

devaluation of the peso — measures which would collapse the Mexican economy. With the carefully orchestrated devaluation scare of last March and April still very fresh in mind, it is not accidental that talk of devaluation has resurfaced suddenly in the past weeks as the Colombo meeting took place.

Beteta has loyally tried to enforce what he candidly terms "drastic austerity" for the International Monetary Fund and the New York banks since his accession to the Finance Ministry a little less than a year ago. IMF director Witteveen came personally to Mexico after the Jamaica IMF meeting in January to praise Beteta's role in defending New York interests at the conference. Beteta has consistently stacked Mexican delegations to international forums against Echeverria's policies. To circumvent this sabotage, Echeverria sent his pro-development Foreign Minister Alfonso Garcia Robles to head the Mexican delegation to Colombo.

Echeverria: No Lame Duck

On August 24 Echeverria announced tours to all 31 states of the Mexican Republic before December, to inaugurate over 4 billion dollars worth of development projects. His successor, Jose Lopez Portillo, will join him for many of the dedications.

Echeverria this week also led a volley of statements demanding technological advance in the context of cooperation between the Third World, the capitalist sector and the socialist sector, while a pro-Echeverria group of young economists took their seats in the new Congress with uniformly strong pro-development speeches.

Following a half-million person peasant rally scheduled August 28 in Mexico City to back up Echeverria's agrarian reform policies, Echeverria will deliver his sixth and last State of the Union message September 1. In the following weeks, he will lead the inauguration of one of the major projects of his term, the Third World University, and welcome the Group of 77 ministers to strategy sessions Sept. 17-21.

This will be the context for the next month's battles between Echeverria's forces and those of Beteta, Velazquez and Moya over whether Mexico leads the effort to implement the Colombo resolutions and the new world order or is locked into policies of slave labor and genocide. Decided support and declarations of debt moratoria from other Third World forces and their allies in advanced sector countries such as Italy, Japan, and France will be crucial elements aiding the Echeverria side.

Echeverria Bids U.S. Join New World Economic Order

MEXICO CITY, Aug. 27 (NSIPS) — The following are excerpts from a speech delivered yesterday by Mexican President Luis Echeverria at the dedication of a pest control factory built here as a joint U.S.-Mexican project. President Ford in a show of solidarity with his Mexican counterpart, dispatched his Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz to attend the ceremony.

One of the characteristics of the world of our times is the contrast in technological terms that exists between the developed sector and the more than 100 nations that struggle merely to survive...

This factory is testimony to the cooperation and good will in a plan of mutual respect, providing what each side can offer to resolve a common problem. This is the philosophy of the Charter of Rights and Obligations of Nations, which strives for the example of this plant to be carried throughout the world to lift the standard of living of the vast impoverished majority of the global population, and to ensure the proliferation of peace. This is what the Charter seeks on a world level, and this is the struggle Mexico is carrying out, as you know.

We must be conscious of the fact that the world is one whole — that the human race is confronted with a homogeneity of problems; that regardless of our political, philosophical or religious conceptions, as human beings we believe that man holds a series of values that comprise his dignity...

Only this basic philosophy can ensure peace now and in the future, which is the essential requisite for progress, because if the factors that lead to disagreement multiply, it will unleash the tremendous catastrophe that no one of good will wants on our planet.

Let us struggle, therefore, to multiply the examples of cordial friendship and cooperation, such as this plant; let us strive for solutions for all our problems...

I know well the thoughts of the President of the United States.... We proposed — and have carried out — to step up areas of cooperation, and this plant, like many other activities, is an example of this. Within two weeks, I will be holding meetings with distinguished Americans that will serve as witness to our efforts to search for better roads of cooperation and understanding in every aspect....

We will set up a center for the study of the historic, political, economic, cultural and technological relations between Mexico

and the U.S. to determine the roads toward the establishment of norms of reciprocal respect...to determine, as the fathers of U.S. independence sought, the roads toward a mutually respectful and democratic co-existence, and on the basis of cooperation, to make the new world a reality — one in which traditional human purposes can be treasured so that the Americas can again become an example for humanity....

This is the people, Mr. Secretary, that you have as neighbors: fighting, rebellious...but a lover of freedom, seeking a social democracy and an international life founded on justice, equality...in which all peoples have the opportunity to live and realize themselves, to express their potentials.

Tell President Ford that we send him a most cordial greeting.

Velazquez Forces Build A Witchhunt: A Chronology

Aug. 11

Three PLM-CLLA members attacked by professional hit-men while selling the PLM weekly, Nueva Solidaridad, outside a subway station in Tlatelolco. The apparently drugged assailants warned that "You have no right to attack Fidel (Velazquez-Ed.)," and then attacked in professional fashion, two of them holding one organizer while the third worked him over. Two organizers suffered serious head and face injuries.

Aug. 15

A Sonora newspaper quotes Manuel Bobadilla, head of the Sonora CTM, as saying that his organization will actively oppose the work of "leftist groups" who infiltrate "against the institutions of Fidel Velazquez," specifying "the so-called Democratic Tendency (of Rafael Galvan-Ed.), the Mexican Labor Party, and the Christian Democracy." All of these Bobadilla claimed, are linked to the terrorist 23rd of September League.

Aug. 18

Police agents from Moya Palencia's Interior Ministry harass a PLM rally in Sonora, roaming through the crowd, showing their badges to numerous demonstrators.

The Director of the CTM's "Institute of Labor Education"

Bernardo Cobo is quoted in the right-wing daily El Heraldo as saying that his institute had "created groups of activists ... different pressure groups, both extreme right and left, within the labor movement" in order to "neutralize" the left.

Aug. 22

The Mexican daily press prints an official bulletin which was mailed by the Federal District (Mexico City) Employers' Center to all of its branches, warning that the Center "is alarmed by the aggression of radical elements against the institutions, and demands that the authorities energetically repel terrorism, agitation, land invasions, and the destruction of unions key to the national economy." "It all seems to be intended to destroy private property and initiative," claims the bulletin. The bulletin notes that these aggressions "range from

posters ... (and) apparently saintly sermons ... to certain writers who assume to guide public opinion ... to the seizure of land in the countryside or goods and persons in the city.... Under the pretext of fighting union bossism ... they are taking over (the unions) ... with the sole purpose of submitting them to the covert control of radical elements which are in turn manipulated from foreign countries."

Aug. 23

The daily Ovociones carries a six-column banner headline proclaiming "Those Who Attack Fidel Are 'Pigs'," quoting Jalisco Senator and CTM leader Jose Maria Martinez as saying that the PLM leaders who name Velazquez as a terrorist planner are "pigs" who take advantage of "the freedom of expression and action in this country." He adds that this can "no longer be tolerated."

NEW SOLIDARITY INTERNATIONAL PRESS SERVICE



Mideast

Soviets, Edde Call For Lebanon Truce; Syria, Falange Threaten Offensive

Aug. 28 (NSIPS) — The Soviet Union, its Arab leftist allies, and Lebanese "Gaullist" leader Raymond Edde stepped up their efforts this week to achieve a truce in Lebanon, while Syria, Israel, and the Lebanese right — on orders from Henry Kissinger — menacingly threatened an all-out military offensive against Beirut and the mountains east of Lebanon.

The statement by Raymond Edde, a moderate Christian Lebanese politician who is a strong opponent of the fascist Falangists and their allies, was printed in an interview with Edde in the Italian daily Corriere della Sera. "Only the United States can prevent a bloodbath," said Edde, referring to the degree of U.S. influence over Israel and Syria, the prime enforcers of Dr. Kissinger's strategy for liquidating the Palestinians and the left in Lebanon. Unless urgent action is taken, said Edde, to give Lebanese President-elect Elias Sarkis a mandate to bring about negotiations in Lebanon, then the entire country will explode in a military showdown. Edde, as a political figure of Lebanon's establishment with extensive ties to forces in the West, represents a possible rallying point for pro-peace political currents in the West — including President Ford and the Gaullists in France.

At the same time, the Soviet Union this week issued its strongest condemnation so far of the Syrian military invasion of Lebanon. The Soviet-supported Afro-Asian Solidarity Organization stated in Moscow that, "The Soviet people share the opinion of the world public that the withdrawal of Syrian troops is essential for solving the Lebanese crisis." According to Rose al-Yousef, a leftist weekly in Egypt, the Soviets have completely suspended shipments of arms and spare parts to the Syrian army.

Despite such pressure, and despite the growing risk of a

military coup in Syria by nationalist and pro-Iraqi officers who oppose Syrian President Hafez Assad's policy in Lebanon, Syria this week staged large-scale maneuvers in the Bekaa Valley as a warning to the left-Palestinian coalition in Lebanon. Negotiations are proceeding on a truce and mutual withdrawal of forces, but thus far Syria has refused completely to move its forces back from advance positions only 12 miles from Beirut. According to Pravda, Syrian Foreign Minister Khaddam held a secret meeting with PLO officials, where Khaddam demanded a unilateral withdrawal by the Palestinians from strategic positions in the eastern mountains — but was flatly refused.

Rightist leaders in Lebanon are now openly threatening an offensive in September to clear out those positions, in preparation for an attack on western Beirut, the stronghold of the left. But the political unreliability of the Syrian Army, and the military weakness of the right itself — despite heavy outside support from Israel and NATO in arms, training, and mercenaries — makes such an offensive a risky proposition for Kissinger.

This is perhaps the reason that Israel has been taking an increasingly visible stance on Lebanon. The Israeli navy has tightened its blockade of Tyre in southern Lebanon and is also intercepting ships bound for Sidon, the two main ports of the left's supply routes. Both Defense Minister Shimon Peres and his predecessor and factional ally Moshe Dayan issued tough statements demanding the liquidation of the PLO as a precondition for a Middle East peace, and are coordinating military and subversion activities in the Lebanese south. The Soviets meanwhile have warned Israel that they are "playing with fire" in Lebanon, accusing them of not only supplying the Falange but of sending troops to fight alongside the fascists.