

Ibero-American campaign: Time to bury the IMF!

by Carlos Wesley and Valerie Rush

The "First Continental Mobilization: There is life after the death of the IMF," successfully concluded on Oct. 12, and established the programmatic basis for pulling together organizations from around the continent to bury the International Monetary Fund and its fascist austerity dictates. The mobilization was timed to intersect a moment of intensified financial and economic crisis worldwide. Not accidentally, it took place at the same time that IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus announced that new national banking collapses are imminent. Mexico and Argentina, showcase models of IMF policies, top the list.

Convoked by the Ibero-American Solidarity Movement (MSIA), the call for the mobilization was signed by the Movement for National Identity and Ibero-American Integration (MINeII), founded by Col. Mohamed Alí Seineldín of Argentina, as well as by dozens of political, business, and labor organizations, some of whose memberships number in the thousands. As part of the mobilization, demonstrations were held around the continent Oct. 8-12, plus forums in Mexico City, Guadalajara, Ciudad Obregón, Mexicali, Bogotá, Caracas, Lima and Río de Janeiro, a tractorcade in Ensenada, motorcades in Caracas, Mexicali, and Mexico City, and rallies and Catholic masses across Ibero-America.

Especially striking was the number of trade unionists participating in or endorsing the mobilization, which demonstrates the growing level of resistance to the IMF throughout the hemisphere, where privatization of vast economic sectors has been coupled with a brutal anti-labor offensive. Among those endorsements were oil, bank, and postal workers from Colombia, women farm workers from Argentina, telecommunications workers from Brazil, port workers and retired teachers from Peru, construction workers from Venezuela, and others too numerous to name.

Among those who sent messages of greeting and support were Panamanian Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega, a prisoner of war in the United States; Democratic Congressional candidate from Arizona María Elena Milton; former French Presidential candidate Jacques Cheminade; Domingo F. Maza Zavala, former president of Venezuela's Academy of Economic Sciences and a central bank director in that country; and Congressman Alfredo Allende, secretary of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Argentine Chamber of Deputies.

Jorge Alberto Cabrera, president of the MINeII's executive council, travelled from Argentina to participate in a Mexico City forum, held Oct. 11-12. The forum, which was the lead event of the continental mobilization, was attended by delegations from other countries as well, including the United States and El Salvador.

'Now is the time . . .'

The urgency of the mobilization was emphasized by U.S. statesman Lyndon H. LaRouche, in a televised presentation to the various continental events: "Argentina's almost not a country any more. Chile is a nicely embalmed corpse. It's not a real economy, it's an illusion, it's virtual reality. Peru is almost destroyed. Central America—don't talk about Central America. Colombia is a narco-terrorist dictatorship run by George Bush's drug-pushing friends. Venezuela can blow, it's on the edge, they're out to crush it. Brazil is ready for civil war, or some other form of disintegration. Argentina no longer exists as a functioning nation. Paraguay, Uruguay are going the same way. And the islands are misery. . . ."

"Economic power, the authority of the institutions which have imposed these policies over the past 30 years, these institutions are crashing. And therefore, we have a moment of a vacuum in history, in which all the efforts to keep some

kind of organization, can now pay off. This is the time you can intervene, because those in power are at their moment of greatest relative weakness. And, that's our opportunity."

LaRouche pointed to the scandals around who is responsible for the crack epidemic in the United States and for the assassination of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme, and noted that in both cases, the networks involved are those of George Bush and his "new world order" apparatus of drug smugglers and arms traffickers. They will be destroyed by these new revelations, said LaRouche.

"We've come to a point in history, in which we can rejoice, together with our friends in Ibero-America, because the time for justice has come. Justice is not going to be delivered to us; but, *the opportunity to win that victory, is now presented to us*. And therefore, we should seize it."

The only real solution is the "LaRouche Plan," formally known in Ibero-America as the Bill for Economic Reactivation. This bill, which has been introduced as draft legislation to the national congresses of Mexico and Argentina, proposes a moratorium on the foreign debt, exchange controls, a new financial system to replace the dictatorship of the IMF, an end to the autonomy of central banks, and creation of national banks to issue credit for infrastructure and production of capital and consumer goods.

The alternative to LaRouche's proposal is a new dark age of separatism, narco-terrorism, and interminable civil war. This is the alternative offered by the São Paulo Forum and Mexico's Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN). Indeed, the anti-IMF mobilization coincided with a public relations offensive launched by the narco-terrorists on two fronts. One was the "Indigenist Congress" sponsored by the Zapatistas in Mexico City, which was dominated by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and financed by the World Bank and other international entities.

The other was an international seminar, supposedly against free-market economics, sponsored by *América Libre*, the magazine of the São Paulo Forum, held in Buenos Aires Oct. 9-13. The theme of the seminar was struck by one David Viñas, of the editorial board of *América Libre*, who stated in his opening presentation Oct. 9, "I consider myself an intellectual whore." The EZLN's Indigenist Congress in Mexico City, in turn, was inaugurated Oct. 8 with an Aztec ceremony—minus the human sacrifice. The crowning moment was when a delegate of the "Rock-and-Roll Front for Mental Liberation" stripped off his clothes, as proof of his "liberation."

The distasteful theatrics aside, these events represent the enemy. As MSIA president in Mexico Marivilia Carrasco declared at the opening of the Continental Forum in Mexico City on Oct. 11, "Behind the Zapatista masks is an international narco-terrorist apparatus at the service of the financial oligarchy, which has declared war on the nation-state."

The gravity of the situation was evident in the fact that Mexico's Zedillo government granted permission to EZLN

leader "Comandante Ramona" to travel—mask and all—from the terrorists' refuge in Chiapas, to Mexico City, to participate in the Indigenist Congress. It could also be seen in the meeting of the continent's defense ministers in Bariloche, Argentina, where the United States and its "useful idiots," like the government of Panama, pressured for submitting Ibero-America's armed forces to supranational control.

On the march

Among the resolutions passed at the Mexico City forum was one to fight for "jail for Bush, exoneration for LaRouche," and one calling for the release from prison of Noriega, Seinfeldín, and Mexican oil workers leader Joaquín ("La Quina") Hernández Galicia, all victims of Bush's 1989 drive for the "new world order."

In addition to the Mexico City forum, other events of the five-day mobilization—which garnered extensive press coverage—included:

- A motorcade in Mexico City on Oct. 8, which culminated in front of the Mexican Senate building, where an MSIA delegation met with members of the Senate's ad hoc committee on the problem of debt arrears.

- Two forums, a mass, and a rally in Guadalajara, Mexico, in which more than 445 people participated over the course of three days.

- A caravan of 15 tractors and 30 other vehicles in Ensenada, Baja California on Oct. 11, when Mexican President Zedillo visited the city. A forum in Mexicali, the capital of the state, was attended by 120 people.

- Two hundred people attended an Oct. 8 forum at the University of Sonora in Hermosillo, Mexico.

- A forum was held in Caracas, Venezuela, attended by a number of important labor leaders, among others. The Oct. 12 event, which adopted an action program for implementing the goals discussed at the forum, was accompanied by a motorcade through downtown Caracas, and a mass at the Cathedral of Caracas. On Oct. 8, there was a presentation to more than 100 priests, nearly the entirety of the Catholic diocese in Caracas.

- In Lima, Peru, a forum was held on Oct. 9, with the participation of political and labor leaders, students, and activists for a retirees movement, in addition to a large contingent of students.

Documentation

The following are excerpts from the message sent by Argentine nationalist leader and political prisoner Col. Mohamed Alí Seinfeldín, in support of the MSIA's anti-IMF mobilization. The message is signed by Colonel Seinfeldín, in his capacity as president of the Movement for National Identity and

Ibero American Integration (MINEII), and also by Major Hector A. Romeo Mundani, secretary general of the MINEII, and Major Pedro Edgardo Mercado, coordinator of foreign affairs:

Our heart vibrates with joy and accompanies you in this "First Continental Mobilization of Ibero American Solidarity: There is life after the death of the IMF," which reunites the best of this beautiful continent, moved by the common clamor of the pain of our people. . . . No moment more appropriate than this, the 504th anniversary of the Discovery of the New World and its Evangelization. . . .

In this mobilization to which you have called us, you will have had the opportunity to look unflinchingly at the reality of each of our countries, corroded by scandalous corruption, burdened by an illegitimate and immoral debt, with their productive systems in pieces or in foreign hands, which has raised unemployment and misery to unheard-of levels. The man who does not work, loses more than a job and a salary; he loses his dignity as a person, as the head of the family, as a free and responsible being.

But it would be terrible if our clamor were to drown in the mere diagnosis and recognition of our ills, because that would proclaim our impotence to find a common solution to this common crisis.

Today, as never before, we see how the mask of those who hold us in submission, falls. The rottenness is surfacing and accurately points to where the enemy is located. "There is nothing hidden that will not come to light," the Gospel tells us. What can we expect of a genocidalist such as *Bush* who has not held back from poisoning his own countrymen to advance his policies? How can a society as degraded as the British—a nest of terrorism, of homosexuality, of the most horrendous crimes, where even the crown is immorality incarnate—serve as a model?

That is why, despite the pain and misfortune, beyond the suffering of oppression and jail cells, our message must be founded in what we essentially are and can do. . . . Let us fight, yes, but not with the hatred and resentment proclaimed by the guerrillas, by the terrorists, and even by indigenism. Let us defend our patrimony, but not only the material one, the raw materials and human resources; but, fundamentally, the cultural one. . . . Let us not lose our identity. . . .

For a new and definitive emancipation of Ibero America!

This message was sent by political prisoner Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega:

May this continental mobilization ring the bell that brings the Americas and the world to confront neocolonialism. . . .

The coming generalized economic collapse, is directly proportional to the plans to dismantle the armed forces, to subject us to the supranational control of the OAS's Inter-American Defense Board, controlled by the United States

of America.

May this Continental Mobilization let it be known that George Herbert Walker Bush was the brains, the executive order, the immunity for the pilots that flew weapons to the Contras in Nicaragua, and returned with drugs to the United States. Through this mobilization, let the Americas and the world learn that the American courts of justice, in carrying out a political trial against the chief of a nation, forbade the defense from using arguments against Bush and North, "as the secret government that since 1980 conducted operations that culminated in the invasion of Panama."

May this Continental Mobilization be the voice of Ibero America, which, along with the workers of Argentina, says: "NO to the IMF."

The following are excerpts from the message sent by Jacques Cheminade, former Presidential candidate of France:

Today, the IMF does not limit its criminal economic conditionalities to the Third World. In France and all of Europe, the economic policies of the oligarchy, which here take the form of the Maastricht Treaty—liberalism and austerity against the people—are the cause of millions of unemployed, of millions of homeless persons, of millions living under the minimal threshold of poverty.

In that framework, the powerful movement that you are bringing about with your "Yes, there is life after the death of the IMF" forums, will be very important to incite and strengthen a real opposition to those policies in Europe. Accept greetings from Jacques Cheminade and from the Solidarity and Progress Movement of France.

Interview: Alfredo Allende

Much of the foreign debt is illegitimate

Dr. Allende is a national deputy representing the province of Buenos Aires, a member of the Radical Civic Union (UCR) party, and the secretary of the Congressional (Chamber of Deputies) Committee on Foreign Affairs. He was interviewed on Oct. 4, by EIR correspondent in Buenos Aires Gerardo Terán Canal.

EIR: Why did you say that Argentina's foreign debt is the highest in the world, in your speech in the Chamber of Deputies during the debate on the "labor flexibility" bill?

Allende: Per-capita foreign debt, which I have dubbed the