

## ECHAVARRIA GUIDES MEXICO TO FASCISM TO PAY NATIONAL DEBTS TO ROCKEFELLER

May 24 (IPS)— Mexican President Luis Echevarria Alvarez recently toured the National Polytechnic Institute in Mexico City, his first visit since he ordered the massacre of hundreds of protesting students there in the 1968 mass strike wave. His tour was successful: There were no protests and some of the student leaders from 1968 agreed to join his progressive nationalism in a "worker-student-peasant alliance" to solve the country's problems. According to the deal, students will organize student brigades to go out into the countryside "to educate and be educated."

Other leftists in Mexico are similarly enthralled when Echevarria poses for their "choice" his progressive nationalism or fascism. He can virtually win them over to his forced-work strikebreaking and repression policies with two words alone: "Remember Chile?"

Although Mexico appears to be one of the last bastions of democracy on the Latin subcontinent, a refuge of leftist exiles from Latin America and champion of the third world, its economy is totally mortgaged to Rockefeller financial interests. Echevarria's progressive nationalism has Mexico strangled by one of the highest debt service ratios in the world, over 30 per cent. For example, of the \$3.7 billion in foreign credit nominally extended to Mexico between 1966 and 1970, only 11 per cent of that amount actually stayed within Mexico available for possible productive investment. The remaining 89 per cent returned directly to the U.S. and other creditors via debt service payments. And yet over this same five-year period Mexico's total foreign indebtedness increased by over \$1.3 billion!

### The Fascist Winner

In this situation the Rockefeller political franchise will go to the force that can get this debt paid, and Echevarria is the present favorite. Seeding the ground for actual fascist programs, Echevarria has used the slogan "Mexico comes first" to break strikes, revoke peasant land seizures, and shatter any attempt by the Mexican working class to resist labor-intensive work projects. Internal conditions in Mexico have allowed

Echevarria to continue his work for Rockefeller. A primary factor is the fear of the Mexican working class that things could easily be worse. They remember Mexico's brutal past: the crushed strike waves of 1958-59 and 1968. They think of the hardline "gorillas" in Chile and Brazil or even Mexico's tough faction of the bourgeoisie, the Monterrey Group of industrialists.

In opposition to these emissaries from the past, Echevarria has stepped forward as the beacon of a promising and just future but "for which we all have to work full steam ahead." Growing members of students and a crucial layer of leftists have already been won to Echevarria. Even at the birthplace of the 1968 movement, Mexico City's National University, the propaganda net has snared increasing numbers of 1968 veterans who now see the possibility for "open dialogue" with the government and who view resistance to Echevarria as opening the door to fascism. Once these ex-radical forces have been fully tamed, they will be used as bait to draw broader layers of the political working class into collaboration with the government. As in Peru, the military is already promoting its new image as "friends at the service of the people."

### Local Control Fascism

Significant measures from the Peruvian model of co-participation and community control are underway. The Tripartite Commission, for example, is the most advanced form of actual co-participation between the government-controlled trade unions, the employers and Echevarria. All conflicts are to be resolved through this mechanism, similar to Peron's fascist Pacto Social in Argentina.

The Infonavit housing construction program goes even further by controlling the relocation of the workforce. In addition to the predictable credit boondoggles and other worker looting schemes involved in the system of rent payments, Echevarria has designed the project to strengthen the localist sentiment of these largely self-sufficient housing cities, to exacerbate the physical and political isolation and to encourage parochial backwardness.

## INDIA: THE BOMB IMMOBILIZES THE COMMUNIST PARTY

May 24 (IPS) — The Indian government announced May 18 that it had successfully conducted underground nuclear tests. The significance of this announcement is not in the substance, since India has had the capability to produce nuclear weapons for at least the past several years, but in the *timing* of the announcement. This move was a bit of psychological warfare which has, at least temporarily, accomplished its aim of frightening the Communist Party of India (CPI) into inaction, at a time of repression unparalleled in the history of Indian labor.

The railroads are vital to the life of the Indian economy. A planned railway strike, set up by the government to smash the organized labor movement, has led to the arrest so far of 15,000 workers. Units of the territorial army are now running the trains.

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's assault on Indian labor is the immediate result of her right turn into the arms of Rockefeller financial interests. Evidence of this is her recent trade deal with CIA-dominated Iran and the launching of the \$525 million "development fund" to implement Robert McNamara's World Bank plan for slave-labor projects in the agricultural sector.

At this critical moment in the life of the Indian working class, martial law prevails and military rule threatens. None of the major unions or opposition parties has attempted to forge working-class unity. The CPI must provide the leadership to fight Gandhi's political moves and to turn a large but demoralized strike around, instead of allowing itself to become the immobilized victim of the psywar fears of what a fascist India could do with "the bomb."