

Bustos are taken from their home and dragged into the nearby mountainous area. The next day witnesses report seeing their machine-gunned bodies. (Upon hearing the news their mother died instantaneously of a stroke.)

2-5-77 *Yacopi*. A BIM unit ambushes Gilberto and Alcideo Vanegas, (father and son) , robs them of 2600 pesos and kills them with automatic weapons. Officers tell peasants to call local inspector to pick up the bodies, but a military helicopter retrieves them before authorities arrived on the scene. (The Defense Ministry recently announced the whereabouts of the bodies.)

2-11-77 *Yacopi*. Peasants forced to serve as "guides" for counter guerrilla units, Sigifredo Machecha and Manuel Tejedor, both disappear. Other peasants are

told they must pay a 500 peso fine if they refuse to serve as guides.

NOTE: PCC members of the Colombian Congress, Gilberto Vieira (Secretary General of the PCC), José Cardona Hoyos, Manuel Bayona Carrascal as well as independent journalists have made public the evidence regarding these atrocities and violations of human rights. A special investigative commission which travelled to Cimitarra presented its report to the Colombian Congress in May of 1976, and to then Interior Minister Cornelio Reyes. On May 11, Manuel Bayona Carrascal presented the same evidence to Defense Minister Varon Valencia. In addition, peasants from Cimitarra have sent petitions directly to President Lopez Michelsen and other government authorities. No action on any of the documentation presented has yet been taken.

Carter Human Rights Crusade Produces Fascist Counter-Crusade In Southern Cone

BRAZIL

The Carter Administration human rights crusade for Latin America has, in fact, dealt a hard blow to freedom in Latin America, and has sown the seeds for potential full-scale continental war. Events over the past week are leading some observers to wonder whether the Carter team's "new moralism" was even intended to do anything but strengthen the most repressive "Pinochetists" forces in the southern cone nations. For these avid militarists, defense of death squad activities and police-state repression has now become a matter of "national honor" and "national sovereignty" against "U.S. interference."

Beyond purely internal repercussions, the Carter human rights campaign is propelling, along the lines of a "breakaway ally" scenario, the formation of a presumably "anti-U.S." fascist bloc within the southern cone. It is but a small step from the creation of such a continentally-oriented "SATO," hinged on Brazil, to its deployment as a fascist shockforce against those Latin American nations which are still resisting Wall Street economic policies.

Carter's human rights crusade has run into trouble in Brazil, where it is viewed as another U.S. effort to force Brazil to break its nuclear energy development treaty with West Germany, and compromise future Brazilian economic development plans. Brazilian monetarist Finance Minister Mario Henrique Simonsen took great care March 12 to emphasize that the cancellation of a 1952 military pact with the U.S. on March 5 in no way endangered the 1965 agreement regarding North American investment in Brazil. "We never consider

mixing one thing and another," Simonsen stated, adding that Brazil has received U.S. pledges that Washington will not seek economic reprisals in response to the treaty break.

The cancellation of the 1952 treaty is in itself inconsequential in military or economic terms, since Brazil now produces up to 75 percent of the equipment used by the armed forces. French defense officials have publicly expressed eagerness to replace the U.S. as a source of advanced military technology with no strings attached. With its \$30 billion foreign debt, the economic question remains primary in terms of Brazil's next step.

In the wake of the cancellation of the 1952 treaty, the Atlanticist press in Europe and the U.S. were quick to predict a Brazilian "break" with the U.S. Syndicated columnists Evans and Novak March 16 declared that Brazil, refusing to "play the human rights game," will become the head of a "right of center bloc" of countries against the U.S. The Christian Science Monitor proclaimed that Brazil wants to "flex its muscles elsewhere and exercise a degree of hemispheric hegemony" both in Latin America and, possibly, in Southern Africa.

The potential for igniting the long-standing geopolitical tensions was sparked in the diplomatic "incident" provoked this week by Venezuelan president Carlos Andres Perez' public support for the Carter Administration's campaign on human rights and against nuclear "proliferation." The Brazilian press quickly labeled CAP's statements an attack on Brazil's right to nuclear energy development, reporting "unofficial" rumors of a possible break in Venezuelan-Brazilian relations. CAP may have blundered his way into a dangerous potential military confrontation between the two nations, along the lines of the scenario prescribed by *Washington Star* journalist Elliot Janeway in January

for a "breakaway ally" Brazil to invade Venezuela to seize Venezuelan oil reserves.

The Carter "human rights game" has strengthened the hand of the pro-Chilean forces in the Argentine Navy, Air Force, and Army who demand that junta chief Videla impose a hard line against the labor movement and wage an unrestrained war against all "subversive" elements. The Buenos Aires daily *La Opinion* warned March 10: "The national interest (mandates) circumscribing the break with the U.S. to its strict limits, and counteracting any attempt to isolate Argentina or involve her in a bloc with Chile, Uruguay and Brazil against Peru and the majority of the Latin American nations."

Chile is the most prominent example of the success of

Carter's human rights operation. Fascist dictator Augusto Pinochet responded to U.S. "human rights" denunciations with a further "right turn." On the pretext of "discovering" a plot to overthrow him March 11, supposedly engineered by the Christian Democracy and illegal Communist Party, Pinochet summarily dissolved all political parties — "never to be allowed to exist again." (Only the Communist Party and other leftist groups were officially outlawed in 1973; the bourgeois parties were declared in "recess.") The three-year state of seige was institutionalized officially as a "State of defense against subversion," and human rights petitioners painted as evidence of a new "marxist threat."

Mexican Gov't Announces 'Petrobond' Issue To Pay Debt

MEXICO

Mexican Finance Minister Rodolfo Moctezuma Cid has announced that the Mexican government will begin to issue special "petrobonds" pegged to the international price of oil and directly backed by titles to Mexico's large oil resources. Through the petrobond scheme, Mexico has taken the lead in pushing the commodities policy being promoted by the Carter Administration under the UNCTAD common fund proposal. By directly linking the bonds to oil, the "petrobonds" will go even beyond the commodity price fixing proposed under the common fund — in fact it will implement the fundamental aspect of Henry Kissinger's International Resources Bank plan, presented at the Nairobi UNCTAD meeting in May of last year, and then universally rejected by the nations present.

The petrobond scheme is also a step forward in the Carter administration's efforts to gain control of Mexico's oil. The Mexican press today reports that Nelson Rockefeller's Commission on Critical Choices has issued a study proposing a "hemispheric" oil cartel to bust OPEC. The Mexican daily *Excelsior* ran the story under the headline "Rockefeller seeks an agreement with Mexico to ensure steady oil supply to the U.S."

The petrobond issue topped a long list of economic measures announced during the just concluded National Bankers' Conference held in Acapulco. The conference was attended by 2,000 Mexican bankers and 450 foreign observers, including representatives from the International Monetary Fund, which is directly overseeing austerity measures in Mexico. The major theme of the conference was succinctly described by financial analysts in Mexico: "For the first time the protagonist at the bankers' conference is not money but oil."

The first petrobond issue of \$90 million at 7 percent interest, payable in three years, is scheduled to be

floated in April. The first issue will be an "experimental issue" limited exclusively to Mexican nationals, as part of the efforts to "stimulate domestic savings." The Finance Ministry has announced that further issues of bonds backed by oil, as well as by other resources, like silver, will be floated on domestic and international markets. In contrast with bond issues floated in the past by the government-owned oil company (Pemex) to finance the development of Mexico's oil resources, the petrobonds will be directly backed by oil titles. Finance Minister Moctezuma Cid announced that a special fund has been established with which the "federal government will purchase 6.5 billion barrels of crude oil" as collateral for the bonds.

The direct relation between the petrobonds and the Carter administration's proposed common fund for commodities was openly recognized by Moctezuma Cid and by the head of the Bank of Mexico, Gustavo Romero Kolbeck. After the announcement of the petrobonds Kolbeck declared that "the increase in international prices of some raw materials like coffee, cotton, tomatoes and petroleum . . . will improve our balance of payments deficit."

The unique aspect of the bonds was immediately recognized by a World Bank official in Washington who noted that "this is the first case I've seen in which bonds are indexed to resources or commodities."

"Taking on the Foreign Debt"

The bankers' conference announced additional measures to "increase domestic savings and reduce our foreign financing," whose purpose was bluntly stated by Moctezuma Cid at the conclusion of his address to the conference: "With our resources and our work we will take on the foreign debt."

The measures announced at the conference under the rubrics of "internal savings," "economic autonomy," and "de-dollarization," are in full accordance with the latest IMF directives. According to a secret IMF document leaked by *Excelsior* on the last day of the con-