Interview: Bishop Desmond Tutu

'Gandhi summit should be encouraged'

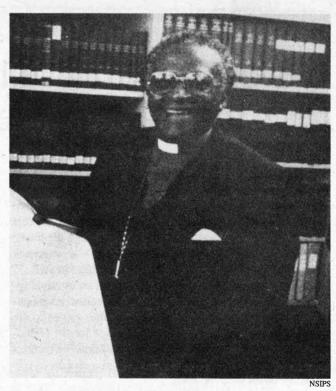
This interview was given by the Right Reverend Bishop of Johannesburg, Desmond Tutu, a Nobel Peace Prize winner, to EIR correspondent Mary Lalevée. The discussion took place on May 30, during Bishop Tutu's two-day visit to Paris, where he attended a colloquium on human rights organized by the French government.

EIR: Bishop Tutu, a few months ago, you signed a Declaration of the Inalienable Rights of Man issued by the Schiller Institute, while you were in Germany. The Institute sees the right to economic development as one of the very important inalienable rights of man, and is fighting for this. What do you think about this?

Bishop Tutu: There is no doubt at all that until we can have a new world economic order, most of what the developing countries are doing, will just disappear like water into sand. Because at the present time, the powerful, developed, affluent countries seem to be able to manipulate what we call "market forces" to their advantage, so that the poor developing countries have their primary products sold at very low prices, and then the manufactured goods of developed countries are sold at exorbitant prices, and that imbalance continues so that the rich grow richer and the poor grow ever poorer, which affects all other development-human development, what can be spent on education, on health, and things of that kind. And on the whole, it is as if they are able, in these developing countries, to keep in power those with whom they are able to deal, who become an elite that wants to remain in power for ever and ever. Consequently, instead of developing a democratic structure, we then have a situation where we have military dictatorships, and within those countries, the rich, repeating the pattern that exists on the macro level on a micro level, the rich in these countries growing richer and the poor growing poorer.

EIR: The founder of the Schiller Institute, Mrs. Helga Zepp-LaRouche, has called for the holding of an international heads of state summit conference, which should be called the Indira Gandhi Memorial Conference, to discuss the implementation of a new world economic order. What do you think about this idea?

Bishop Tutu: That needs to be encouraged as much as pos-



Bishop Tutu holding the Declaration of the Inalienable Rights of Man, which he endorsed in West Germany on Jan. 23.

sible, because I think most talk about bettering relations between the North and the South is just rhetoric, until we address this particular question of economic power, and a more equitable distribution of that economic power. I would say, all power to her! And I hope that she will be successful.

EIR: One last question. What do you think about institutions like the International Monetary Fund and their policies in Africa?

Bishop Tutu: I belive that if they maintain the policies that they are maintaining, that they are really extensions of the kind of thing we have been talking about, I mean, the strong calling the tune, and causing countries to implement policies which are against the best interests of their people, policies which make the governments in these countries unstable. For instance, they will say: You have to reduce subsidies for food, and let market forces take control; and so the price of food goes up and those governments become unstable and the tendency is that they will be overthrown.

I'm not an economist, but from what I know of their operations, they keep wielding the big stick against the weak, and they don't do anything about the fact, for instance, that the United States has such an enormous deficit, and then has high interest rates, which means that it is other countries that are funding that deficit, because funds flow, capital flows where it will attract the most interest, and if it is the United States, well, that is where it is going.

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