a chain of debt actions across Latin America are beginning to surface. A column in the June 23 edition of *Clarín* cites several British financial sources disturbed by Latin America's unpayable debt crisis, and then quotes the *Financial Times* of London noting fearfully: "A chain-reaction of destabilization throughout Latin America would be catastrophic for the West."