

Schiller Institute group warns Nigeria on IMF

A delegation led by Godfrey Binaisa, former President of Uganda, Lawrence Freeman of the Schiller Institute/U.S.A., and Uwe Friesecke of the Schiller Institute/Germany, has held a series of meetings with high-level officials in Abuja, Nigeria, and made calls for the reorganization of the international monetary system for the purposes of economic reconstruction, EIRNS learned on April 26. They were joined by Nigerians Lawal Idriss and Sennussi Dagash.

The delegation was received at the office of the secretary to the federal government, Akhaji Aminu Saleh, on April 17. In the next days, Mr. Saleh organized a two-hour seminar for the delegation with the director general for the foreign ministry, and representatives of the press and the constitutional conference, on the world economic collapse and the outline for a new monetary system. The delegation met separately with the ministers of industry, commerce, and with the acting director general for foreign affairs.

The visitors received widespread TV coverage April 17-18, and their visit was featured in the Nigerian daily *The Democrat* and in the *Abuja Mirror*.

The *Democrat* headline on April 24 for its page-one story on the visit read: "World Bank-IMF: Anti-Nigeria." The article reported that the Schiller Institute had warned that the world economic system under the International Monetary Fund is at a "dead end." In paraphrase, the *Democrat* said that the delegation pointed out that in face of the collapse of important infrastructure and declining buying power of the majority of the world's population, particularly in the developing sector, a revival of the world economy is immediately required, and this can only be done with major infrastructural development. They observed that the economic potential of Nigeria, with its vast agricultural and mineral resources, is being strangled by the present conditionalities of the IMF and World Bank, especially the demand that the economy be left to the mercy of free market forces.

Mr. Saleh confirmed to the delegation that Nigeria is now at the IMF's mercy. "We opened our doors and windows to the IMF and now they are demanding we open our rooftops. This is because the focus of our policy remains payment of the debt."

On April 25, the delegation gave a two-hour briefing to the economic intelligence committee of the government led by Prof. Samuel Aluko, who expressed his grave concern over the attempts to force the government into further concessions to the IMF, through political pressure, including the attempted coup of March 1995.

since previous "mild" crises, such as the one under Margaret Thatcher in England in 1979, had not led to an actual rolling back of the state and therewith to greater freedom. Deep crises lead to a no-holds-barred competition among the states, and thereby back to the "freedom" of the market, and especially also with the "information society," an element of individual freedom in the acquisition of knowledge would be added, that would make superfluous even the present state-run school system in the West, said Radnitzki. He continued, "International trade is a shining example of a nicely functioning 'anarchy,' for a spontaneous order, and therefore the markets stand outside the law. In all these cases, the state is not needed, quite the opposite."

Thus Radnizki arrived at the kernel of his ideology, the destructive "conservative anarchism," which seeks the downfall of the state itself and everything pertaining to it. Thus it seems consistent that he demanded an end to all financial regulation and applauded the formation of financial oases (off-shore banking) in the "legal no-man's land between the nation-states," thus championing the cause of speculation. It is also appropriate that Radnizki intimated that the spread of spelling books, as was practiced in England in the early 19th century, is enough for an educational system. The potential

of the "information society" would do the rest; nothing more would be necessary in the "free market" of the future. Above all, Radnitzki concluded his speech, the defeat of the ostensibly unfree "spirit of the Ecole Polytechnique," France's great scientific institution founded at the close of the 18th century, and "the Europe of Delors," the concept of a Eurasian economic recovery based on great infrastructural projects carried out by governments as proposed by former European Commission head Jacques Delors, must be defeated.

Radnizki got backup at the conference from Gregory Christiansen (University of California), a follower of the so-called "Virginia School of Economics," which works with the conservative insurgents around Republican Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.). Christiansen attacked the system of central banking and recommended a return to the system of "free banking" as it had allegedly existed in the United States after the national bank was abolished between 1838 and 1860, and the issuance of bank notes was left to the discretion of the individual private banks. The historical fact, that this very financial policy encouraged the secessionist movement in the southern states and paved the way for the Confederate secession and Civil War, went unmentioned by Christiansen.