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## Argentina

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# 'We are not subject to foreign strategies'

Argentina's Peronist party, known as the Partido Justicialista, launched a series of initiatives during the month of July addressing the crisis of Argentina's \$50 billion foreign debt and the Alfonsín government's submission to the dictates of the International Monetary Fund. Two recent Peronist documents, one issued by the Peronist-run trade union federation, the CGT, and the other by the Partido Justicialista, attack the IMF's destruction of productive activity and living standards, and call on the population to mobilize for industrialization and economic growth.

The CGT document, entitled "Defend the Nation, and Labor, to Defeat Inflation," calls for a moratorium on debt-service payments, and announces a mass demonstration and regional strikes to be held on Aug. 29, in response to the government's acceptance of IMF policies. "We have witnessed, through the work of earlier monetarists, the planned destruction of our national productive apparatus," the document states. "We don't want to see new monetarists put up the auction sign for what little has survived in our country. We therefore appeal to all of our spiritual, intellectual, economic and political values so that together, we can launch a project to liberate Argentina. . . ." The document was issued on July 30.

"What To Do With an Unpayable Debt?" is the title of the Partido Justicialista document, issued in mid-July, which charges that the IMF is guilty of the "gravest in morality," and identifies its policies as "crimes against humanity." Much of Argentina's existing foreign debt is "illegitimate," the document states, and need not be paid. "The thieves of foreign reserves are responsible for a genocide much more extensive and numerous" than any bloody military dictatorship which has ruled the country in recent years, it asserts.

*Excerpts of the documents appear below.*

### 'What to do with an unpayable debt?'

3) Exhort governments not to allow themselves to be seduced by a purely verbal prestige contest in their demands to creditors, since a sober, unified position is more effective

than individual stridencies. Simultaneously, solitary attitudes which tend to break up the negotiating stance of the whole must be unreservedly condemned.

5) Appeal to the highest echelons of the religious creeds upheld by the peoples of Latin America, and especially His Holiness Pope John Paul II, for them to support the just cause of the debtor countries, to condemn the immorality of the usury unleashed upon them, and to promote the solution of the case in the framework of a new international economic order.

6) Promote the immediate articulation of a network amongst debtor countries of Latin America and the Third World, which will guarantee them all, *under whatever course of developments*, access to an indispensable minimum of strategic inputs, with special reference to food, energy and technology, expanding such inputs as necessary to maintain the activity of the productive system.

7) At both the national and international levels, promote analysis of how an international market could function, apart from the creditor countries, and the impact such functioning would have in uplifting the standards of living of the down-trodden peoples of the world, through the long-term planning of various national economic models to be implemented by the concert of nations.

### 'Defend the nation'

We workers have always maintained, and we energetically repeat, *that the only legitimate and true means of fighting inflation is by producing more*, because the diminution of production maintains the fundamental cause of the problem, which is insufficient supply. . . .

The new measures adopted [by the government] have perfected the perverse nature of the adjustment, *which not only takes wages as its variable, but transfers the primary rigor of same to mass unemployment*, as a deliberate result of the profoundly monetarist plans put into effect by the government.

These policies, explicitly assumed by the government, are an aggression against the national interest, which is no different from sectors of labor and production, and subject the people, who are defenseless in the face of arbitrary economic action, to inhuman living conditions.

The acute symptoms of the looming crisis crisis in the international power centers, which is making the international economic future most uncertain, demands that we strengthen our economy through independent plans which do not expose us to crude conditions, with no possibility of defense; foresight is required today, so that we will not be sorry tomorrow.

We believe that the only option for a country, like a family, to emerge from crisis is to produce to the maximum; we believe that work, the Argentine project, not subject to foreign strategies, and credit converted in the motor of growth, are the only efficient factors for national reactivation. . . .