

Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito, Aug. 16

The Non-Aligned countries have always attached exceptional importance to economic problems which have come to the forefront of overall international relations. The constant widening of the gap in world economic development and the steady deterioration of the position of the developing countries constitutes today one of the most dangerous sources of tension and conflicts in the world. Even more serious is the fact that the consequences of the deep economic crisis that has spread over many areas of the world economy are being transferred to the developing countries, thereby rendering their position even more difficult.

The struggle for the establishment of a new international economic order has today become a component of almost all activities, regardless of the opposition of individual developed countries. Changes in this sphere are a historical imperative, because they are in accord with present-day needs and reflect the interests not only of the developing but also of the developed countries — in other words, the entire world economy.

Anwar Sadat, Egyptian President (as reported in *Le Monde*, Aug. 18)

... Mr. Sadat did not mince words ... in regards to his main rival in the Arab world: "Lebanon has suffered for over one year from a foreign intervention which has suppressed any

vestige of stability and security and now plunges the country into limitless chaos. Those who meddled with the internal affairs of Lebanon should cease this interference against a brother country, so the Lebanese can solve their problems by themselves."

If Mr. Sadat made no allusion to the Western Sahara problem, on the other hand he proposed "collective political, military or economic sanction" by the Non-Aligned, so "no one takes their resolution lightly" on the question of Israel and the occupied territories on the one hand, the struggle of southern African people on the other. After recalling that the 1973 war was started one month after the fourth summit conference of Non-Aligned countries in Algiers stated its support for him, Sadat deemed that Israel needed a new lesson to dissipate its last illusions of superiority or domination. He also denounced what he calls the Tel Aviv-Pretoria axis. Enough slogans, we need concrete action, he repeated, otherwise our inaction "would be taken by the aggressors to mean that they are allowed to continue their occupation without paying the price."

Finally, the Egyptian head of state, visibly disappointed by the Americans as well as the Soviets, deemed that relations between the superpowers are based on peaceful coexistence and detente, and on compromise solutions to the problems which divide them. "Each side makes concessions. Everything is settled between the two of them, alone, on the basis of their own greatest profit."

World Press Comments On Non-Aligned Meeting

Aug. 20 (NSIPS) — The following is a partial grid of significant responses and coverage of the Colombo, Sri Lanka meeting of the non-aligned countries and related developments.

Paolo Bonaiuti in the Italian daily *Il Giorno* Aug. 19 on the Colombo Summit

The political commission (of the Non-Aligned Group) has a difficult life...Perhaps the economic commission sails on calmer waters. The projects which the experts are studying (at the Non-Aligned conference) are three:

1) The large Third World bank of which (Sri Lanka Prime Minister) Mrs. Bandaranaike spoke...: 'Let's put our resources in motion to make room for investments, the programs of development and the technical aid without having to knock on the rich's door.' Some 30 countries are said to have already committed themselves for one half million Special Drawing Rights (about \$500,000) each.

2) (A general council for the raw materials....)

3) (A general postponement for the Third World debts which have reached the incredible level of \$150 billion....)

The Italian daily *La Repubblica* Aug. 19 on the Colombo Conference

...Carlos Rodriguez (the Cuban representative) also made a reference to Italy: 'We see with great preoccupation the economic threats announced by the U.S. and the other capitalist countries against the democratic results of the Italian people during the last election.' Meanwhile, rumors are circulating around the conference on the manner in which the grave problem of the foreign indebtedness of the Third World is being faced.

After the failure of the International Monetary Fund Nairobi meeting last year, many countries attempted to make counterproposals at the UNCTAD (Nairobi) conference this year.

But still without success. Thus, today, for most of these countries the payment of even the matured interest is already a commitment which goes above their actual capacity.

This is the reason for the demand at the conference to approve a plan that includes a moratorium on foreign debts. Such a moratorium would consist substantially in the abolition of the maturing of interests for a certain number of years.

Emilio Sarzi Amade in the Aug. 15 *L'Unita*, newspaper of the Italian Communist Party on the "summit of the Non-Aligned at Colombo"

...the problems on the table, in their details and in their mere general context, are still under discussion at the conference of foreign ministers...and which confronts in two commissions — the political commission and the economic commission — the task of the editing of the texts which will come under discussion and then be approved by the summit. The general principle — said a diplomat from a non-aligned socialist country — is to work while keeping in mind the unity of principles and to set aside what divides us.

...The ongoing discussion on questions (admission of new member countries — ed.) is perhaps the most sticky, while the discussion of economic questions is perhaps the most complex. The first involves the examination of, beside the principles (of nonalignment) that is, bilateral or regional questions which bring the non-aligned countries to the edge of armed conflict. The closed-door discussion (on the military) nevertheless reached a consensus on the reaffirmation of the denial of the unavoidability of a general conflict and of the conception according to which the peace in the world can only be safeguarded by an equilibrium of forces and security is only attainable through adherence to the military blocs. Instead, they state the need to widen that co-existence which today is still seen as too limited in its solidity and its geographical extension...

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The most common field of action is on the economic level...In fact, here are represented the countries that include the 50 per cent of the world's population which produces only 7 per cent of its industrial production, (the countries) that supply the industrialized countries with the raw materials they need and which in the next 25 years period will have 1 billion people seeking employment; (these are) countries whose accumulated debt — because of the inequality of the international economic relations — would throw the economies of the advanced countries into chaos, if these debts were not to be paid....

The aspirations for a New International Economic Order are therefore taking on more precise configuration, and the summit will have to necessarily get out of the field of the pronouncement of principles in order to take more concrete measures. The agreement that is being shaped on the creation of the Common Fund financed by the non-aligned plus the rich countries (for example the OPEC countries) will be an important step in this direction. The world reality is not idyllic and neither is the non-aligned sector,...and the test that is awaiting it beginning next Monday (Aug. 16) is extremely important. The attempt to sabotage or to break up the non-aligned on the large issues, denounced by different sources in the past days, takes, on the other hand, seemingly curious and substantially grave forms....After Monday however, we will know how the non-aligned countries intend to react to the challenge which the world situation presents to them.

Demario V. Galarza in the Mexican daily El Dia Aug. 13, on "Colombo, Center of Anti-Colonialism"

The summit conference of the non-aligned countries, held in Colombo, capital of the socialist republic of Sri Lanka...holds particular importance for all the countries struggling for a new international economic order, given the circumstance of the sharp refusal by the highly industrialized world capitalist forces.

tempting to prevent the economic and political resurgence of the Third World nations, which they are threatening with divisionist maneuvers, attempting to set them against one another, causing them to lose their perspective of the objectives of the non-aligned movement.

Asutae observers of the scene show present international relations have verified that in recent government-level conferences, the industrial powers have been working overtime to divide the Third World with pressures of all sorts, in order to debilitate the United Nations and cause the failure of the adopted resolutions which would eliminate colonialism in all its forms. For example, the story has come out of Washington that the Latin American countries that regularly attend the non-aligned meetings as observers have received veiled warnings that if they continue to belong to or in any way support the movement of the non-aligned countries, economic and military aid will be suspended through the freezing of their credits.

Militant and combative participation in the non-aligned nations movement requires the growth and fortification of Latin American nationalism and unity of the peoples of the Third World in the struggle against imperialism, to achieve national liberation, independence, and world peace based on understanding and cooperation. Progress in these objectives will be a reality when the new international economic order stops forever the abuse and exploitation of the weak by the strong, when the armaments race is definitively ended and humanity is liberated from nuclear terror and when colonialism and dependency in all its forms cease to exist.

The following dispatch was carried by Prensa Latina the Cuban news agency on Aug. 19 The call for debt moratorium referred to was initiated by the Latin American Labor Committees.

The Unified Council of Union Organizations (in Peru) expressed its full solidarity with the demands for moratoria on the foreign debts of the countries of the so-called Third World.

In a communique distributed today, the Council notes that the Summit Meeting of the Non-Aligned Countries in Colombo has proposed debt moratorium as "an urgent necessity to liberate our countries from imperialism."

The Council takes its position during "moments in which the international crisis of imperialism is demanding greater sacrifices from the Peruvian people."

The following excerpted summary of a statement by the World Federation of Trade Unions to the Colombo Non-Aligned meeting was published in the Aug. 15 edition of the Soviet trade union daily, Trud, under the title "To Strengthen the Forces in the Struggle Against Imperialism."

"In the non-aligned countries, unity of the patriotic forces is strengthening in the struggle against imperialism and neo-colonialism, for peace and security of all peoples, for a new international economic order and a better life for all workers..."

"The World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) supports the demand to make the Indian Ocean a zone of peace, and calls the attention of the participants in the Colombo Conference to the aggressive plots of imperialism to build a nuclear base on Diego Garcia in this region.

"The statement expresses hope that the conference in Colombo will support the demand for liquidation of all foreign military bases in the Indian Ocean, and also for rapid withdrawal of American troops from South Korea.

"The WFTU highly values the support of the non-aligned countries for the struggle of the Arab peoples for an end to Israeli occupation of their land, against Zionism, for the legal national rights of the Palestinian people..."

"The WFTU reaffirms its position concerning urgent economic problems, stating that their solution must be guided by the documents passed by the United Nations, especially the Charter of Rights and Economic Obligations of States, which defined principles of international cooperation, based on justice, equality, mutual interest and cooperation between states of different social-economic systems. In the "Strategy for Social Progress," which the WFTU proposed at the June World Conference on Employment, a program was put forward for concrete actions in this direction.

"(The members of the WFTU) supported the demand for convening a World Disarmament Conference with the goal of general and full disarmament; and as a first step, they supported the demand for a rapid cut in military budgets (for example, the UN resolution to cut by 10 per cent the military budgets of standing members of the UN Security Council) and using the funds freed up in this way for economic progress, especially of the developing countries....

Aug. 21 (NSIPS) — The following is excerpted from a page one article appearing in today's L'Unita, the newspaper of the Italian Communist Party (PCI).The summit foresees measures for the creation of mechanisms which regulate the trade of raw materials, with the constitution of associations of producers, and of a fund for the financing for regulatory stocks of raw materials...

The reform of the international monetary system is among the objectives indicated by the summit while, the suspension of

trade barriers was asked for by the developing countries. Finally there was a request made to the conference on the international economic cooperation to resolve within this year the problem of frightening dimensions, of the debts of the developing countries, through the conversion of the debts into gifts, through moratorium on payments, through the protection of exports of raw materials. The summit asked the developed countries moreover to immediately cancel the debts contracted by the less developed countries and the more gravely economically hit countries, and especially those countries who have suffered occupation and foreign aggression.

Another Sri Lanka proposal, as was announced in the opening address given by Signora Bandaranaike, within the framework of the creation of a new international monetary order approved at the summit, asks for the seeking of the most useful means to the creation of a currency which must be supported by the economic potential of the Non-Aligned countries and by the other developing countries. Another resolution, in the same framework, asks for the examination of the realizability of a bank of the non-developed countries, based on national banking systems of the developing countries.

The New York Times editorial Aug. 17 on "Colombo Rhetoric"

"It would be easy to be cynical about the fifth summit meeting of so-called nonaligned nations in Colombo this week. As usual, the "nonaligned" will include Fidel Castro's Cuba and Kim Il Sung's North Korea, among other dubious claimants. The rhetoric and resolutions are likely to be excessive, one-sided, all too familiar. The demands on the richer nations will be the same

as those made at every meeting of the poorer countries, whether they convene as the Non-Aligned, the Group of 77 (now 112) or the Third world.

"Critics will say that the host, Sri Lanka (formerly Ceylon), could have put to better use the \$50 million spent just to prepare for the assembly of 4,000 delegates from 85 member and 25 observer nations. It might have used a \$280,000 Parliamentary appropriation to provide care and housing for Colombo's army of cripples and beggars, rather than to move them temporarily out of sight into "rehabilitation" camps outside the capital.

"And yet, much of the discussion at Colombo will undoubtedly transcend the hypocrisies and focus on real problems that, in an increasingly interdependent world, inevitably affect the prosperity and well-being of the richer as well as the poorer countries: control and pricing of raw materials; conditions of trade; the necessity for rescheduling debt service for developing countries whose balance-of-payments deficits reached \$40 billion last year; the crisis confronting the World Bank's International Development Association, mostly because the United States, by far its biggest contributor, is now seriously in default on its pledges.

"It is clearly impossible to meet all of the demands of the developing countries. But neither can the richer countries, in light of their own long-run interests and their stake in international peace and stability, ignore those demands. The rhetoric of Colombo will be heard again at the United Nations General Assembly next month. The task for the United States and other industrialized nations is to help sort out what is reasonable and give it more serious attention than in the past.

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