

IDB TO BE CENTERPIECE AT LIMA CONFERENCE

Aug. 17 (IPS)—Next week's conference of the Non-Aligned "Group of 77" Nations in Lima, Peru will provide the public forum for the administration of a political black eye to Henry Kissinger's global policies of genocide. It is now certain that a sizeable faction of delegates to that Conference will be present to promote the essential features of the Labor Committees' proposal for the creation of an International Development Bank (IDB); namely, the debt moratorium on dollar debt, to be followed by the adoption of a transfer ruble-backed financing system for trade between the Third World, the advanced industrial sector and Socialist bloc countries.

Just this past week the Soviet Union has taken steps to clarify its own intentions toward the world economic debacle for the benefit of those representatives of Third World populations who express difficulty in reconciling Soviet open diplomacy policy statements—such as Leonid Brezhnev's speech on the thirtieth anniversary of the victory over Nazi fascism—with the efforts of Soviet diplomats themselves. The signing of the accord between Mexico and Comecon is exemplary in this regard. Fadeyev, the head of the Comecon, characterized the accord as a "practical materialization of the noble clauses and the high principles of the Helsinki Conference."

The point was emphasized by the government newspaper Izvestia on Thursday, Aug. 14 entitled "Loyalty to Internationalism." That editorial signifies the public break with "national liberation" roads to socialism of Third World countries, and asserts Soviet readiness to assist those countries who are now prepared to embark on the road of development. "Leninist thought on the possibility of a full or partial avoidance of the capitalist phase, which opened for the people of the backward countries in the presence of a powerful socialist state, is especially confirmed by the history of our period when there

exists not only one socialist island in the world but a powerful community of socialist states." The article furthermore notes that Comecon's International Bank for Economic Cooperation has established a fund of 11 billion rubles, thus far largely untapped, to support the development efforts of Third World countries in particular.

Equally significantly, the French Communist Party (PCF) has demonstrated from within the advanced capitalist sector itself, its own commitment to the realization of the essential preliminary measures for the establishment of the IDB. Last weekend General Secretary Georges Marchais convened a press conference to announce on behalf of the PCF's Politburo that the economic crisis could only be solved by breaking with the indebtedness of the dollar and the mark, and then expanding trade with the countries of the Third World and Soviet bloc. This message has been taken out to the masses of French workers in tandem with the PCF's defense of the Portuguese Communist Party (PCP). More than 70,000 leaflets have been distributed in the Seine-Maritime Department on behalf of such efforts. Two thousand copies of L'Humanite announcing the policy were sold at the Renault auto plant in Paris, and 36 workers were recruited on that basis alone.

Such efforts on the part of the PCF signify that the actual political basis for the creation of the IDB now exists. Third World countries opting for the implementation of that necessary solution will not now be thrown back on the Soviet Union alone, but will know that significant forces within the capitalist sector itself are prepared to organize massive support among the working class on their behalf. In short, representatives of Third World populations can now be assured that, to the extent that their efforts on behalf of development coincide with the interests of advanced capitalist sector workers in ending the depression and restarting production and trade, then those efforts are now guaranteed political muscle

from within the advanced capitalist sector itself.

Pro-development Forces Line Up

What remains to be determined at this point is the actual strength of pro-development forces within the non-aligned group itself. It is certain that the development package represented by the Labor Committee's IDB proposal has already achieved significant penetration among the governments of Latin America, Africa, the Middle East and Asia, and, what's more, is recognized by those governments as the only workable set of proposals for any agenda which proposes to solve the urgent problems of the depression. This reality is nowhere better demonstrated than from the reflection of such influence mediated by the Latin American press in particular. Mexico's La Prensa and Venezuela's Resumen illustrate this tendency adequately enough. A columnist for the former, after noting that Argentina, India, Africa and others are moving closer to the Comecon declares that "much of all that will be dealt with at the Lima Conference... the majority of the non-aligned countries there will promote a moratorium there on their debt to the World Bank." The latter's analysis of the significance of the Helsinki accords draws heavily on Labor Committee material.

Algeria in the Lead

Notwithstanding further such evidence of wide-ranging support for IDB proposals the outcome of Lima will depend heavily on the organizing of a mere handful of non-aligned countries themselves, typified by Algeria, Yugoslavia, Iraq, Mexico and India. It is the political weight of these countries, most obvious in the case of Hourri Boumediene's Algeria which will determine the course of events at that conference. Indeed, now that Third World countries can be assured of especially PCF, but also Soviet support for such initiatives as are forthcoming from the conference itself, it is to be expected that Algerian political weight will prove to be hegemonic among the group as a whole.

It is against such efforts that Henry Kissinger's most frantic personal diplomacy has been directed. His National Security Agency provoked coup in Bangladesh has, for example, the intention of reinforcing a global Islamic Movement, which in travesty of the actual universality implicit in Islam, is specifically designed to wreck the drive for Middle East peace and development proposals advanced by Yugoslavia, Mexico and Iraq. Equally, his efforts in

the Anglo-American colony of Zaire ruled by Black Face Mobutu as mediated through French Vichyite Giscard d'Estaing are intended to prevent a common front of Third World countries against Rockefeller's dollar imperialism by selectively "rewarding" those who implement genocide. Rockefeller collaborator Giscard has granted Zaire a debt moratorium in exchange for renewed efforts to sabotage the MPLA in Angola. The colony of Zaire, it should be noted, is on the co-ordinating com-

mittee of the Non-aligned group itself.

The IDB: Irresistable

Such efforts, however, under present crisis conditions, can only backfire. For now all the political ingredients required to bring the IDB into existence are afoot among mass forces in the world. Lima will provide the demonstration that governments cannot resist policies which are effectively in the interests of the continued survival of their own populations.