

The likelihood of another wave of strikes leading to a new general strike is quite high.

Lopez as a "Bordaberry"

The remaining months of Lopez's Administration will increasingly become the rule of the Colombian military acting behind Lopez's democratic facade, in a parody of Uruguay, where President Juan Bordaberry now fronts for a military junta.

Some would say the transition has already taken place. Reporter Carlos Gueron, writing in the Venezuelan newsweekly *Resumen*, notes that the long months of state of siege which Colombia has already endured "aren't very different from how things would have been if Lopez's title were 'general' instead of 'doctor'."

Generals Varon Valencia, Minister of Defense, and Camacho Leyva, Commander of the Armed Forces and named by the Communist Party as a coup plotter, have made it clear that they have no interest in a coup... since they no longer need one.

Speaking on national radio in a joint interview, General Varon Valencia declared that "the loyalty with which both police and military dealt with the strike situation is sufficient proof that the public can dispense with any fears that the military harbors desires for a coup." General Camacho Leyva defended the repressive measures as necessary and even "highly beneficial."

Lopez did not wait a day after the strike to give his thanks to these two. In a press statement, the President described the strike as "a small April 9 which was frustrated thanks to the support of the Armed Forces..." April 9 is a reference to the "Bogotano" — the 1948 uprising following the assassination of the populist Liberal leader Jorge Eliecer Gaitan — which led directly to ten years of Civil War, during which the military and police forces slaughtered 300,000 men, women and children in the name of "protecting the institutions."

The Aftermath

When the working class didn't back down September 14, most of the President's erstwhile supporters did, panic-stricken by the overwhelming demonstration of working-class muscle. Only *Tiempo* of Bogota is still

sticking to the hardline that all the newspapers manifested before the strike, attacking the "subversives" and effusively praising the military.

The rival Bogota Liberal paper, *Espectador*, reflecting the terror unleashed within ruling circles by the successful strike, acknowledges that the Lopez government and the Liberal Party as a whole took a real beating. Post-strike editorials have called for conciliation with labor, hinting that the government might consider bringing the Communist union federations into the National Salaries Council.

For the *Journal of Commerce*, U.S. conservative financial daily, the strike was a lesson in economics, teaching them that wages don't really cause inflation — at least not always. In a page one article on the September 20 edition, their correspondent wrote:

"Many — including foreign economic experts — argue that wage increases are not an important component of inflation in Colombia at present, that is due mainly to the enormous inflow of coffee dollars, that there is plenty of currency available for importing foodstuffs if excessive demand generates more shortages..."

The UNO Option

Since the major contenders in the upcoming Presidential election lack either the program or the credibility or both to deal with the crisis, the possibility of a victory for the Communist-led electoral coalition, UNO, is emerging. The CP's successful mobilization of almost five million workers in the national strike lays the basis for a UNO election victory.

The Partido Laboral Andino (PLAN), co-thinker organization of the U.S. Labor Party, has launched a campaign to turn the five million strikers into five million voters for the UNO coalition. The aim is to work with the UNO in educating the working class around a program which will extend the demands of the strike into a positive program for industrialization and rapid development of Colombia's productive resources.

Without the UNO's adoption of such a policy, Colombia could well find itself under effective military rule by next summer.

—L. Hecht

Jamaican CP Chief:

Stop Debt Payment To Halt IMF Coups

Jamaica's leading communist, Dr. Trevor Munroe, gave the entire Third World a lesson in clear strategic thinking Sept. 4 when he laid down two fundamentals of current political reality during a nation-wide radio address: 1) The Carter-Mondale Administration is ultimately responsible for fascist coup plots in the developing nations; 2) a minimal defense against these plots is a commitment to economic production over the payment of foreign obligations.

Reprinted below are selections from the address by

Munroe, Secretary General of the Workers Liberation League, as it appeared in Jamaica's Daily Gleaner Sept. 8.

Nine months ago the working people voted to defeat imperialism and the big man in our country in December, 1976.

Since then, many of us have become confused, have become worried and upset because the same imperialism we organised to fight against, the same class of big

people who we organized to fight against, the same forces the people defeated in December, 1976, these are the same forces who are now coming back in this country getting stronger and stronger, pressuring the poor people, pressuring the working people....

When basic necessities are hoarded by the big companies — that is imperialism. When prices keep going up and up because of devaluation — that is the pressure of imperialism acting through the international monetary fund, the IMF, that we are feeling. When working people are told that wage increases must be limited to \$10 per week it is because U.S. imperialism speaking through the IMF says it is so it must go.

Right now the working people are feeling the power of imperialism and the big man to hold the country up to ransom...

...Their 1976 strategy to oppress the Third World failed. So in 1977 they put Carter in power and Carter came up with a new plan to deceive and oppress Third World countries like Jamaica.

What is this plan? This plan has three parts:

1. The first part is the IMF.
2. The second part is total control of the newspapers and the media by imperialism and the big man.
3. The third part is to stir up the working people to march and demonstrate against socialism and the government.

This is the new plan of the Carter imperialists. Is this the plan Andrew Young came here a few weeks ago to put into operation?

First the imperialist acting through the IMF pressure the government to harm the working people. Then these very same imperialists turn around and organize so-called "concerned housewives" to demonstrate, not

against imperialism, not against the big companies who are hoarding, but against socialism and the government.

Then the next move of the imperialists and the big man is to run out the progressive journalists from the *Daily News* and *The Star*. So that they can say 10,000 people demonstrate against the government when it is only 200...

This is the strategy of Carter's imperialism, brothers and sisters. Unlike Ford and Nixon it is not based mainly on the CIA, although the CIA still plays a key role in it. It is based, on using the IMF to turn the working people against the government; using the newspapers to crush socialism and the true-hearted socialists in the government....

...There are people in the government who by their deeds are digging the ground and ploughing the soil for this plan to work....

Brothers and sister, these capitalist Ministers must be put under very very heavy manners by the Prime Minister now....

...What is the action that the working people can take to break down this plan of Carter? First of all, we must demand that the government renegotiate four clauses in the IMF agreement:

1. They must say no to more devaluation.
2. They must say no to the \$10.00 wage freeze.
3. They must say no to the cutback in the land policy and other social programmes.
4. They must insist that our foreign exchange be used to import food and raw materials first and then only after that to pay profits and royalties to foreign companies...

The government must also act now to take the *Gleaner*, *The Star* and *The Daily News* along with *RJR* out of the hands of their capitalist owners. These owners have turned the newspapers into propaganda sheets to play politics with the working people and to turn them against socialism and against the government...

\$5 Billion In Foreign Credits Per Year Must Go For Mexican Energy Expansion

The following is the introduction to the Mexican Labor Party program for industrial development of Mexico. The industrial program, now being prepared by the party's research and development specialists, will complete the project launched earlier this year with the publication of the PLM's "basic agricultural plan" which is designed to boost Mexican agricultural production six-fold in the next five years.

Mexico: Energy Pioneer for the Third World

There is no place in the world where International Monetary Fund's austerity restrictions are more patently criminal than in Mexico. It is a country with enormous oil reserves; there is little doubt that the 60 billion barrel reserves estimated by the Mexican

national oil company, PEMEX, is a minimum, placing Mexico in the same league as the major Arab oil producers. Its uranium resources are large and barely tapped. Its economy, only beginning to be threatened by nine-month-old IMF restrictions, is one of the most industrialized of the Third World and is poised to take advantage of the extraordinary infrastructure construction achievements of the preceding Echeverria government. Within its burgeoning population of over 60 million people, there are significant skilled labor resources particularly in the petroleum sector.

Any competent strategy for Mexican development must take advantage of the country's remarkable energy resources as the basis for a surge of production and economic development sufficient to bring Mexico into the