

policy exclusively linked to the interests of the International Monetary Fund and which fails to meet the true needs of the country, and in the face of an extremely wealthy and privileged minority class—will carry out the process of which we are speaking, an explosive and anarchic process which could lead to the destruction of the country.

EIR: So you are saying that the unrestrained application of the neo-liberal economic policy which the pope has so often criticized could lead to social convulsion?

Visconti: Could lead? No. Already has led. The only thing is that up until now they have been able to control and moderate it. The risk is that if they continue to apply those same prescriptions of the Fund, the measures indicated by the Fund, without any kind of moderation to meet the social needs of the population, the situation can become radicalized and uncontrollable.

EIR: One example of the problem is that of every \$3 of the Venezuelan budget, \$1 is used to pay the debt.

Visconti: Yes, that is so: Practically 30% of the national budget is used to service the foreign debt.

Now there is another detail. The situation of the Venezuelan foreign debt has not been clarified. Of course, the ruling class has every interest in not doing so. There is no certainty as to the true amount of the Venezuelan foreign debt. And there is even a portion of that foreign debt which is illegal. The financial world, the United States, the bankers have unofficially acknowledged this. But the Venezuelan government has not been interested in clarifying this situation, because they profit from it.

The Venezuelan foreign debt is on the order of \$35 billion. Of this, it is estimated that some \$10 to \$15 billion is illegal foreign debt, and that another \$5 billion, which also reflects a portion of the foreign debt, is fictitious foreign debt that the Venezuelan government maintains abroad, to be able to manipulate those funds and those resources for personal ends and for those of the ruling political group.

EIR: When you speak of clarifying the foreign debt, you mean distinguishing which part is legitimate and which illegitimate?

Visconti: Exactly. And to ascertain the real size of the Venezuelan foreign debt.

EIR: That is, of the legitimate part?

Visconti: Yes, of the legitimate part. Because what is illegitimate is not real. When we speak of a debt that I may have with you, I know what I legally owe and you are aware of the true amount that I owe you, not what you or I suppose is owed. So we must find out, must clarify, what is the true amount of what we have by mutual and legal agreement established as a commitment between two parties.

EIR: Our magazine has done several studies on the Ibero-American foreign debt, and on Venezuela's in particular, and has come up with the following statistics. In 1980, Venezuela's official foreign debt was \$24.3 billion. In the course of the 1980s—that is, during a decade of payments—Venezuela paid \$30.9 billion in pure interest on that debt. That is, it owed some \$24 billion and paid nearly \$31 billion. But by the end of this period, Venezuela owed \$34.8 billion—that is, more than it owed in the beginning. Do you agree that this reflects the problem of the illegitimate aspect of the debt, and that a good portion, if not all, of the foreign debt has already been paid?

Visconti: Yes, we estimate that the legal—or legitimate as

CAP represents the IMF and the 'new world order'

From an interview with Brig. Gen. Francisco Visconti Osorio, published on Feb. 3 in El Nuevo País:

There is an international and continental reality which currently exists and, unfortunately, CAP [Venezuelan President Carlos Andrés Pérez] operates in our country as a representative or spokesman for the International Monetary Fund and new world order, and the conception behind that new world order is to reduce, or possibly eliminate, the armed forces of Third World countries, to remove potential obstacles to the IMF's plans and dominate our countries. . . .

[Included in those plans] is the elimination of the armed forces, especially those of Latin America, to leave only the police forces; the spokesman of that new order in Latin America is the [Inter-American] Dialogue. They specifically propose this, which was supported by Venezuela's current foreign minister at the last meeting of the Organization of American States. . . .

That project's purpose is none other than to weaken or reduce the armed forces of the developing countries, so that they do not become obstacles to the new world order's pretensions, materialized through the International Monetary Fund's programs. . . . It's unfortunate that being a general in the Army, Foreign Minister Fernando Ochoa Antich doesn't realize how he is being manipulated, or how there is general manipulation against Venezuela's interests and against the national Armed Forces.