

or 56.8%, were owed to the commercial banks. In other words, this element is going to introduce a certain weakening of the international monetary system, and one can even say that the bankers, like magicians, have sometimes lent funds they in no way possessed. . . .

At the same time, the rate of growth in African countries has been nil, or even sometimes negative. So between 1980 and 1982, raw-materials prices have dropped about 27%, if we reckon in current dollars. These elements taken together, of course, have produced a permanent decline of the trade balance and at the same time a general deterioration of the financial situation.

In 1983, to cover the deficit in the current account, sub-Saharan Africa had to dip into its reserves, and on the regional level, we can establish that things were far more grave. Nearly all over Africa, a crisis of exceptional gravity is observed in food and agriculture, making the African continent a zone of insecurity and fragility. This worrisome trend derives from three factors: first, the weak growth in agricultural production of about 1.3%, and the strong demographic growth of 2.7%, which entailed a drop in per capita agricultural production. Afterwards, the decline in food production was to the benefit of revenue crops for export. For example, West Africa used to import 2 million tons of cereals in 1950, while today it imports between 15 and 20 million. Finally, there was a huge,

disorderly speed-up in the expansion of cities, such that food self-sufficiency is far from being attained, and yet we used to think that this could be among the goals attainable by the end of the century. . . .

[Mr. Kasse presented a detailed discussion of IMF conditionalities and their failures.]

The result of these policies applied as a whole have thus shown a perfect incapacity to resolve economic difficulties, and to get out of the crisis. The sacrifices imposed on the working population, notably, by the bias toward skyrocketing prices and erosion of buying-power, have brought on certain threats of civil war by the hungry. Also, the duration of the adjustment, which lasts for decades, shows the low-performing character of these policies.

That is why the 21st session of the Organization of African Unity recognized the need to define other political alternatives, of searching for other results which would not be those whose success has not been evident. . . .

On the external level, the leaders of the OAU believe that two types of action may be envisaged, and that local public powers ought to aid their effective realization. The first type of action would be consultation for the achievement of an efficient regional order. In fact, we have inherited from colonialization tiny spaces, limited spaces, on which it is utopian to base large-scale development. Integration will there-

A message of greeting

Text of the message sent to the conference by Ahmed Kedidi, member of the Tunisian Parliament; editor, El Amal newspaper; member, Central Committee, Destourian Socialist Party.

Dear friends, participants in the Paris conference, on the same day as your conference, which I regret not being able to attend, I find myself on an African tour accompanying the Tunisian prime minister, M. Mzali, through eight countries of Black Africa, and particularly on the last leg of this tour, in Senegal and Mali. And I realize, on the ground and among the working peoples of my continent, that the battle of our Schiller Institute for the true right to development of Africa, is a hard, but exalting, battle; long, but impassioned, strewn with obstacles, yet promising.

It is the fight of Helga and Lyndon LaRouche for an Africa which is truly independent and truly sovereign, which unifies you today around a common ideal: that of bringing about the second independence, that is, to accept the challenges and to close ranks against the new servitude of the international financial institutions. It is a fight of

destiny, which will determine the vocation of Africa in the concert of nations for the 21st century.

In this struggle, the Black continent is not alone. With it, Latin America carries the banner and outdistances the pace of events. President García has already set the tone for a grim and legitimate determination to free Peru from the humiliating conditions of the International Monetary Fund. I have found in Africa an honorable echo, worthy of the courageous initiative of President García, and I have ascertained for myself on the ground in Africa how urgent is the coordination of the efforts of Africa and of Latin America, to break the chains that prevent these two continents—therefore, half of humanity—from fully living and participating in the world's march toward a better future.

* Dear friends, having lived through and analyzed for 20 years the problems of underdevelopment, I remain convinced that international peace depends largely upon an integral and rational development of Africa and of Latin America, on their adherence to the ideals of freedom and of the flowering of industry, on their rejection of the blackmail of the neo-usurers and the new slave traders, the international financial institutions. Therein lies the main objective of your conference.

I greet you from the depths of Africa and wish you the full success of your labors. *