

## Mexican Government Backs Nuclear Effort

A ceremony at the site of Mexico's major nuclear plant construction project Oct. 7 highlighted the 10-month-old Lopez Portillo administration's tenacious commitment to nuclear energy development. The government has now restarted construction of the country's first commercial reactor, officials have revealed in speeches at Laguna Verde on Mexico's northern Veracruz coast. The 1.3 million kilowatts facility had been stalled due to the changeover in administrations following Portillo's election and financing restrictions imposed by the International Monetary Fund.

According to Federal Electricity Commission head Hugo Cervantes del Rio, the government is determined to bring the reactor on stream by 1982.

It was first planned 11 years ago; construction began during the 1970-1976 administration of Luis Echeverria. It is expected that final cost, increased due to the delays, will be upwards of \$1.2 billion.

It was also announced that Mexico will push ahead rapidly with uranium exploration and new facilities for uranium processing in the northern state of Chihuahua.

In the days directly following the Laguna Verde tour and press conference, a flurry of articles in the Mexico City press publicized Mexico's nuclear energy effort, emphasizing that environmental considerations were adequately dealt with and that the key element in the program is the training of Mexican scientists and technicians.

inflation or stagnation, but rather selective credit for investments." Such views have been fully endorsed by Christian Democratic leaders like Flaminio Piccoli, who recently warned that any Italian government which attempts to exclude the PCI would immediately degenerate Italy to Weimar conditions, leaving the country politically open for a fascist (i.e., British monetarist) takeover.

### *The Battle for West Germany*

Every new link in this international pronuclear alliance serves to help solve the predicament of West Germany, the industrial heartland of Western Europe, where nuclear energy plant construction has been virtually halted by a "moratorium" brought about by a combined deployment of environmentalists and saboteurs inside the ruling Social Democratic Party (SPD). Ironically, the opposition Christian Democratic Union (CDU) is performing a function similar to that of the Communist parties in France and Italy, since they are supporting the industrialization policies of Chancellor Helmut Schmidt "from the outside" against such inside saboteurs as SPD Chairman Willy Brandt.

In this spirit, CDU Chairman Helmut Kohl announced at a recent party congress that "Schmidt's thinking is along the lines also favored by the CDU" regarding

nuclear energy and antiterrorist policy. Kohl attacked the antinuclear movement as "the most reactionary force in the country," and proposed that a parliamentary debate on nuclear energy be held immediately in order to deal them a fatal blow.

The mainstream trade union movement fully share this opinion. In the industrial city of Dortmund this week, factory labor council members representing almost two million West German workers heard speaker after speaker emphasize the vital need for nuclear energy not only for their country, but for the Third World as well. "Cutting nuclear energy means to let the Third World die, since they depend on rapid energy development for industrialization," the head of the Association of German Electricity Plants told a cheering audience.

This support has made the Schmidt government feel strong enough to take a practical step towards ending the present court-enforced nuclear moratorium, by forming a commission to make proposals for bringing their "Nuclear Law" more into line with the necessity of technological progress. Chancellor Schmidt has also sent a letter to the Minister-President of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, urging him to overthrow a local court decision obstructing the completion of a fast-breeder project at Kalkar.