

Editorial

Andean Pact moves toward *Populorum Progressio*

Fifteen years ago, in 1967, Pope Paul VI issued his celebrated encyclical *Populorum Progressio*, enunciating the principle that "development is the new name for peace." The Pope's appeal for a new, just order in international economic relations which would exorcise the hideous spectre of war by making economic development primary over debt collection, took its deepest roots in the nations of Hispanic and Portuguese America. This process was reinforced by Paul VI's 1968 visit to Colombia for the conference of CELAM, the Latin America Bishops' Conference he had founded.

Now an important step has been taken toward realizing the new order of economic relations between the industrialized nations of the "North" and the developing countries of the "South" envisioned by the late Pope Paul VI. On Oct. 14, the newly inaugurated President of Bolivia, Hernán Siles Suazo, announced that *joint* renegotiation of the Latin American foreign debt would occur, stating that he had discussed the proposal with the chief of state of Colombia, Belisario Betancur. Siles invited the five nations of the Andean Pact plus Panama "as soon as possible" for a presidential summit "to take coordinated action to renegotiate their foreign debts."

The Andean countries are Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia, with a combined foreign debt of \$50 to \$70 billion. Bolivian authorities noted that "the creation of an Indo-American Association of Debtor Countries would be unprecedented even in the history of the continent and would strengthen its position in the international community."

The Andean announcement, made by the first civilian government of Bolivia since the 1980 "cocaine coup," is a challenge to the international oligarchy, which is determined to crush the New World Economic Order with assassinations and coups d'état.

It is extremely relevant that on Oct. 11, three days before the Bolivian debt announcement, Bolivian authorities arrested and extradited to Italy terrorist Pier-Luigi Pagliai, who is wanted for the 1980 bombing of the Bologna train station that killed more than 80 peo-

ple. According to the Italian daily *Corriere della Sera*, Pagliai had plotted to assassinate President Siles before his inauguration. Pagliai was a member of the fascist group Ordine Nuovo, and a leader of European death squads deployed to protect the cocaine traffic out of Bolivia since the 1980 coup which put the former military government into power. Moreover, in official Italian investigations, the 1980 atrocity in Italy has been traced to an international Freemasonic network around the Propaganda-2 and Comité de Monte Carlo "lodges" of Italian fascist Licio Gelli, in which the name of Henry Kissinger has repeatedly surfaced.

The Bolivian moves against Dope and Murder, Inc. caught the international banking community by surprise. While the bankers were focused on the big debtor countries, such as Mexico, Brazil, and Venezuela, suddenly the small, impoverished nations have moved into place in support of Mexico's demand for a New World Economic Order. On Oct. 11, the president of Mexico's ruling PRI party, Pedro Ojeda Paullada, addressed the Commission of Latin American Political Parties in La Paz, Bolivia. He called on all the countries of the continent "to exploit the possibilities of establishing the mechanisms of coordination among the region's debtor countries in order to look for the best overall solution to the financial situation confronting us."

One of the places where the fight will surely erupt next is the meeting of the Economic and Social Council of the Organization of American States in Washington during the third week of October, where it is expected that the Andean countries will organize to extend the concept of an Ibero-American "debtors cartel" to all of the continent. This is the reality the bankers must confront. They can continue to try and impose IMF "conditionalities" and send killers like Pagliai to enforce them—guaranteeing a crash of the entire international banking system. Or they can sit down to the negotiating table and work out the terms of a new monetary system. *EIR* has repeatedly urged the latter approach; once again we can only appeal to reason, and reality.