

International Intelligence

Argentina, Brazil endorse Mexican-Venezuela plan

Argentina and Brazil both endorsed the proposal for peace in Central America issued jointly Sept. 16 by Mexican President José López Portillo, and his Venezuelan counterpart, Luis Herrera Campins. The endorsements, announced Sept. 21 and 22, respectively, demonstrate the continued organizing activity of both Mexico and Venezuela to cool the smoldering conflict between Nicaragua and Honduras by offering to mediate the dispute between the two Central American nations.

While Nicaragua has welcomed the initiative, Honduras called upon Mexico and Venezuela to concentrate their efforts on the Nicaraguans, claiming that it is not the Hondurans who are the aggressors.

The stridency of the statement reflects the current weakness of the civilian Honduran government in relation to the U.S.-backed military.

The government's stability is now more precarious as a result of a virtual state of siege in San Pedro Sula caused by the Sept. 17 taking of 80 top Honduran businessmen as hostages by terrorists. The Hondurans have been unsuccessful in their attempts to negotiate release of the hostages, among whom are the country's finance and economic ministers.

Strike in Britain called 'futile' by Thatcher

When millions of British public workers, joined by thousands of industrial workers, held a job action Sept. 22 in sympathy with 600,000 striking health-service workers, Prime Minister Thatcher, who had just returned from a trip to China and Japan, said the "Day of Action" was "utterly futile" and would be "very, very damaging." Thatcher claimed that the job stoppage would undo her efforts to drum up Japanese business interest in investing in new factories in Britain.

Reports of how many workers participated in the nationwide work stoppage vary,

but some trade-union leaders say it was the largest show of union solidarity since the bitter year of 1926.

All but 40 of the country's 197 coal mines were affected by the strike, and across the country bus and subway workers, ambulance drivers, newspaper and other workers walked off the job for several hours.

Workers in the National Health Service, which includes nurses and hospital workers, have been deadlocked since April in pay negotiations with the British government.

The employees are asking for a 12 percent wage increase, but have only been offered a 7.5 percent increase for nurses, and 6 percent for all other categories of health workers.

Public sentiment is said to be in favor of the health-service workers because the official unemployment rate has reached 14 percent.

In addition, the striking workers are generally considered to be grossly underpaid. 400,000 health employees earn less than Britain's official poverty level of \$145 a week.

Mrs. Gandhi begins Moscow state visit

Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was greeted warmly by Soviet officials at the start of her seven-day visit to the Soviet Union Sept. 20.

Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev broke protocol to receive the Indian leader at the Moscow airport, and the two reviewed an honor guard. Their motorcade, which included Prime Minister Tikhonov and Foreign Minister Gromyko, traveled to the Kremlin through streets lined with cheering Muscovites waving Soviet and Indian flags.

The primary subject of Mrs. Gandhi's first meeting with President Brezhnev was: the world must be saved from the danger of nuclear war. Mrs. Gandhi spoke of the long-term friendship between India and the Soviet Union, and said, "World peace needs two countries like ours" so that a joint population of 1 billion people "become involved in establishing peace and stability in the world."

The two leaders also discussed the inter-

national economic crisis.

Following their meeting, President Brezhnev and Prime Minister Gandhi issued a joint communiqué on the Middle East in which the two leaders condemned Israel's "criminal aggression—encouraged from outside." They demanded an immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon.

Mexico condemns Lebanon massacre

Mexico's Foreign Relations Ministry issued a communiqué Sept. 21 strongly condemning the massacre of hundreds of Palestinians and Moslems by Falangist armies in Beirut over the Sept. 17-19 weekend.

"In the face of the criminal actions . . . which caused the death of innumerable defenseless civilians, the government of Mexico expresses its strongest condemnation of these barbarian acts," the communiqué reads. The communiqué included a "condemnation of the occupation of West Beirut by Israeli forces."

Several members of Mexico's Senate had already issued independent condemnations, on Sept. 20, of the Beirut massacre and proposed "reforms" in Mexico's relations with Israel, including a threatened suspension of shipments of Mexican oil to Israel.

Sri Lanka on road to dictatorship?

Sri Lanka's President Jayewardene has issued a dictatorial proclamation seeking reelection for the second term. President Jayewardene, a close friend of Socialist International member Lee Kuan Yew of Singapore, called for elections to be held Oct. 20, two years before the next scheduled election, on the advice of Sir Lanka's World Bank and International Monetary Fund creditors.

It is unlikely that the opposition will be able to sponsor a strong candidate so soon before the early elections. The opposition party, led by former Prime Minister Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, has been thrown

Briefly

● **A ROME TRIBUNAL** has announced that it will pursue the evidence in the legal brief submitted by Fiorella Operto, Secretary-General of the European Labor Party in Italy, on Henry Kissinger's implication in the 1978 assassination of former Prime Minister Aldo Moro. It is highly unusual for such a brief to be handed to a judge for investigation. The criteria are the importance of the contents and the quality of documentation. The brief was translated in the Sept. 21 issue of *EIR*.

● **WILLIAM PERRY**, a Latin America hand at Georgetown's Center for Strategic and International Studies, was asked at a Sept. 23 conference there if Honduras, whose government is backed by Washington, had committed aggression against Nicaragua. "I think there is some inclination in this government to up the stakes on Nicaragua," the Kissinger aide said, adding that Undersecretary of State Thomas Enders is "not averse to a little action on the border to keep the Nicaraguans thinking. . . ." Two days earlier, the DOS had termed Nicaragua solely responsible for unrest in the border area.

● **ANDRÉ FONTAINE**, after attending CSIS sessions on a new authoritarian age, directed the French daily *Le Monde* to ponder whether "democracies are ungovernable." The pro-Socialist newspaper editorialized Sept. 22 that "German conservatives" should recognize this ungovernability and point the way for the rest of Europe. Fontaine is *Le Monde's* Editor-in-Chief.

● **IZVESTIA** ran a psychological profile of Henry Kissinger on Sept. 20 which comments on his opposition to East-West trade: "To gratify the most ragtag politicians, he is found on the scene in the most unattractive negligee." Was *Izvestia* simply calling him a spiritual prostitute, or pointing to a psychosexual defect?

into disarray since Jayewardene took away Mrs. Bandaranaike's civil rights and began to frame her on corruption charges.

Another opposition leader, Colvin de Silva, told the press: "the President is placed in a near-dictatorial position. Very little change is needed for a President to formalize himself into a full-fledged dictator in law and in fact."

The main reason behind the call for an early election is that World Bank, the IMF, and U.S. State Department Agency for International Development sources had reportedly advised the Sri Lanka government that foreign investors and financial institutions—on whom Sri Lanka heavily depends—would continue their support only if Jayewardene is re-elected.

Last July, Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel told the parliament: "Our total revenue is approximately \$700 million. Our total expenditure is running at \$1.5 billion—more than twice our revenue. Only by the foreign aid we receive, can we carry on."

A threat to the Nigerian constitution

The Progressive Party Alliance (PGA) in Nigeria is working out a plan to wrest power from President Shehu Shagari and the National Party of Nigeria (NPN) and revert to a British-modeled parliamentary system, according to a newspaper in Kaduna, Nigeria.

The PGA is an alliance of opposition parties, each primarily regionally based, which lost the 1979 presidential election to Shagari's non-regional NPN. Chief Obafemi Awolowo, whose base is in Western Nigeria, is the leading spokesman for the PGA, and is using the alliance as a vehicle to get control of Nigeria.

The plan presently being mooted calls for Awolowo to be the presidential candidate of the PGA in the 1983 elections. If he wins, according to the report, Awolowo intends to push through an amendment of the constitution, creating a position of prime minister.

Awolowo would then resign as President, allow Nnamdi Azikiwe, leader of another regional party, to become President as

his payoff for supporting Awolowo's plan, while Awolowo would run the country from the position of Prime Minister.

Prior to the 1979 election, the Nigerian constitution was drawn up as the basis for the transition to civilian rule, and was modeled explicitly on the American constitution in order to provide the proper framework for transforming Nigeria, with its large population and growth potential, into an industrial republic.

Italians call for Gelli's extradition

The Italian government has delivered papers to Swiss authorities demanding the extradition of Licio Gelli, the head of the secret Propaganda-2 (P-2) Freemasonic lodge who was arrested in Switzerland Sept. 13. Italian judges had issued orders to arrest Gelli, based on new evidence linking him to the bankrupting of Banco Ambrosiano.

It is widely reported in Italy that Gelli had been passing funds from Ambrosiano, which had links to the Vatican, into P-2's numbered Swiss bank accounts.

One report claims that Ambrosiano funds held by Gelli and his associate, Flavio Carboni, amounted to as much as \$400-\$700 million, which were later reported "missing" from the bank. This figure would account for one-third to one-half of the missing funds which led to Ambrosiano's bankruptcy.

The Sept. 20 edition of the Italian daily *Paese Sera* reports that the money withdrawn by Gelli from a numbered Swiss account was the same that Roberto Calvi "had caused to disappear from the coffers of the Ambrosiano before his death." Calvi's suspicious death—he was found hanged at the London Bridge—was officially declared "suicide."

It is further reported that the missing money had been channeled from Latin American branches of Ambrosiano, including Peru's Banco Andino, through a dummy corporation known as "Manic." Manic was able to secure collateral from Banco Andino by using Ambrosiano's name among several firms' executives to get them to make deposits to take out shares.