

Indian spokesmen say: 'fight for truth'

by Mary McCourt

Only by fighting for a global recovery can the holocaust that the world is facing be averted, two members of the government of India told the conference of the Club of Life in Paris Feb. 18.

The Club of Life, by bringing "new and fresh ideas to the leadership of the developing sector," is playing a crucial and growing role in that fight, in the words of Bali Ram Bhagat, a former foreign minister, now chairman of India's World Affairs Council, and a member of the Indian Parliament for 34 years. The ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, Muchkand Dubey, pledged in his speech that the "message and spirit" of the Club of Life conference, particularly in emphasizing the interdependence of North and South, will be taken to the Non-Aligned summit in New Delhi March 7.

First extending to the Club of Life "the deepest respect of the people and Parliament of India," Mr. Bhagat emphasized that the creating of the New World Economic Order, which he called "a journey to the truth," was a war. Bhagat stated that he was deeply touched by the speech of French Resistance leader Marie-Madeleine Fourcade to the conference, because it brought back memories of India's fight against the biggest colonial power [Britain], which he called a freedom movement very similar to the French Resistance. Mme. Fourcade, who ran the largest intelligence network of the French Resistance, had told the Paris conference that the 50th anniversary of the coming to power of Adolf Hitler must be made "an opportunity to remember" and that we must never allow such destruction of nations and people again.

Bhagat continued: "Let me quote our great leader Mahatma Gandhi, who stressed that our fight was a fight against evil. We have to strive for the truth. I have also been deeply impressed by the speech of Mrs. Zepp-LaRouche [founder of the Club of Life and chairman of the European Labor Party] when she spoke about interdependence. . . . As a Sanskrit word says, 'the whole world is one family.' In a crisis like today's, people begin to realize that the whole of mankind is threatened by a holocaust. . . . In such a situation, we must realize that there is only one planet with one common interest.

"In its fight against colonialism, India realized that when you are weak you cannot get justice," Bhagat said. "The prime task was to build our economy and achieve self-reli-

ance. We built a steel industry. A great American President was keen on helping—John F. Kennedy—but powerful interests overruled even the President. We had to take loans from international organizations. . . .

"I am sure that those assembled by the Club of Life will accompany us on our journey" to the New World Economic Order, Bhagat said. This bridging of the gulf between North and South, the crucial role of the Club of Life, is so important because the conditions of the current economic crisis were created by the "international order built at the end of the 1940s—minus the South and minus the East. The Bretton Woods system was based on the IMF and the World Bank, which were mainly developed to manipulate the decolonized world. We are now facing a debt crisis which reflects the fragility of the international order. The debt crisis is not a crisis of developing countries which are in the debt trap, but a crisis of the international banking system.

"I want to stress two points: first, the fight for a New World Economic Order is a fight for total decolonization, for as Mr. LaRouche said this morning, colonialism is feudalism [see page 28]. Second, the New World Economic Order can only be realized through the mutual interdependence of North and South."

The conditionalities imposed by the International Monetary Fund must be changed drastically, because they impede the development of the developing sector economies, said Ambassador Dubey in his speech to the Paris conference.

The IMF conditionalities demand economic restrictions at a time when the LDC (Less Developed Country) economies have already virtually halted, and force an export orientation at a point when all trends point to total trade war and protectionism. The consequence is a deepening economic stagnation and recession for both North and South.

The Third World and advanced sector economies must be seen as an integrated whole, he said, pointing out a recent report concluding that if all lending to LDCs were stopped, the advanced sector rate of growth would drop immediately by 1 percent. This would mean disaster, because the world economy is at such a low level that the OECD is forecasting a 1983 growth rate of only 1.5 percent, and even this may not occur. Thirty percent of U.S. exports are to LDCs; 5 percent of all U.S. jobs and 16 percent of U.S. industrial jobs depend on exports to the Third World.

The basis for a real economic recovery, Ambassador Dubey emphasized, would be created by fulfilling the needs and potentials of the underdeveloped nations; economic growth could then become a self-subsisting process.

He sharply criticized the Brandt Commission report for its assumption that the common interest of the LDCs and advanced-sector nations is "self-evident" under current conditions, and he attacked a recent article in the London *Guardian* which reported the sentiment among international financial circles that only a few LDC nations can be saved in the economic crisis, and those few only on condition that they become hostages to the World Bank and IMF.