



NEW SOLIDARITY International Press Service

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NEW SOLIDARITY INTERNATIONAL PRESS SERVICE (IPS)
COMBINED NEWS ROUND-UP--PRIORITY ITEMS
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LONDON TIMES: TIGHT MONEY IN THE U.S., TROUBLE AHEAD FOR "RECOVERY"

Feb. 29 (IPS)—Yesterday's London Times reports that "significant" increases in interest rates in the United States are "widely predicted," adding that "some bankers and economists fear that further rate rises could endanger the chances of the economy's continued recovery and dampen investor confidence."

The paper explained that "the forecasts of significant rate increases ahead, after sharp rate declines over the last two months, gained support today (Feb. 27) with the announcement by the First National City Bank of New York that it was raising its prime lending rate to 6-3/4 per cent from 6-1/2 per cent."

The Times also said that "the economy is still seen by many economists as being at a fragile point with its sustained recovery still in doubt."

WEST GERMAN PRESS SKEPTICAL OF UPSWING

Feb. 29 (IPS)—West German press today expressed skepticism concerning predictions about a current economic upswing in the capitalist sector. The Sunday tabloid of the right-wing Springer press, Bild am Sonntag, reports that in the coming three months 18 per cent of companies in the already collapsed metal-working industry plan further lay-offs.

These figures, severely understated in view of the ongoing collapse of West German exports, were presaged by an editorial Feb. 26 in the West German bankers' daily, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, protesting the Bavarian economics minister's plan to give state subsidies to a bankrupt textile complex. The Zeitung wrote that so many similar bankruptcies will occur in the imminent future that such a plan represents a dangerous precedent.

HEATH DEBUNKS RECOVERY MYTH, CHARGES PRESS WITH "FALSE EUPHORIA"

Feb. 29 (IPS)—Speaking to a local chamber of commerce on Feb. 27, former British Prime Minister Edward Heath charged that a "false sense of euphoria" about the British economic situation was being conveyed in the country's press. He blasted journalists for being taken in by the government's propaganda "newspeak"

which claimed that unemployment was "levelling off," while it was really rising steadily, and that industrial production was "flattening out," when it was, more accurately, still falling.

"There is a big difference between Fleet Street (British newspapers' headquarters) on the one hand and between Bradford, Manchester and other industrial cities, on the other hand," said Heath, who is associated with Conservative industrial forces in Britain. "People in this country should not be taken in. There is a deep anxiety throughout the country and rightfully so about rising prices, about disappearing jobs and about living standards."

Heath's speech, which further charged that Britain's Labour Government did not understand the needs of private industry, was quoted in the London Times and Daily Telegraph of Feb. 28.

AMERICA IN ITS HALF-SLEEP, TO WITNESS THE FALL OF ANOTHER BYZANTIUM

Feb. 29 (IPS)—In a column today in the Washington Post, Georges Suffert, editor of the French paper Le Point, declares that America is facing the end of its empire as surely as Byzantium in the 1450s. Suffert says that Europeans are asking if the U.S. "still exists as a leading power in the Western world" and that they see Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's movements "to be plunged in unreality." He says that European leaders also "are wondering if American politicians perceive the danger or if they have grown bored with the outside world." America in its half-sleep, he concludes, is like the Western leaders around 1450 who listened absent-mindedly to messengers from Byzantium who warned them that the prestigious capital of the Eastern Roman Empire was going to fall: "Nightmares of the traditional pessimists, they might have thought. Byzantium had existed a thousand years; it will still last for just as long."

SULZBERGER CALLS SOVIETS "SUPERGIANT WITH CLAY FEET"

Feb. 29 (IPS)—New York Times columnist C. L. Sulzberger today acknowledges that the "salient fact" of this week's Soviet Party Congress is that the Soviet Union "has become the world's strongest military power" through the continuation of a policy begun under Stalin of heavy industrialization and rearmament. But the Soviet "supergiant," Sulzberger says, has "clay feet" stemming from its weakness in food production and advanced technology, opposition from dissidents and anti-Soviet White Communist Parties in the West.

RICHMOND MAGISTRATE FLAUNTS LAW, REFUSES TO ACCEPT BAIL FOR OGDEN

RICHMOND, Feb. 29 (IPS)—Richmond magistrate McKinney last night refused to accept bail for U.S. Labor Party senatorial candidate Alan Ogden, who was jailed on framed-up assault charges two days ago and then had a 300 dollar appeal bond on an earlier phony trespassing conviction revoked.

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When U.S. Labor Party organizers presented the necessary 300 dollars to McKinney, McKinney refused to accept the money, claiming that Ogden's bail would be reset Monday morning. McKinney's claim is in flat contradiction of law.

Tomorrow morning, the Labor Party has announced it will go into Federal Court to seek a restraining order against further harassment of Ogden, who has been subjected to nearly 40 arrests since he declared his candidacy for the U.S. Senate seat now held by Sen. Harry Byrd, Jr.

COLUMNISTS MOOT NAVAL BLOCKADE OF CUBA

Feb. 29 (IPS)—Columnists Roland Evans and Robert Novak said yesterday that the White House is exploring methods to prevent Cuba's Premier Fidel Castro from "his use of military force anywhere," including consideration of "an outright naval blockade of Cuba itself." The columnists say the problem with a blockade is that Congress might "balk" if such a policy is decided upon by the White House, claiming that the victory of the "Soviet-Cuban backed" forces in Angola was in large part due to Congressional refusal to aid pro-Western forces in that country.

Writing in yesterday's New York Post, Evans and Novak also state that "a move into Namibia" by Cuba "would not go unchallenged" by the U.S., emphasizing that U.S. officials in Washington are already discussing military aid to South Africa in case of such an event.

IRAQ TO CLOSE DOWN SYRIAN PIPELINE

Feb. 29 (IPS)—Iraq will sharply curtail the use of the trans-Syrian pipeline which transports Iraqi oil to the Mediterranean starting April 1, when it will open a new pipeline and oil refining facility on the Persian Gulf, according to today's Washington Post. As a result, Syria will lose an estimated 100 million dollars per year in transit revenues and oil supplies from Iraq.

PORTUGUESE FASCIST VISITS U.S. TO SEEK "MARSHALL PLAN"

Feb. 29 (IPS)—The head of the Portuguese Popular Democratic Party (PPD), Francisco Sa Carneiro, will arrive in the United States tomorrow in order to ask for a "Marshall Plan" type of aid. He told reporters at the Lisbon airport that Portugal needed monetary help in the form of a "Marshall Plan" in order to help "solve her economic and social problems and to install a stable democracy," according to today's Baltimore Sun. Sa Carneiro, who has organized groups of fascist farmers throughout Portugal, also wants the money because he says that there is still a "dangerous, non-democratic left" that intends to "seize power or, at least, to create a zone of interest beneficial to the interests of the Soviets."

In the U.S. Sa Carneiro will visit with Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and Senators Edward Kennedy (D-Mass) and Hubert

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Humphrey (D-Minn). He will also address the House and Senate Foreign Relations Committees.

MOBUTU RECOGNIZES ANGOLA

Feb. 29 (IPS)—Zaire, through Congolese mediation, has announced its recognition of Angola. "We have gone beyond a simple recognition. We have both reached our objective—the respect for the territorial integrity of each state," said Zairean President Mobutu. The recognition agreement includes an assurance of "mutual confidence and security for each state" and mutual cooperation regarding the now closed Benguela Railway running from Zaire to the Angolan port of Lobito. The news was reported in today's Washington Post.

MUSSOLINI'S BRAINS RETURNED IN BOLOGNA CONFSSIONAL

Feb. 29 (IPS)—An unidentified man returned the brains of Benito Mussolini in confession yesterday at a 14th century basilica in Bologna, Italy, according to today's Baltimore Sun. They had been stolen from Mussolini's tomb on Feb. 27.

Bologna is the stronghold of Atlanticist agent Giorgio Amendola of the Italian Communist Party.

End of Combined IPS for Sunday, February 29, 1976
