

The Mexican statement also demanded that any new funding schemes must represent additional funds for real development beyond "recycling" (refinancing) of old debts.

IMF Controversy At ECLA

The swelling anti-IMF sentiment in sections of the continent has factionalized this week's ministerial level meeting of the UN Economic Commission on Latin America (ECLA) in Guatemala City.

The IMF representative at the conclave was hit May 1 with charges that his institution was serving as a "financial policeman" against Mexico. His "rebuttal" took the form of a recitation of IMF interference in Mexico that fully supported the charge! Among other revelations, Julio Gonzalez admitted that the IMF "recommended" as early as 1974 that Mexico devalue its peso because ambitious government expenditures for development projects were creating "disorder" in the public accounts. Gonzales then warned that the current IMF program for Mexico would mean "at least four years... of austerity policies."

The draft document to be considered by the ministers as a petition addressed to the ongoing North-South dialogue in Paris calls on the U.S. (to be represented at the forum by U.S. Ambassador to the UN Andrew Young) to "accept the fact that present international relations are unjust and that a New World Economic Order is essential." Mexico and Peru have insisted that ECLA's technocrats go beyond monetarist statistical indices to include "social indicators." These countries are reportedly concerned that ECLA's statistics fail to reflect the devastating effects on the labor force of the IMF-sponsored "shock treatment" in Chile.

In counterpoint to the defensive postures of the IMF and its defenders at Guatemala City, the representative of the Comecon told the assembled delegates that no economic crisis or debt problem stood in the way of increased trade and cooperation with the socialist bloc.

'IMF's Economic Stagnation Unacceptable'

The following are excerpts from the principal conclusions of the Second National Congress of Economists:

National development is a task that is everyone's responsibility, which can only be achieved through a mobilization of the population for the interests of the majority.

National and popular interest demand — as the only option — socially shared development based upon democratic participation...and an intransigent defense of independence and national sovereignty....

This is not a rhetorical statement on social justice. Salaried workers and the millions of unemployed and underemployed cannot continue to carry the weight of inflationary stagnation which only helps a minority.

In the words of our Constitution, the increasing participation of the State in the economy is imperative and unquestionable....

Economic stagnation favored by monetarist-stabilization criteria, sponsored in particular by the International Monetary Fund, is an unacceptable option....

Lev Lukin added that Comecon was pleased by "the way in which Latin America is becoming aware of the importance of increased trade with the socialist countries," and stressed Comecon's support for the demands of a new world economic order. During the week he met privately with delegations from most of the 32 countries that are participating in the sessions.

Energy And Industrial Policy For Venezuela And The Caribbean

The following is the complete text of a draft economic program for Venezuela and the Caribbean Region released by the Latin American Labor Committees (CLLA) last month.

Introduction

Developments surrounding the Current Mideast tour of Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez have made it clear that Venezuela has assumed a leadership role in the Third World for establishing a new world trade and monetary system, admirably continuing the momentum generated by the administration of former Mexican President Luis Echeverria. Perez's diplomatic efforts

and public pronouncements during the past six months have consistently defended the developing sector's right to industrial development and access to the most advanced technology, in the face of the most malicious onslaught of a Carter Administration intent on destroying every trace of scientific progress worldwide, in a futile effort to save the dying IMF monetary structure. As Perez has insisted, the task is clear: without the New World Economic Order, "there is no possibility for the development of our countries, not for the large countries of the region nor for the rich of the region."

Perez and his allies within the government and among pro-progress industrialists have gone further: they have indicated in outline the appropriate policies required for attaining this objective. Spokesmen for this tendency,