

## Editorial

### *A rapid turn to economic development*

The bold and courageous actions of Peru's President Alan García against the International Monetary Fund, the rapid, joint movement toward sweeping reforms by the black majority and Afrikaner reformers in the Republic of South Africa, and the impact of the recent, disastrous earthquake in Mexico, are now intersecting the threatened collapse of the U.S. banking system. Such developments are also intersecting monumental acts of strategic stupidity by the U.S. State Department and, yes, President Ronald Reagan.

Granted the influence of the "Palace Guard" and concern for the 1986 and 1988 elections, the President's actions in connection with the outrageous and savage Israeli air raid on the PLO headquarters in pro-American Tunisia, have the potential effect of eliminating U.S. influence from the entire Middle East and Maghreb almost immediately. However, under the present conditions of world economic and strategic crises, no simple projection of political trends is possible. What U.S. diplomacy is doing in the Maghreb is no worse than what the State Department is doing to destroy long-standing friendly relations in Mexico, South America, and the East Asia. This is all part of an accelerating plunge toward global disaster. If we propose to adapt to what existing trends indicate they will probably lead to, very few presently existing nations will be in existence by 1990.

The practical question is one of defining what we must cause to happen to influence the direction events will take under the world-shattering crises of the present time.

The major problem to be understood, is that under the savage austerities imposed by a cartel of bankers and supranational monetary institutions, governments around the world, are denied the internal and regional economic stability they require to assure domestic social and political peace in their countries. The United States must come to understand, that the sovereignty and welfare of friendly states is the most vital foreign U.S. strategic interest.

If U.S. monetary policies and foreign policies generally, are adjusted to fit the principles of equal sovereignty of nations and the right of nations and peoples to economic development, the best potentialities of each nation will tend to appear as an effective force for stability in affairs among nations. Unless the importance of that change is understood by Washington very soon, U.S. relations with almost every part of the world will become progressively worse.

Either we institute a comprehensive monetary reform, to replace the indefensible policies of the supranational agencies, or the Soviet Union will become a virtual world-empire during a Western financial and economic collapse far worse than the 1930s.

*EIR* has worked for a just world economic order since 1974; either that proposal will be adopted now, or the world faces the worst catastrophes of war, famines, and pandemics ever known.

The world is now in the grip of a new pandemic, called AIDS. Despite the desperate efforts of supranational institutions and various governments to conceal the medical facts, this disease, which has an indicated mortality-rate of ultimately 100%, is spreading its infection now at a rate of not less than a doubling of the number of cases every six months. This pandemic is more dangerous than a full-scale nuclear war. No miracle cure ever stopped a pandemic. Only proven kinds of public health measures can. This means sanitation measures, improved resistance through nutrition, actions to stop other epidemics which increase susceptibility to AIDs, and improved nutrition.

Thus, a solution to AIDS, too, is impossible without a rapid turn to economic development.

There is no threat so murderous, no risk so terrible, that economic reform can be postponed. Better a full-scale thermonuclear war, than failing to take immediately those economic-reform measures indispensable to checking the spread of a pandemic with the potential to eliminate the human species from this planet by the end of the present century.