

## Lelio Basso Press Conference On Rights Charter, Debt Moratorium

by correspondent Giuseppe Filippini

ROME, July 15 (NSIPS) — Lelio Basso, an independent socialist and member of the Italian Senate who was responsible for drafting the well-known "Charter on the Rights and Freedoms of Peoples" unofficially backed by several pro-development Third World nations, held a press conference in Rome yesterday to describe the plans he and the organizations associated with him have for organizing around that document. At one point, Basso read aloud to the 30 attending journalists the charter's "Chapter 26" asserting the right of all nations and peoples to debt moratoria — noticeably upsetting certain sections of the press corps.

Basso began his press briefing by announcing that the Algerian and Vietnamese governments will be submitting the charter to the Group of 77 (Third World) nations meeting in Colombo, Sri Lanka in August, and that from there, they hope to take the charter to the United Nations. The charter also contains a call for a Nuremberg-type code to be established as international law to protect nations and peoples from "imperialist aggressions."

Basso specified that the charter had originally been drawn up by an international group of jurists under the auspices of the Lelio Basso International Foundation for the Rights and Freedoms of Peoples, a new foundation to be distinguished from the Lelio and Lisli Basso Foundation. Based in Switzerland, the new Foundations' primary job will be fund-raising to support organizing work around the charter by another new organization, The League for the Rights and Freedoms of Peoples, which will be holding two meetings soon, one in Denmark and another in Latin America. The League is now opening chapters in Switzerland, Spain, Portugal, France and elsewhere. The League's political goal is to see the

charter put into practice.

During the question and answer period, an NSIPS reporter called attention to the consideration of the transfer ruble as a replacement for the U.S. dollar at the most recent Comecon meeting, the applause with which the Czech Party newspaper Rude Pravo greeted the charter, and the generalized Third World ferment around a New World Economic Order. In this light, the reporter asked Basso, could Chapter 26 of the charter be used at the Sri Lanka Group of 77 meeting to generate joint debt moratorium declarations?

Basso answered that nobody could be sure of the success of the initiatives in the charter. The charter was, however, drafted by competent jurists from Egypt, Switzerland, Algeria, Italy, France, Denmark, Chile, and the U.S. It was polished and revised in close consultation with the Third World government representatives. When it was adopted, he continued, at the International Foundation's meeting in Algeria several weeks ago, liberation movement's were also present from Bolivia, Argentina, Haiti, Polisario, Southwest Africa, Jordan, Iran, and included the Palestine Liberation Organization, the MPLA of Angola, and official representatives of Cuba and Vietnam. The charter, he said, is similar to that proposed by Mexican President Luis Echeverria, with the addition of Chapter 26's contribution on the debt issue.

Basso then proceeded to read aloud that debt moratorium section to the entire gathering. He referenced the historical precedents for debt moratorium in Europe and Russia in 1917. Not only is this nothing new, said Basso, but the fact is, Third World nations have an enormous debt burden, which they cannot possibly pay.

### The World Belongs to The People

ROME, July 17 (NSIPS) — The following is an extract of the coverage given to Lelio Basso's press conference in Rome July 14 by *Avanti*, the Italian Socialist Party newspaper. Although 30 journalists were present, this is the only coverage given to Basso's press conference apart from NSIPS.

Yesterday in Rome, Lelio Basso presented a universal statement of the rights of peoples...The theme was not only the struggle against license and offenses, but rather affirmation of the inalienable rights of mankind...This declaration of the peoples' rights...

was an undating necessitated by the changed world situation, which sees a vast unleashing of tyranny and violence....

Referencing directly the "Charter for a new world economic order" presented by Mexican President Echeverria to the United Nations, Basso highlighted the necessity of refounding the relationships among all countries...on a new basis.

The element perhaps most significant...is contained in Chapter 25 where it states: "All unequal treaties or contracts approved at the expense of the fundamental rights of people's can produce no effect."