

# UN Becoming Forum for Debt Moratorium, IDB

Aug. 2 (IPS)—Resolutions passed or under consideration by United Nations-connected agencies have ensured that sweeping debt moratorium proposals will be a major item on the agenda of the Special Session on Development of the UN General Assembly in September.

Spearheaded by Third World nations, the diplomatic offensive on the debt moratorium is helping to rapidly create the political context in which the ICLC's International Development Bank proposals Convertible Ruble-backed for three-cornered trade among the socialist countries, the developing sector, and Western industrialized nations — can be realized.

According to a UN press release, the 15th session of UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) opening in Geneva August 5-15 will call for total rescheduling of all Third World debts, on the premise that their balance of payments problems "are the result not of excessive spending by these countries but of asymmetries and malfunctions in the international balance of payments adjustment process". The UN release continues, "Strong and novel measures of adjustment, laying aside the traditional distinction between balance of payments financing and development finance, are called for."

UNCTAD will also hear reports from its Group of Experts on "measures of support by the socialist countries of Eastern Europe for regional economic cooperation integrating among developing countries."

## Hear Strategies of Development

At the 59th session of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) which closed in Geneva yesterday, speaker after speaker rose to demand concrete international development strategies. Saad M. Hshmi, deputy Representative to the United Nations from India, demanded

the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted last year by the General Assembly which explicitly calls for "debt re-negotiation...with a view to concluding agreements on debt cancellation, moratorium, rescheduling and interest subsidation." In answer to Rockefeller sponsored howls "radical," Hoshimi observed that the "problem (of debt) was not that of a virus to be cured with antibiotics but of a cancer requiring surgery."

Among the resolutions passed by the ECOSOC session was one endorsing the "application of the principle of nationalization carried out by States, in order to safeguard their natural resources," such that "each State is entitled to determine the amount of possible compensation and mode of payment."

A Third ECOSOC resolution called for implementation of the Lima Declaration of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), which is largely formulated by the Group of 77 Developing Nations led by India, Iraq and Algeria. The declaration demands that UNIDO be converted into a specialized UN agency with its own budget and policy organs, independent of its present U.S.-dominated funding sources.

Other major sections of the Declaration call for transformation of Third World debts into outright grants — de factor moratoria.

All of the discussion and resolutions at ECOSOC were explicitly formulated as proposals for the UN's September Special Session. In his report to ECOSOC, Janez Stanovik of Yugoslavia, Executive Secretary of the UN Commission for Europe, reminded the delegates that the successful conclusion of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) would give additional forceful impetus to the growth of East-West trade —

revitalizing the economy of the developing sector.

## Non-Aligned Nations on the Move

Leaders of the Group of 77 are meanwhile organizing vigorously for their conference scheduled for August 25-29 in Lima, Peru, to formulate their demands for the Special Session. Peruvian Foreign Minister de la Flor traveled to Algeria, Yugoslavia, India, and Egypt last week to coordinate plans for the Lima Conference; and, Indonesian Foreign Minister Adam Malik met in New Delhi with Indian Foreign Minister Chavan for the same purpose. The Lima Conference will consider OPEC funding for UNCTAD's recently proposed \$6 billion commodity buffer stock, to stabilize Third World incomes to clear the way for debt moratoria.

Rockefeller's response to the UN debt moratorium offensive as strictly impotent foot-dragging protest. When the Group of 77 proposed "debt problems" as an important agenda item for the September Special Session, the State Department issued a special memo challenging the Group's agenda, point by point. "We see debt problems as...not warranting singling out in the draft agenda," the State Department whined.

## Europeans Wait Their Turn to Get Kissinger

This Rockefeller-Kissinger stupidity has not gone unnoticed by the trade-hungry European bourgeoisie. Conservative financial analyst C. Gordon Tether of the Financial Times of London, yesterday blasted Kissinger's "latest peroration on the shortcomings of the Third World," and attacked "the intransigent U.S. attitude to international economic cooperation." Said Tether, "France and Britain...and many more would have (cooperated with the Third World trade calls) had they not been able to argue that such efforts wouldn't get very far so long as the U.S. was behaving unhelpfully."