

ROCKEFELLER BANKS, MULTIS PLOT PORTUGAL BLOODBATH

by K. Brown

Sept. 7 (IPS) — The same openly Rockefeller-controlled banks, oil companies, and multinational corporations commonly known to be the bloody perpetrators of the 1973 CIA military dismemberment of the socialist Allende government of Chile, the same murderers of thousands of Chilean Communist cadre and workers are meeting this week to plan a blow-by-blow replay of that crime in Portugal.

A series of exclusive IPS interviews with top New York banking sources has revealed the precise names and activities of these butchers. The international working-class movement and anyone who calls himself a democrat must move to stop them with massive public exposure:

***THE BANKS** are led by David Rockefeller's own Chase Manhattan, First National City, Manufacturer's Hanover, Morgan Guarantee, Bankers Trust in the U.S., and Lloyd's of London and National Westminster Bank in the U.K. They have in coordination with U.S. agents in the Portuguese banks slashed trading credits to Portugal, over which they have virtual stranglehold control, bringing imports of vital food and fuel, and equally crucial exports to a level threatening the entire process of production in the country.

***THE OIL GIANTS** are, among others, Rockefeller's Mobil, Exxon, Texaco and Gulf. They have conspired to cut off Portugal's major oil source of Cabinda, Angola, cut refinery production drastically, and sabotaged the overall development expansion of Portugal's energy industry.

***THE CORPORATIONS** are led by the infamous multinational CIA communications service International Telephone and Telegraph (I.T.T.), the blood of Chilean workers still fresh on its hands. I.T.T. has completely severed funds for its \$100 million worth of Portuguese subsidiaries, threatening a complete production breakdown and mass layoffs—unless the Portuguese mass strike is smashed, and "managerial control" restored in its factories. Other saboteur companies include the sweatshop Otis Elevator, Hertz, and the Swedish firm Eriksburg.

The familiar full range of U.S. and European multinationals have extensive control of Portugal's electronics and auto assembly industries: General Electric, Westinghouse, General Motors, Ford, Firestone (U.S.); Siemens, Grundig, (BRD); Plessey, Electronics, Leyland Motors

(U.K.) Other banks known to be involved in Portugal include Bank of America; Barclays and Midlands Bank (U.K.); Credit Lyonnaise (France); Banco do Brasil (Brazil). All should be investigated for possible sabotage activities.

Firms enthusiastic about East-West trade such as the German conglomerate Thyssen, rumored to be cancelling shipbuilding contracts to Portugal's Sentenave yards, should note — not a kopeck of Socialist bloc orders will go to the murderers of Portuguese workers.

Kissinger Rides Shotgun For the Banks

Sources at Chase Manhattan told IPS that Kissinger's State Department has guaranteed the banks and multinationals a thorough crackdown on the PCP and striking workers. "We talk to many banks and corporations who come in here concerned," the State Iberian Affairs desk was quoted as saying. "Workers are occupying factories, locking up managers in their offices. The companies are asking that the (Portuguese) government restore managerial and administrative control in order that they stay in Portugal. Now, our advice to them is that they hang on, things may go in a favorable direction. With such losses in profitability, the government will have to do something about strikes and occupations." When asked whether this would involve use of the army, the State official would not answer except to repeat that "managerial control" would be reestablished.

A top officer at the State's Bureau of Politico-military Affairs was more blunt. "Every government uses pressure. Sometimes it has to be pretty harsh."

Bankers' Meet:

"There Will Be No Revolution"

On Monday, September 8, Governor Antonio Manuel Pinto Barbosa of the Central Bank of Portugal together with top Portuguese international trade and Ministry of Finance officials will lunch with the executives of First National City, Chase Manhattan, and every other major New York bank, to plan their sabotage going into the coup. "There will be no revolution in Portugal," intoned one Chase conspirator.

The U.S. and British banks have already begun a coordinated complete cutoff of all long- and medium-term trading credits to Portugal. Chase, First, and Manufacturers Hanover

sources confirmed. As for the critical short-term 180-day credits, said Chase, "We are now financing these letters of credit deal by deal, very selectively."

He then detailed the stranglehold in which the banks thereby have the Portuguese economy. "You could say we're their major bankers. We have the (Portuguese) Central Bank deposits and their account on payments due them on trade. The government gets drafts of payments from us for food and fuel imports. We clear their accounts with the IMF, World Bank, with the U.S. and every other foreign government. We're a vehicle whereby they transact business on a global scale."

Oil Co.'s "Integrated" Portugal-Angola Operation

The Rockefeller oil companies' backing of genocide against the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) as documented by this newspaper is, according to Manufacturers Hanover spokesmen, an "integrated operation" with production cutbacks in Portugal. Since refineries in Portugal are in large part specifically geared to the sulfur level of oil from Cabinda, Angola — now under embargo by CIA and Gulf-backed mercenaries—Mobil, Exxon, Texaco, and Gulf have been able to slash their refining there. This is a heavy blow to Portugal's petrochemical, fertilizer, and all other industries.

The same companies, the banker continued, "have stopped their offshore oil exploration and all their expansion plans" in Portugal. Mobil in particular has been renegeing on already made commitments for expansion at its Gaia facilities.

I.T.T. Waves Chilean Shirt

In exactly the "key and code" words used by the State Department, ITT President for Europe M.R. Valente threatened the working class this week that the multinational's financial cutoff action in Portugal was "being taken pending the restoration of effective management control." The parent company's suspension of funds is expected to force the closure of at least its major electronics subsidiary Standard Electrica. The Portuguese newspaper A Luta precisely pegged this as "an attempt to precipitate economic catastrophe." At least 7,000 workers will be laid off in this operation alone.