



NEW SOLIDARITY International Press Service

P O. Box 1972, G.P.O.
New York, New York 10001
Editorial (212)279-5950
Customer Service (212)564-8529

NEW SOLIDARITY INTERNATIONAL PRESS SERVICE (IPS)
LATE EVENING NEWS ROUND-UP
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I. PRIORITIES

DER SPIEGEL REPORTS SADAT SUPPORTS THIRD WORLD DEBT MORATORIUM

Feb. 23 (IPS)—Western bankers are terrified by the threat of international debt moratoria, according to the latest issue of the West German news weekly Der Spiegel, which identifies Egypt's pro-capitalist President Anwar Sadat as a supporter of debt moratorium.

In a featured article on the impossibility of Third World countries meeting current debt payments due, Der Spiegel quotes Sadat as saying: "People are going to have to give us a few years in which we do not have to pay back any debt." The article also quotes a Pakistani official as having remarked that "there is no other choice than to cancel the debt."

Bankers reached by Der Spiegel spoke only of "the traumatic effects" of debt moratoria on "our banking system." The article was subtitled "Mammoth Collapse; International Bankers Dread Their Billions of Credits to Developing Countries."

STATE DEPARTMENT PROCRASTINATION TACTICS AT NORTH-SOUTH TALKS ENRAGE THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES

New York, Feb. 23 (IPS)—The talks between developing and developed nations now underway in Paris are threatened with breakdown as the industrialized nations, headed by the U.S., have refused to consider taking steps which depart from their traditional role as debtors whose claims on developing nations' resources and revenue have acted as a barrier to industrial development in the Third World.

The Journal of Commerce, in a Feb. 23 dispatch from Paris, reports that "serious differences hobble the work of the four commissions" because "wealthy nations refuse to bow to the developing countries' call for sweeping revolutionary steps to redistribute the wealth of nations...due to their own economic slump, the worst since the great depression."

Diplomatic sources participating in the most recent round of the conference, which ended Feb. 20, have stated that the reason for the collapse of the talks was the refusal of the U.S. govern-

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ment delegation (made up mostly of officials of the U.S. Treasury) to take steps toward debt moratorium as a first step toward ending the depression and a necessary move toward a new world economic order. Informed sources from the Third World Group of 77 in New York say that the 19 developing countries representing the Group of 77 in the CIEC talks are committed to walk out of the conference if no more progress is achieved by the end of the next scheduled meeting, late this March.

FRENCH NAVY CHIEF OF STAFF BACKS SANGUINETTI

Feb. 23 (IPS)—Admiral Joire-Noulens, the Chief of Staff of the French navy, declared in Brest on Feb. 19 that he agreed with 75 per cent of embattled Vice-Admiral Antoine Sanguinetti's ideas, according to the Feb. 20 issue of the French Communist Party daily L'Humanite. Sanguinetti, a staunch Gaullist and critic of Atlanticist President Giscard's defense policies, is under pressure from the government to resign for his public criticism of the government. Last week he issued a statement reaffirming the Gaullist concept that national "legitimacy" is not determined by the dictates of any particular government and stating that he would fight the attempts to force his ouster.

L'Humanite commented that Joire-Noulens' declaration threatens to "trigger a strong governmental fit of anger."

Adding to the furor over Giscard's relations with the military, the French Communists have issued a national press statement, coupled with a series of local actions and a parliamentary-level intervention, against the government's decision to discipline the director of the Brest arsenal. The government claimed the director went "beyond his authority" by allowing workers who perform the most physically taxing jobs to take breaks.

NATO OFFICIALS WRESTLE OVER HOW TO STOP GAULLISTS

Feb. 23 (IPS)—The annual meeting of the Institute for War Studies (Wehrkunde) held in Munich, West Germany this past weekend and attended by over 100 NATO officials, politicians and journalists, was preoccupied with the problem of resistance on the part of France's Gaullists to the Atlanticist Tindemans plan for European arms integration and the general Gaullist antagonism toward NATO.

West German Christian Democratic Union defense expert Manfred Woerner threatened that "a joint security policy must not only be tolerated by France, but taken up by her as well," according to today's Frankfurter Rundschau, while West German Defense Ministry State Secretary Siegfried Mann grumbled that European arms cooperation without France would be "scrap." U.S. ambassador to NATO Alexander Haig admonished member countries to "guard against discovering new encompassing defense concepts."

While the West German Defense Ministry called for a "policy of little steps" to deal with the French problem, former Luftwaffe (air force) General Steinhoff demanded "great and courageous

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steps, in view of the practical impotence of NATO's leading bodies to do anything about those members who are clinging to their national sovereignty."

The meeting's participants also expressed anxiety about the MPLA victory in Angola. United Kingdom Ambassador to NATO Killick warned that unless NATO intervenes against Angola now, "we will not have to wait long for a crusade to liberate the Western (African) continent in the sense the Communists intend."

MEXICAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE HITS BRAZILIAN "MIRACLE,"
PROMOTES ITALY-MEXICO TRADE

Feb. 23 (IPS)--"Mexico is not Brazil, nor wants to be," Jose Lopez Portillo, the presidential candidate of Mexico's ruling party, the PRI, declared to the Italian paper Corriere della Sera in an interview republished yesterday by Mexico's leading daily, Excelsior. Lopez Portillo explained that "Mexicans don't want to import the economic miracle of Brazil, nor are they interested in an accelerated economic development based on the sacrifice and hunger of more than 50 per cent of the population."

In response to a question from Corriere, Lopez Portillo emphasized that there are "large perspectives" for Italy-Mexico trade, especially between the two countries' state sector industries. "Mexico in Latin America and Italy in Europe are the countries in their continents which have developed state industry the furthest, especially in basic sectors," he said, contrasting these perspectives with Brazil's dependence on multinational corporations "which don't respect either the sovereignty or the laws of the countries in which they operate."

Corriere commented that "the words of the Mexican politician have an immediate response in reality," citing contracts let to Italian state enterprise to restructure Mexico's shipbuilding facilities in Veracruz in order to build a "first series" of 10 oil tankers, as well as Italian participation in machine tool, transformer, tractor and railroad locomotive deals with Mexico.

Lopez Portillo is running unopposed for president of Mexico and will take office in December when incumbent president Luis Echeverria's term expires.

USLP PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE LAROUCHE CHALLENGES WALLACE

Wiesbaden, W. Germany, Feb. 23 (IPS)--U.S. Labor Party presidential candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. yesterday issued the following challenge to Alabama Governor George Wallace:

"Poor old George Wallace is being wheeled through the areas of Labor Party strength in Massachusetts. This sort of public exposure makes it look as though poor George had some guts. Workers must find out whether he does. I challenge George Wallace to a full debate on domestic and foreign policy to take place as soon as I return to the U.S. Does he have enough guts to debate LaRouche?"

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A leaflet announcing the challenge will be circulated in Boston this week, prior to the March 2 primary.

WALLACE'S FIRST ANSWER TO DEBATE CHALLENGE FROM L. LAROCHE

Boston, Feb. 23 (IPS)—After receiving an official communication today of U.S. Labor Party presidential candidate Lyndon La-rouche's challenge to Alabama Governor George Wallace to a debate on foreign and domestic policy upon Mr. LaRouche's return to the United States, Wallace spokesman Billy Joe Camp, the Governor's aide and press secretary, told a LaRouche representative that "it is too early in the political process to consider this, not only with your candidate but with any candidate." But, Camp added, there is a possibility of a revised determination by the Wallace camp within the next day.