

application of these parameters, would not actually cancel the debt. I'll explain: The fact that the countries must not be belligerent, must not buy weapons, or foster ethnic conflicts, etc., are all certainly important criteria. However, if we look at certain examples, such as in Africa, in Congo there are no less than six foreign armies fighting. Thus, we have situations where the crisis is such that politics no longer has any control over the situation, and it explodes into war. There is a literal application of von Clausewitz, where war is the continuation of politics by other means. What can be done there?

One of the situations which we saw was that of Ethiopia and Eritrea right before the war, where food had been brought, with great difficulty in the distribution, from Somalia, or Djibouti. If that food had not been distributed though, under the justification that those countries were at war, 8 million people would have died of hunger. That is why, yes, the parameters are necessary, but most of all we need to develop a conscience. Because those who sell weapons there, are they not the same countries represented in the G-8? I believe that the ex-Warsaw Pact countries have cleared out their warehouses there, not to mention the British, American, French, and, of course, the Italian land-mines, which are found all over the world. This is the first element, which must be carried out, but with an unhappy conscience. Then there is the attempt to go beyond this economy, beyond the financialization, and call on a policy of new principles, new sources of rights, the Tribunal. In this sense, Italy has worked very well, through the Foreign Ministry, and has worked in this direction also with the help of many jurists.

**EIR:** Many people who have joined the campaign for the cancellation of the debt, are people whom one would not have

expected: Jeffrey Sachs, for example, the author of shock therapy for Russia, is now part of the Jubilee 2000 campaign. Are there different views among the various groups calling for cancellation of the debt?

**Bianchi:** Yes, and I must say something here, with a bit of bitter irony. There are a lot of people who convert only when they are already retiring.

**EIR:** Such as former IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus?

**Bianchi:** That's the name that I was about to mention, as well as [Robert] McNamara, who did all of those technological horrors in the jungles of Vietnam, and then later changed his mind. Of course, it is never too late. The Gospel says that even the workers who arrive at the eleventh hour are paid as much as those who were there from the first hour, even though the latter get mad about it. Camdessus, in his conference at Catholic University, when he received the honorary degree there, is a perfect example: I wish he had done this thing when he was still in power. In any case, we would be too picky; it's better that the campaign grow as much as possible.

The problem, I think, is that there are some countries which are able to push forward, to accelerate on a bilateral basis. Because, otherwise, the multilateral action is not enough, someone has to pull the others along. On the other hand, if we look at the bracket which we introduced in our law (within three years Italy will cancel a minimum of \$4 billion and a maximum of \$6 billion), compared to Okinawa, this is a sum equivalent to what was discussed there. Therefore, someone has to lead, has to be the locomotive which pulls the others. Otherwise, we'll have a lot of conversions, but very little generosity.

## Poor Nations Must Act for a New Bretton Woods

The Italian Senate has acted, now it's our turn, to move with the call for a New Bretton Woods, writes Dominican Republic columnist Jorge Meléndez in *El Siglo* on July 25 (which was published a day late, because of the electricity blackouts in Santo Domingo). Titled "Italian Senate Ratifies Moratorium," his weekly column reports on the July 14 vote in the Italian Senate, which endorsed an earlier, unanimous vote by the Chamber of Deputies for Italy to unilaterally grant a debt moratorium to the most impoverished developing countries.

Meléndez recounts that the law was proposed by Dep. Giovanni Bianchi, who, along with Parliamentary Affairs Minister Patrizia Toia, "hosted the seminar on the urgent

need for a New Bretton Woods, held on May 23 in the Cenacolo Hall in the Parliament, at which Lyndon H. LaRouche, the economist and U.S. Democratic Presidential pre-candidate, was the main speaker." After discussing the implications of the law for the G-8 summit in Okinawa, Meléndez writes:

"We, the citizens of the Third World, cannot remain passive when, in Italy, one of the world's chief economic powers, they are fighting for us. We must assume our share of the responsibility and support the Italian initiative. The way to do that is by signing the call of the Ad Hoc Committee for a New Bretton Woods, the gist of which we reproduce below. Enough griping about privatizations and globalization. Let's do something positive: I ask you, dear readers, to sign it, and to circulate it among your friends, in your churches, in your schools, in your clubs, and to get it to your Congressmen and Senators, and to other officials."