

EIR Special Report

Club of Life urges Non-Aligned: adopt debtors' cartel

by Nancy Spannaus

Political weight was thrown behind the traditional Third World demand for a New World Economic Order on Feb. 18-20, when over 3,000 individuals met in North America and Western Europe to endorse a demand for dumping the International Monetary Fund and replacing it with a monetary system dedicated to technology transfer and industrialization everywhere. Gathered in 40 cities under the auspices of the Club of Life, the international pro-life organization formed by West German political figure Helga Zepp-LaRouche in October 1982, the majority of these participants endorsed a resolution to the Non-Aligned Bureau of Nations, whose heads of state will be meeting in New Delhi, India on March 7, and vowed to obtain support for that resolution throughout Western Europe and North America.

The resolution urges the leaders of the Non-Aligned movement "to use the only visible means to overcome the depression, namely, the effective formation of a debtors' cartel. The disadvantage of the huge indebtedness of the developing sector, for which it is not to blame in our view, can be turned into an advantage. You can impose an orderly renegotiation of the entire debt of the developing sector and be instrumental in bringing about a new world monetary system in which credit will be created for production, and not for refinancing paper."

What makes the Club of Life resolution more significant than a mere paper declaration is the potential political power represented in the assemblies. The Third World, whose political leaders were either killed or removed from office following the bold advocacy of a debt moratorium and a New World Economic Order in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in 1976, has hesitated to take the necessary steps to save its populations, for fear of a new wave of lethal retaliation from the United States and other governments under control of the International Monetary Fund. The sight of a broad array of political forces in the United States—in this case over 1,500 individuals—has provided the Third World with a demonstration that the advanced-sector countries can be brought into reasonable negotiations once the debt bomb shock is applied.

The forces which have rallied around noted economist and Democratic politician Lyndon LaRouche in the United States have already given the nations of



Stuart Lewis/NSIPS

Members of the Club of Life demonstrate near the White House on Feb. 18 against U.S. support for the murderous policies of the International Monetary Fund.

Ibero-America courage to put forward proposals for joint debt renegotiation and a new Latin American common market. Both these ideas were elaborated by *EIR* founder LaRouche in a private memorandum circulated to Ibero-American governments in summer 1982, "Operation Juárez."

Immediate broad coverage given to this round of Club of Life conferences in Ibero-America, by way of the Spanish news agency EFE, makes it likely that the international impact will once again be most strongly felt there.

But the report-back into other nations of the Non-Aligned, which number 96, was not restricted to Ibero-America. Over 55 nations had participants in the conferences in the United States and Europe, representing the majority of African nations, as well as significant representation from Asia. Most diplomats were astounded to see the depth and breadth of support within the United States, in particular, for reversing the depression by developing the Third World.

Over 650 people participated in the Paris Club of Life conference, the keynote event featuring Lyndon and Helga LaRouche. College and high school students, engineers and technicians, and the Pakistani exile community associated with the late Premier Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's Pakistani People's Party, formed the bulk of the audience. Besides the presentations from Mr. and Mrs. LaRouche and the Indian representatives (see below), one highlight of the two-day meeting was the presentation by Marie-Madeleine Fourcade, a former leader of the French Resistance, who gave an impassioned speech on the danger of the re-emergence of fascism engineered by the financial forces that brought Adolf Hitler to power in the 1930s.

About 500 participants came to the Washington, D.C. conference from 30 states of the United States. Farmers, businessmen, and minorities were well represented. Organized labor was not broadly in evidence, but one labor spokesman, Wayne Thomas of an International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers local in California, read a telegram signed by more than 30 other West Coast unionists in support of the Club of Life and its debtors' cartel program. This marks a break from the control over the labor movement of one of the international bankers' strongest U.S. allies, AFL-CIO president Lane Kirkland. Greetings were also read to the conference from the Department of Labor. Noteworthy too was a message to the meeting from Sen. John Melcher, Democrat of Montana, who became the first senator to pledge his vote against the upcoming proposal to bailout the International Monetary Fund (see Congressional Closeup.)

Support for the New World Economic Order proposals of the Club of Life was also rallied in more than 20 cities around the United States, several Ibero-American capitals, and a number of European and Canadian cities. Many of the meetings drew between 35 and 60 participants in areas notorious for local chauvinism, but now obviously being aroused to concern for the international causes of the depression.

The actual impact of the conferences will not be known until the heads of state of the Non-Aligned movement meet in New Delhi on March 7. The international press cartel in Europe and the United States, which succeeded in blacking out the existence of the meetings and the proposals in the interest of the IMF and London and Swiss bankers, may find out that there are limits to its power.