

Latin American Parliament

• The Secretary-General of the Latin American Parliament, Peruvian Andrés Townsend Ezcarra, declared, "The attitude of the President of the United States of siding totally with Great Britain . . . denies the very essence of hemispheric solidarity. . . . In an unbelievable gesture, Washington sent the Monroe Doctrine, inter-Americanism, and the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance to the trash heap of history."

Colombia

• Colombian Foreign Relations Minister Lemos Simmonds, who had joined the United States, Chile, and Trinidad-Tobago in refusing to support Argentina at the Organization of American States meeting April 27, told reporters upon his return to Bogotá, "Time will prove our vote was right." He then broke down in tears.

From the Argentine U.N. ambassador

In a May 5 meeting of the Coordinating Body of the Non-Aligned Countries, Argentina's Ambassador to the United Nations, Eduardo Roca, gave a thorough chronology of the U.S. betrayal of an ally in its own hemisphere. An excerpt:

"There is another fact, which because of its seriousness, deserves to be exposed. . . . I am referring, Mr. President, to the attitude taken by the government of the United States, which gained time for the punitive fleet to reach its destination. Once this objective was achieved, she [the United States] turned its back on its own promises of impartiality. She did not tell the truth about our proposals. She confused its own public opinion. And now, she is helping the colonial aggressor economically and militarily."

Roca then charged that Great Britain has been coordinating with the United States every aggressive move against Argentina. "The facts indicate clearly that the United Kingdom has not wanted to shoot until it could count on the consent, the support, and the complicity of the United States government. Therefore, the United States is becoming as responsible as [Britain]. That is how the peoples of Latin America understand it.

"The Argentine people neither understand nor will they forget that in one of the most critical hours of their history, in contrast to the solidarity that has reached them from every corner of the continent, the United States has chosen to take the side of a power outside the Hemisphere, cooperating with its aggressive designs."

EUROPEAN RESPONSE

Britain losing its continental support

by Susan Welsh

West Germany fears escalation

West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt is reported to be extremely worried that the conflict in the South Atlantic could become a confrontation between the superpowers. Following the sinking of the Argentine cruiser *General Belgrano* and the disabling of the British destroyer H.M.S. *Sheffield*, Schmidt met in Bonn with the Portuguese Prime Minister, declaring to the press that "the latest reports from the South Atlantic have very much dismayed us both." Schmidt telephoned British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher when hostilities first broke out, urging her to use restraint. And the Chancellor angrily told his cabinet, according to *Der Spiegel* magazine, that Bonn's agreement to the European Community's economic sanctions against Argentina was not intended as a "blank check" of support for the British.

German public opinion is divided between support for the British and fury against them, although concern at the escalation of the conflict has eroded a great deal of Thatcher's former backing. Many German parliamentarians contacted by *EIR* complained that they were not receiving adequate intelligence on developments in the South Atlantic.

Several officials stressed privately that they were hoping that the United States would drop its support for the British. "Tell Washington that the German government would be ready to follow the U.S. administration if it decided to implement the Monroe Doctrine. . . . This is the only thing that will save both NATO and the European Community from disintegrating," said a senior government source. "We need a bigger power, in fact a superpower, to teach the British a lesson," said another official.

Among German industrialists, anger at the British is most intense. The Federal Republic is Argentina's top EC trading partner, and German firms are losing much

more than the British because of the trade ban. Statements opposing the sanctions, which come up for renewal May 17, have been issued by the Hamburg-based Ibero-American Association, the industry and banking association of the state of Baden-Württemberg, and other trade organizations. A high-ranking Argentinian industrial delegation has been touring West Germany, warning that sanctions will backfire severely against European and particularly German interests in Latin America.

One high-ranking industrialist contacted by *EIR* was more blunt: "The British are out of their f----- minds," he said.

France: Where are the Gaullists?

France, whose great postwar President Charles de Gaulle fought a years-long battle to keep "perfidious Albion" out of the European Community, has now emerged under President François Mitterrand as Great Britain's staunchest European backer in its South Atlantic colonial mission. Not only in the Socialist government, but also in the formerly Gaullist RPR opposition party and the "French Empire faction" of elites, pro-British sentiment is widespread.

An official from the Quai d'Orsay told *EIR* that the countries of the North must simply maintain "solidarity" against the "Third World South." Too much money has anyway been given to Argentina by the Western nations, he said. French newspapers are generally backing the British, including the pro-opposition paper *Le Figaro*.

But some are apparently having second thoughts about this policy. Mitterrand himself reportedly expected concessions from Britain to French demands on European Community farm policy—concessions which were not forthcoming. His government has made relations with Latin America one of the focal points of its foreign policy, and Mitterrand is currently meeting with Cuban Vice-President Carlos Rafael Rodríguez in Paris. Such efforts will obviously not be helped by an extreme pro-British position in the Malvinas conflict.

The pro-government daily *Le Monde* abruptly changed its editorial line May 3 with an article warning: "The Malvinas conflict will launch a terrible anti-European wave among Latin American countries . . . what a gift for the Soviet Union!"

The Secretary-General of the European Labor Party of France, Jacques Cheminade, has put himself forward as the spokesman for the opposition to Mitterrand's policy. In a statement to the press May 2, Cheminade—who was raised in Argentina—called for the expulsion of Great Britain from the EC and NATO, saying that the country has proven a liability rather than an asset.

Italy blames 'Perfide Albion'

Italy was the most reluctant of all the EC nations to agree to Britain's demands for economic sanctions against Argentina. Italy is Argentina's second-largest EC trading partner, and there are about 1.5 million Italians living in Argentina, plus many more second-generation Italians, including Argentine President Galtieri.

The two largest political parties, the Christian Democracy (DC) and the Communists (PCI), are both backing Argentina. DC leader Flaminio Piccoli expressed the view of most party members when he said at the DC national congress recently that Argentina, like the rest of Latin America, is "an essential part of the moral unity of the West."

One Italian industrialist from the meat import-export sector—a sector closely intertwined with Argentina's economy—said at a conference sponsored by *EIR* in Milan April 27: "I am becoming more and more convinced that the well-known motto 'Perfide Albion' is quite correct. . . . The Italian government put us in a very bad situation by signing the embargo with no discussion, no parliamentary debate."

Italian industrialists and politicians have formed an ad hoc Committee Against Argentine Sanctions, and sent a telegram to President Sandro Pertini and Prime Minister Giovanni Spadolini, calling for the government to "contribute in a decisive way to mediation efforts and the peaceful solution of the conflict." The telegram was signed by the Secretary-General of the Partito Operaio Europeo (European Labor Party), the heads of several trade and import associations, the chairman of a major financial newspaper, and other businessmen.

Ireland demands end to sanctions

The Republic of Ireland May 4 became the first member of the European Community to withdraw from sanctions imposed against Argentina, following Britain's sinking of the Argentine cruiser *General Belgrano*.

The Irish Government's May 4 statement read: "The Government are appalled by the outbreak of what amounts to open warfare between Argentina and Great Britain in the South Atlantic and at reports that hundreds of lives have already been lost. It sees the present situation as a serious threat to world peace."

The Irish Government will seek an immediate meeting of the Security Council in order to prepare a new resolution calling for: 1) An immediate cessation of hostilities by both British and Argentine forces; and 2) the negotiation of a diplomatic settlement under the auspices of the United Nations.

"The Irish Government regards the application of economic sanctions as no longer appropriate and will therefore be seeking the withdrawal of these sanctions by the Community."

An Irish embassy spokesman in Bonn told *EIR* that his government is confident that the rest of the EC will back Ireland's call for an end to sanctions. The West Germans "will sit on the fence for a while," he said; the French "are beginning to move. . . . Mitterrand is under tremendous pressure." Belgium and Italy are also moving closer to the Irish position, he reported.

Spain blasts Britain's colonialism

The Spanish government denounced Great Britain's bombing of the airfield at Port Stanley May 3—one of the first military operations in the Malvinas conflict—as a "serious escalation of the conflict" which if continued would be "a grave historic error." This was the first open attack on British policy to come from a Western European country.

Spain had been the only Western European nation to abstain in the April 2 United Nations Security Council resolution calling for Argentine withdrawal from the Malvinas. Spain's position is that U.N. resolution 502 fails to take account of the problem of colonialism. Now the British escalation of the conflict has rekindled violent hatred of Britain among wide strata of the Spanish population. The smooth entry of Spain into NATO and the European Community is suddenly placed in jeopardy; informed sources report that King Juan Carlos is having a difficult time restraining members of the armed forces who would like to boot the British out of Gibraltar immediately.

A recent editorial in the newspaper *ABC*, a publication close to government circles, sums up the prevalent view: "For Spain to return to the Western community means a new and sincere understanding with England. This is impossible unless we get Gibraltar back. . . . A European nation cannot be integrated with dignity into the Atlantic group without demanding . . . the end of an ancient colonial situation."

Letters to the editor of Spanish newspapers reflect the popular indignation. Said one reader to the daily *El País*: "English 'democracy' is responsible for the subjugation of entire peoples in the four corners of the globe . . . of brutal repressions, and deserves at least as great a condemnation as the Argentine regime." Another letter declared: "[Is Mrs. Thatcher] not lying, when we recall that it was the English who defended, in letters to the press, the excellence of Francoism? . . . Have a little bit of honesty, Mrs. Thatcher! It is you British who have been the world's teachers in the support of despots and oligarchies of every category whenever it was a question of defending British imperial interests!"

Conference Report

Challenge posed to French opposition

by Dana Sloan from Paris

At an April 28 Paris conference sponsored by *EIR* on "Recreating the Conditions for Economic Growth in France," Jacques Cheminade, President of the National Committee for Nuclear Energy, and Philip Golub, *EIR* bureau chief in Wiesbaden, West Germany established for leaders of the Giscardian and Gaullist parties who participated that any fight for economic development was completely political. Cheminade, who is also Secretary-General of the European Labor Party in France, made it clear to those participants, who had lost France to the Socialists last year, that he does not support nuclear energy because it is a good idea, but because its development is essential if the world is to survive the present crisis.

Cheminade attacked the Socialist government of François Mitterrand, which has brought France to the edge of economic disaster in one year, as "pagan," because, he said, its leaders are incapable of understanding what the great 16th-century builder of the nation-state, Jean Bodin, meant in stating that "there is no wealth but men."

The Socialists were able to come to power in France attempting to convince the population that jobs would be created if nuclear energy were replaced by "soft" energy sources. The Socialists within the state electricity monopoly, Electricité de France, including M. Puiseux, former collaborator of EDF director Marcel Boiteux, had for years carried out an "inside" job to sabotage public support for the nuclear program first elaborated by Prime Minister Pierre Messmer and Industry Minister André Giraud under President Giscard. It was this ambitious nuclear program that made France the world's third-greatest exporting nation and fifth-greatest industrial power.

The National Committee for Nuclear Energy had already won several victories, Cheminade declared. They had forced the government to back down from its original intention of dismantling the nuclear program, but that was not enough. "The fight for nuclear energy cannot exist as a defense of a particular plant. . . . The fight for nuclear energy must be fought on an interna-