

Aristides Calvani: 'Don't kill the goose that lays golden eggs'

Aristides Calvani is the leader of Venezuela's Christian Democratic Party, the COPEI.

EIR: Do you agree with the view of ex-President [of Venezuela] Herrera Campins that the IMF is the best ally of subversion?

Calvani: If you look at the debt problem only as a trade problem, international trade, payment or non-payment, we are committing a serious mistake, because we are missing the overall dimension of this problem. If I comply with payments and force on the person who wants to pay, a profoundly difficult socio-economic situation, I provoke profound crises in the people, and no one knows where these crises will end up. It is an economic error to think that way, because I cannot kill the goose that lays the golden eggs. If I want to be paid, I must allow my debtor to grow and develop, even in the most economic sense. So I cannot impose conditions which cause him to not pay.

EIR: Do you believe that within the IMF parameters these economies will be allowed to grow, to give them the possibility to pay in the future?

Calvani: One has the impression they are not taking this into consideration as something fundamental, that they put the accent more on payment. The results which are sometimes gotten by tremendous efforts of internal comprehension are considered successes, when they are only temporary things which are, in turn, being converted into a generative cause of social problems. Nor are social problems ever created in 24 hours. They are gradually created and act like the freshets of little rivers, streams which quickly take on enormous volume—suddenly an immense mass of water appears which you don't know where it came from.

Marcelo Velarde Ortiz: 'Not one Latin country can pay its debt today'

Mr. Velarde is the vice-presidential candidate of the ruling Nationalist Revolutionary Movement in Bolivia.

EIR: Recently Senator Paula Hawkins proposed in the Senate a bill to suspend the small amount of economic aid still received by the government of President Siles Suazo, until

his government convinces the United States of its political will to fight drug-trafficking. Has this type of economic pressure given any positive results?

Velarde: I wish to denounce the fact that we have been, since the democratic government was installed in 1982 in October, constantly sabotaged by the U.S. government. We have negotiated over these three years for more than \$900 million with various international institutions, they are approved, but we have received disbursements of no more than \$90 million. Everything else has been sabotaged or is still waiting. I don't know how the Senator can have viewed this perspective. We had the country which in 1980 was dominated by a coup of drug-traffickers using a Bolivian general named García Meza. For the entire citizenry it is a reality that this was a government run by drug traffickers. After democracy was installed and the Siles government, this did not exist. That we were able to shut down the drug traffic is a reality; but also a great blame goes to the United States, where drugs are worth more every day and every day more and more Americans are involved in the dope mafia. Secondly, of an aid package of \$60 million to fight drugs, the government of Hernán Siles Zuazo only received \$1 million. What are they waiting for?

EIR: What will Bolivia propose to face the problem of foreign debt?

Velarde: The drama is that with present interest rates, not one Latin American country can deal with paying its debt. President Siles already three years ago was insisting that negotiations between creditors and debtors must be global. They must also warrant a treatment which is not purely technical and economic but political. This is the basis for the survival of the democratic system in all Latin America. We want to tell you, our biggest sister, the United States, that there cannot be democracy with hunger, with social injustice, with children who have no prospects for life. We here together call upon the United States, which is the crux of the Western World, that we must have a serious and responsible negotiation with all the Latin American countries.

Alejandro Carrión Pérez: 'IMF recipes mean 20 Cubas, 20 Nicaraguas'

Mr. Carrión is director of international affairs of the Democratic Left party of Ecuador.

EIR: Why is it said that the IMF is the best ally of subversion?

Carrión: The IMF recipes are provoking a social chaos which seems not to be understood either by the IMF, nor the great