

Argentina offers 'South-South' cooperation on nuclear energy

by Cynthia Rush

Argentina's Vice-Admiral Carlos Castro Madero, the director of that country's National Atomic Energy Commission (CNEA), reported at the early-November Second International Conference on the Transfer of Technology in Buenos Aires that his government was discussing the transfer of nuclear technology to several Ibero-American nations. Emphasizing that all nations have the "unquestionable right" to develop independent nuclear programs. Castro Madero charged that "unequal scientific-technological development had created . . . a kind of neo-colonialism, through dependence on critical materials . . . which affects the sovereignty of each state."

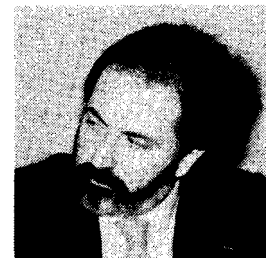
With the most advanced nuclear program in Ibero-America, Argentina is well situated to make this offer. As detailed in the following article written especially for *EIR* by Luís Fernando Calviño of *Energeia* magazine in Buenos Aires, the Argentine government consciously set out to develop its nuclear program in the late 1940s with the understanding that it would be a vital safeguard for its national sovereignty. The program suffered the ravages of violent monetarism imposed by pro-British Finance Minister José Martínez de Hoz (1976-81), and has also come under increasing attack by Malthusian forces who have come to inhabit the U.S. Congress in recent years. Nonetheless, Argentina's CNEA is committed to advancing the program, if not in collaboration with the United States, then with the nations of Europe or the developing sector.

The CNEA recently signed a letter of intent with Colombia's Institute of Nuclear Affairs whereby it offers to provide that country with an experimental reactor, build a plant for the production of radioisotopes, and a pilot plant for treatment of radioactive minerals. The CNEA will also help train Colombian personnel.

Agreements for nuclear cooperation also exist with Peru, and according to Castro Madero there have been "several requests" from other Ibero-American nations seeking similar agreements. Unlike agreements offered by some advanced sector nations, Castro Madero reported that Argentina will

sell technology on terms that do not constitute "an additional financial burden" on those countries.

Mr. Calviño, who is a member of the Buenos Aires chapter of the Club of Life, is currently the interim director of *Energeia* magazine. He also works as a researcher at the Fundacion Latina in Buenos Aires, and teaches courses in political science and international affairs at the Universidad del Salvador. Part I of his article details the beginnings of the Argentine nuclear program and its development through the end of the 1960s. The conclusion will appear in a future issue of the *EIR*.



Luís Fernando Calviño

Courtesy of *Energeia*

Argentina's nuclear plan: history and perspectives

by Lic. Luís Fernando Calviño

Argentina's interest in nuclear energy dates from 1945, barely a month after the atomic explosions at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. At that time the Ministry of War issued a decree ordering the preventive conservation of existing national uranium deposits. Nonetheless, the period from then until 1950 can really only be considered the pre-history of Argentina's