



NEW SOLIDARITY International Press Service

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EARLY EVENING NEWS — 1500 HOURS EST
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1976

I. PRIORITIES.

ITALIAN UNIONS REJECT MORO AUSTERITY PROGRAM.

FEB. 11 (IPS)—AT A MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF ITALY'S THREE MAJOR TRADE UNION FEDERATIONS FEB. 8, ANTI-AUSTERITY FORCES PUSHED THROUGH A "MANDATE" TO THE FEDERATIONS' LEADERS DIRECTING THEM TO "STATE THE UNIONS' OPPOSITION TO (ITALIAN PREMIER ALDO) MORO'S (AUSTERITY) PROGRAM."

THE REASON FOR THE MANDATE, AN EXTRAORDINARY STEP BY THE BODY, WAS EXPLAINED BY THE SECRETARY OF THE TEXTILE WORKERS UNION, MASUCCI, WHO STATED THAT "IT IS NECESSARY TO AVOID GIVING THE IMPRESSION THAT THE UNIONS WANT TO 'THINK ABOUT' THESE THINGS, WHEN IN FACT THEY REJECT THEM."

THE DECISION WAS A BLOW TO MORO AND HIS CHIEF ECONOMICS ADVISOR, NINO ANDREATTA, WHO HAD COUNTED ON SUPPORT FOR THEIR FASCIST AUSTERITY PROGRAM FROM THE LEADERS OF THE THREE FEDERATIONS — LUCIANO LAMA OF THE COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED CGIL, STORTI OF CSIL, AND VANNI OF UIL — TO SABOTAGE WORKER RESISTANCE TO THE PROGRAM.

BUT AT THE FIRST DAY OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING, FEB. 7, LEADERS OF THE METAL, CHEMICAL, AND TEXTILE WORKERS FORCED THE TOP LEADERSHIP TO ABANDON THEIR PLANS TO GIVE MORO THEIR SUPPORT AT A MEETING WITH THE PREMIER SCHEDULED FOR FEB. 9. ON THE FOLLOWING DAY, WITH WIDE SUPPORT FROM CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS AND SOME COMMUNISTS, THE SOCIALIST PARTY FORCES AT THE MEETING RAMMED THROUGH THE ANTI-AUSTERITY "MANDATE."

RABIN GOV'T. SURVIVES NO CONFIDENCE VOTE

FEB. 11 (IPS) -- ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER YITZHAK RABIN SURVIVED A VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE FEB. 9 IN THE ISRAELI PARLIAMENT BY 63 TO 35, WITH 12 ABSTENTIONS. THE VOTE HAD BEEN PROPOSED BY THE RIGHT-WING LIKUD PARTY BLOC IN THE PARLIAMENT IN AN EFFORT TO UNSEAT RABIN. THE PRIME MINISTER'S ALLIANCE WITH U.S. ANTI-ROCKEFELLER FACTIONS TO "STABILIZE" THE MIDDLE EAST VIA A POLICY OF NO CONFRONTATION WITH THE SOVIETS WAS VIEWED WITH ALARM NOT ONLY BY THE LIKUD OPPOSITION, BUT BY WARHAWKS WITHIN RABIN'S OWN PARTY, MAPAI, INCLUDING DEFENSE MINISTER SHIMON PERES AND FORMER DEFENSE MINISTER MOSHE DAYAN.

THE BITTER RABIN-PERES FACTION FIGHT WAS TOUCHED OFF LAST WEEK BY CRITICISMS BY RABIN AND HIS AIDES DIRECTED AT PERES FOR THE LATTER'S "MISREPRESENTATION" OF ISRAEL'S DEFENSE NEEDS TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. RABIN WAS IN THE U.S. AT THE TIME FOR MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT FORD.

(MORE)

2.11 EARLY IPS/4

LABOUR PARTY "DISSIDENTS", RIGHT-WING COLLUDE IN ISRAEL AGAINST RABIN

FEB. 11 (IPS) -- THE FAILURE OF A NO-CONFIDENCE VOTE AGAINST ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER YITZHAK RABIN EARLIER THIS WEEK MEANS "ONLY A POST-PONEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT CRISIS," WEST GERMANY'S FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG REPORTS TODAY. AT A "SECRET MEETING," REPRESENTATIVES OF RABIN'S OWN LABOUR PARTY MET WITH MEMBERS OF THE RIGHT-WING LIKUD AND NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTIES TO NEGOTIATE ON MAKING CURRENT DEFENSE MINISTER SHIMON PERES, TOP ISRAELI WARHAWK, THE NEXT PRIME MINISTER, THE PAPER REPORTS.

CITING COMMENTARY IN LEADING ISRAELI NEWSPAPERS, THE ZEITUNG CLAIMS THAT "RABIN WILL NOT HAVE AN EASY TASK IN HOLDING THE LABOUR PARTY TOGETHER AND PREVENTING A SPLIT." ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LABOUR PARTY IS QUOTED AS SAYING: "I DIDN'T VOTE AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT" IN THE NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION BROUGHT BY THE RIGHT-WING BECAUSE "I WAS UP TO NOW A MEMBER OF THE LABOUR PARTY."

WORLD BANK ANNOUNCES POLICY FOR BANGLADESH: ZERO GROWTH IN TWO YEARS

FEB. 11 (IPS) -- THE BANGLADESH MINISTRY OF FAMILY PLANNING HAS LAUNCHED A MAJOR DRIVE TO REDUCE THE ANNUAL GROWTH IN THE COUNTRY FROM THE PRESENT 2.8 PER CENT TO ZERO IN TWO YEARS, ACCORDING TO THE BANGLADESH NEWS SERVICE. THIS STRATEGY WAS ADOPTED UNDER THE DIRECTIONS OF A RECENT WORLD BANK APPRAISAL REPORT WHICH INDICATES THAT THE PRESENT BIRTH RATE OF 3,600,000 BABIES PER YEAR CAUSES AN ADDITIONAL FOOD REQUIREMENT OF 2.4 MILLION TONS A YEAR -- REQUIREMENTS THAT THE BANKS SAYS, CAN BE DONE AWAY WITH. ECONOMISTS FROM THE WORLD BANK WHO VISITED BANGLADESH LAST MONTH "ADVISED" THE GOVERNMENT TO SEND OUT 4,500 FAMILY PLANNING OFFICIALS TO IMPLEMENT THE ZERO GROWTH POLICY IN THE RURAL AREAS. ONLY TWO MONTHS AGO, THE SAME WORLD BANK OFFICIALS COERCED THE BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT INTO RAISING THE PRICE OF FOOD RATIONS BY CUTTING BACK ON THE GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES TO MAINTAIN LOWER PRICES.

PERU WILL PRESS KISSINGER ON THIRD WORLD DEBT MORATORIUM, REPORTS FINANCIAL TIMES

FEB. 11 (IPS) -- "THE QUESTION OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES DECLARING A MORATORIUM ON THEIR FOREIGN DEBTS IS EXPECTED TO BE AMONG THE MAJOR ITEMS WHICH WILL BE DISCUSSED BY THE PERUVIAN AUTHORITIES DURING THE VISIT TO LIMA THIS MONTH OF U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE DR. HENRY KISSINGER," WRITES HUGH O'SHAUGHNESSY IN YESTERDAY'S FINANCIAL TIMES OF LONDON. HE ALSO NOTES THAT "THE MORATORIUM SUGGESTION WAS MADE BY GENERAL MIGUEL ANGEL DE LA FLOR, THE PERUVIAN FOREIGN MINISTER AT LAST MONTH'S MEETING OF UNCTAD IN MANILA. IT HAS BEEN TAKEN UP BY SELA, THE LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM, AT ITS RECENT MEETING IN CARACAS."

PERU, ALONG WITH ALGERIA, AND THE ASIAN GROUP, LED THE FIGHT FOR A MORATORIUM ON ALL THIRD WORLD DEBT, AND THE CANCELLING OF DEBT FOR THE HARDEST-HIT COUNTRIES AT THE MANILA MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE GROUP OF 77 NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES.