

STRIKE WAVE HITS SPAIN

JAN. 13 (IPS) -- A FIRMLY ENTRENCHED STRIKE WAVE OF POLITICAL OVERTONES, HAS BEGUN IN THE CORE OF SPANISH INDUSTRY, PRINCIPALLY IN THE AUTO SECTOR, DUE TO PRODUCTION CUTBACKS. ACCORDING TO THE SPANISH PRESS, IN THE NORTHERN CITIES OF PAMPLONA AND BARCELONA, 21,000 IN BRITISH LEYLAND-AUTHI AND 26,000 IN SEAT HAVE BEEN OUT ON STRIKE FOR THE PAST WEEK. UNLIKE RECENT STRIKES, THE STRIKING WORKERS HAVE BEEN JOINED BY STUDENTS, AND THEY HAVE THROWN UP BARRICADES.

V. WORLD FINANCIAL SURVEY

JAN. 18 (IPS) -- THE NEW YORK TIMES TODAY BUPIED A REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND DECISION TO DEMONETIZE GOLD. THE RECENTLY-CONCLUDED IMF MEETING AGREED TO ABOLISH THE OFFICIAL GOLD PRICE AND ALLOW ALL CENTRAL BANKS TO VALUE THEIR GOLD IN ANY WAY THEY WISH. THE IMF MOVE, WHICH THREATENS TO PLUNGE WORLD TRADE INTO TOTAL CHAOS, WAS MENTIONED ONLY PARENTHETICALLY AT THE END OF AN ANALYSIS BY TIMES WASHINGTON, D.C. CORRESPONDENT EDWIN DALE.

INCREASE MILITARY SPENDING

JAN. 18 (IPS) -- THE TORONTO STAR TODAY REPORTED THAT CANADIAN FEDERAL DEFENSE MINISTER JAMES RICHARDSON HAS ANNOUNCED A 12 PER CENT INCREASE IN DEFENSE SPENDING FOR 1975 UP TO \$2.5 BILLION.

ATHABASCA PROJECT IN JEOPARDY

JAN. 18 (IPS) -- THE NEW YORK TIMES REPORTS TODAY THAT TEXACO CANADA, LTD., HAS ANNOUNCED IT WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN ATHABASCA OIL-SANDS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN NORTHERN ALBERTA. THE PROJECT WILL COLLAPSE UNLESS AN ADDITIONAL \$1 BILLION IS COMMITTED WITHIN TWO WEEKS, A HIGHLY UNLIKELY PROSPECT.

JAN. 18 (IPS) -- THE TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL TODAY REPORTED THAT GREAT WEST STEEL INDUSTRIES LTD. AND WEST GERMANY'S KRUPP INDUSTRIES HAVE FORMED A JOINTLY-OWNED SUBSIDIARY, GWS KRUPP INDUSTRIES LTD. WHICH WILL TAKE OVER AND OPERATE THE EDMONTON (ALTA.) STEEL OPERATIONS OF GREAT WEST STEEL. THE FIRMS'S PRESS RELEASE NOTED THAT IT WILL PRODUCE EQUIPMENT THAT "IS USED EXTENSIVELY IN OIL SANDS DEVELOPMENT AND COAL MINING."

JAN. 18 (IPS) -- THE NEW YORK TIMES REPORTS THAT THE DOW JONES INDUSTRIAL AVERAGE FELL 11.11 POINTS YESTERDAY. ACCORDING TO THE TIMES, INVESTORS ARE APPREHENSIVE OVER THE HIGHLY DEFLATIONARY EFFECT OF PRESIDENT FORD'S ENERGY CONSERVATION PLAN.

JAN. 18 (IPS) -- ACCORDING TO TODAY'S NEW YORK TIMES, FARM COMMODITIES PRICES RECORDED SHARP DECLINES YESTERDAY AS TRADERS PANICKED OVER THE DEEPENING DEPRESSION AND CONSUMERS' INABILITY TO AFFORD MEAT. CORN DROPPED THE DAILY 10-CENT-A-BUSHEL LIMIT ON THE CHICAGO BOARD OF TRADE, WITH MARCH DELIVERY CLOSING AT \$3.20 A BUSHEL. SOYBEANS ALSO

FELL THE LIMIT OF 20 CENTS A BUSHEL, CLOSING AT \$6.13. CORN AND SOYBEANS ARE KEY ANIMAL FEEDS. TRADERS ALSO PUSHED TO SELL LIVE CATTLE AND HOG FUTURES, WHOSE PRICES HAVE DECLINED PERSISTENTLY FOR WEEKS. FEBRUARY DELIVERY CATTLE CLOSED AT 34.45 CENTS A POUND, ABOUT

A POUND BELOW THE PRICE AT THE YEAR'S START. FEBRUARY DELIVERY HOGS FELL TO 36.97 CENTS A POUND.

JAN. 18 (IPS) -- ACCORDING TO TODAY'S NEW YORK TIMES, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT INFLATION IN BRITAIN RAN AT THE RECORD RATE OF 19.1 PER CENT IN 1974. THE BIGGEST FACTOR IN THE DECEMBER RETAIL PRICE INCREASES WAS THE TRIPLING OF THE VALUE-ADDED TAX ON GASOLINE, ADDING 0.5 PER CENT TO THE INDEX BY ITSELF.

JAN. 18 (IPS) -- THE MONTREAL GAZETTE REPORTED TODAY THAT ATTORNEY-GENERAL HOWARD PAWLEY OF MONTREAL IS ON "HOLIDAY" IN HAVANNA AND IS ENGAGED IN "INFORMAL TRADE TALKS WITH CUBAN OFFICIALS."

LAYOFFS REPORT

JAN. 18 (IPS) -- THE TORONTO STAR REPORTED TODAY THAT WOOD INDUSTRY LAYOFFS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA NOW TOTAL 20,000. THE STAR RELATED THE LAYOFFS TO THE COLLAPSE OF HOUSING CONSTRUCTION IN THE U.S. AND CANADA.

JAN. 18 (IPS) -- ACCORDING TO THE WASHINGTON POST, THE U.S. LABOR DEPARTMENT REPORTS THAT THE JOBLESS RATE FOR CONSTRUCTION WORKERS CLIMBED FROM 13.9 PER CENT TO 15 PER CENT FROM NOVEMBER TO DECEMBER.

JAN. 18 (IPS) -- THE WASHINGTON POST AND THE NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED TODAY THAT 53,250 ON TEMPORARY LAYOFF WILL BE REHIRED ON MONDAY BY FORD AND GENERAL MOTORS. CHRYSLER WILL NOT BE REHIRING.

JAN. 18 (IPS) -- THE NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED TODAY THAT BETHLEHEM STEEL AT SPARROWS POINT, MD., WILL BE REHIRING 600. THE TIMES SAYS THAT ALL BUT 1,000 OF THE 4,300 LAID OFF DUE TO THE COAL STRIKE WILL BE BACK AT WORK WHEN THE 600 RETURN.

JAN. 18 (IPS) -- ACCORDING TO THE NEW YORK TIMES, THE DAN RIVER TEXTILE WILL CLOSE 9 PLANTS IN THE GREENVILLE, S.C. AREA FOR 2 WEEKS RESULTING IN 4,500 LAYOFFS.

JAN. 18 (IPS) -- THE NEW YORK TIMES TODAY REPORTED THAT XEROX WILL LAYOFF 1,200 (800 IN ROCHESTER). UNIROYAL WILL LAYOFF 1,142 AT 5% OF 7 OF ITS PLANTS. THE SIXTH PLANT WILL GO ON A 4-DAY WORK WEEK.

VI. CONTINENTAL

JAN. 18 (IPS) -- SENATORS EDWARD KENNEDY (D.-MASS.), CHARLES MATHIAS (R-MD.), AND WALTER MONDALE (D-MINN.) HAVE PROPOSED A RESOLUTION FRAMED AS "ADVICE TO THE SENATE" TO STRENGTHEN THE VLADIVOSTOK AGREEMENT AS WELL AS TO PUSH FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS IN NUCLEAR ARMS REDUCTION BY THE FORD ADMINISTRATION. SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER "WELCOMES" THE MOVE, ACCORDING TO LESLIE GELB, WRITING IN TODAY'S NEW YORK TIMES.