

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

“economic AIDS” of the Third World poor, has acquired a very special dimension in the Argentine Republic. Since the entirety of Latin America and the Caribbean owe approximately \$600 billion, and Argentina owes one-sixth of that total, then if you divide by the number of inhabitants, Argentina’s per-capita debt is the highest in the world. This goes hand in hand with the fact that unemployment and underemployment in the Argentine Republic have reached the combined figure of 30%, which is also the highest in the civilized Western world.

Added to this explosive cocktail, is the fact that Argentina was a social welfare state until a few years ago. One could object that this welfare state was artificial, or whatever. But the inhabitants of the Argentine Republic, the most humble sectors, had work, had vacations, had medical care, and had the opportunity for their children to go to school and to climb the social ladder. This has all completely disappeared . . . it has been replaced by the social exclusion state.

This year we are facing a record number of bankruptcies in the history of Argentina. This past month of September has seen the highest rate of bankruptcy rulings in this country’s history.

Given this truly serious picture—I don’t want to be apocalyptic, but it is clearly serious—if the social sectors under attack, which are the immense majority, do not pull together into a political movement around a program, it is going to be very hard for the country to emerge from this.

EIR: You have presented a bill to the Argentine Congress, which has already passed the first round, to demand that the International Court at The Hague determine that a portion of the foreign debt is illegitimate?

Allende: The issue of the foreign debt is very serious, and that is why we see the line coming out of CELAM [the Latin American Bishops Conference], from Latin American statesmen, and definitely from Argentine career diplomat Ambassador Miguel Espeche, as a path to follow, not to provide a complete solution, but to begin discussion, in the sense of sounding an alarm about this “social and economic AIDS” problem.

That is why we have proposed to the Executive, although final approval by the Congress is still lacking, that it instruct its permanent delegates to the United Nations, in unity with those of other Latin American countries which have nearly decided to do the same, to call upon the United Nations to present The Hague Court with specific questions . . . with respect to the legality of the variables that affect the size of the debt and the interest on that. There is a problem of collecting interest on interest, which is rejected by international law.

EIR: Does this have something to do with the 1979 U.S. Federal Reserve decision to free interest rates?

Allende: That was a unilateral decision. We consider this in principle to be absolutely illegitimate, in addition to being

immoral, and what is immoral should be illegitimate in accordance with the general principles of law. . . . We therefore feel that we must seize the moment to give The Hague the opportunity to apply international law, once and for all, to the specific case of the debt. The illegitimacy of arbitrary changes in interest rates, and the accumulation of interest on interest, makes it absolutely impossible for the Argentine Republic and the other Latin American countries trapped in this problem to some day get out from under it.

Directly because of the foreign debt, according to Unicef, 500,000 children die worldwide each year. And indirectly, as a result of the poverty caused by the foreign debt, 11 million more children die each year in the world. This is frightening genocide, of which there is no known precedent, especially given the fact that man has reached the moon and is opening new horizons in science and technology that could enormously facilitate the distribution of wealth, food, and culture, raise work standards so as to permit leisure time, and to create a new humanity.

However, precisely the opposite is happening, meaning that there is tremendous irrationality. This also means that we are obliged to launch a campaign, a crusade if you will, to try to locate this problem in its true dimensions and to give priority to the productive potential of Latin America, over its financial potential, which latter is definitely the policy promoted by the International Monetary Fund.

It’s not a question of shutting down banks and persecuting bankers. It is rather a matter of mixing the interests of the one with the other, of finding a harmony of interests such as has generally been achieved in the major countries. Except this has to exist worldwide. . . .

EIR: How far do you plan to take this bill on the illegitimacy of the foreign debt?

Allende: We aren’t going to rest until every necessary avenue is pursued. The UN assembly is ongoing, and if we fail in our attempt, this postponement will be very serious. Argentina must pay \$14 billion next year to the international financial community. I would like to know who in their right mind thinks that this country could pay that amount of money without a social explosion?

With luck, we will have exports that could reach \$22 billion, plus an important internal deficit. Our imports are leaving us with a trade deficit. And so we have a trade deficit, a balance of payments deficit, an internal deficit. This is a mix that could explode at any time. And all I can promise is to devote the rest of my life—and I say this with all humility—to work on this matter which I consider fundamental, but which is also fundamental to all of humanity. Either something is done, or we will end up in moratorium, with unpredictable consequences for the world economy, not just for Argentina. Argentina will be the first to suffer this.

EIR: Recently, Argentine President Menem said that there

is a cost to the adjustment program. What do you think the cost of the adjustment means—a loss of human lives?

Allende: I could even tell you painful stories of working people who died of heart attacks during protests in front of the Labor Ministry, as has just occurred.

But beyond that, according to very serious studies, infant mortality rates in Argentina have reached extraordinarily high levels for our country. If we take into account that the developed countries have rates that range between 5 and 7 per 1,000, maximum, we have 25 per 1,000, but with African-style pockets. In the northeastern provinces, for example, we are reaching 80 per 1,000! And here is the worst: the federal capital. Areas like Villa Lugano have more than 40 per 1,000, African levels, and this in the federal capital of the Argentine Republic, the Queen of La Plata, the city we called the Paris of Latin America! So, an adjustment carried out without the counterpart of economic and social development and consequent distribution [of wealth], an adjustment in the unilateral sense we have just mentioned, means the biological extinction of whole social layers of the population.

And this is going to worsen if this irrational bill of “labor flexibility” is passed, where a person could end up working for a straight month at 12 hours a day, no Saturdays or Sundays off. It doesn’t matter if he is Catholic, Christian, or Jew.

EIR: Is this a concentration camp policy?

Allende: It is a concentration camp policy, exactly, because only in a concentration camp can you do these things. And the problems of health and social services are going to be aggravated to unprecedented levels.

As Argentine economist Eric Alfredo Calcagno said, we could make an “adjustment” toward expansion—that is, to set things right. Then, the economic factors could be geared up and adjusted toward growth. But no; in Argentina, adjustment is understood as reducing, making things smaller, increasing work hours, reducing vacation time, and setting holidays at the whim of the employer, eliminating family benefits and thus attacking the concept of the family, attacking retirement and the whole range of social security and social welfare in general, doing away with the concept of severance pay, etc.

This will mean that the mass of Argentine workers, the small and medium-size businessmen and, of course, rural workers, will lose the already fragile buying capacity they now have, and we will see a process of collapse that, on the one hand, will drive the nation’s tax base into even greater deficit, and on the other hand, will drive businesses into more bankruptcies than the record levels they are now facing, because there will be no buyers.

I think that since this is a moral, physical, and economic absurdity, we will be able to stop it in the Congress.

EIR: You and current UCR vice president Melchor Posse have an economic proposal that promotes a vision of industrial and scientific development. Is this program accepted as

official policy by the UCR?

Allende: Unfortunately, I cannot say that this is the UCR’s concept as a whole. There are still sectors [in the party] which are very seduced by the siren songs of monetarism. But clearly, the ideas we hold with Dr. Posse are gaining ground. It would have been unthinkable to speak of these things a decade ago in the UCR. . . . Things are advancing also because objective conditions of society are encouraging an awareness of the social crisis caused by the collapse in production.

Argentina had already gone half way down the road. It had an extraordinary industrial capability, only comparable to that of São Paulo [Brazil]. Perhaps even superior, at least in certain state-of-the-art aspects, and it was a time of the social welfare state we spoke of in the beginning. One thing goes with the other.

Henry Ford once said, “I pay my workers well so that they can buy my cars.” I believe that the businessmen of the world would earn a lot more if they kept in mind this elementary principle of Ford’s, which has been so easily forgotten. This is what we stand for. I believe that with this, we are going to move toward at least gaining a share of power within the UCR; to turn this party into a focal point, first for Argentina and then for Latin America, to the extent of our possibilities, toward industrial development and growth. A Latin American alliance for industrial development is what we are proposing.

DO YOU KNOW

- that the American Revolution was fought *against* British “free trade” economics?
- that Washington and Franklin championed Big Government?
- that the Founding Fathers promoted partnership between private industry and central government?

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The Political Economy of the American Revolution

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Christopher White

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