

## Vatican by Augustinus

### Toward an international debt summit

*Since his return from Ibero-America, the Pope and the Vatican newspaper have stressed social justice against "high finance."*

The desire of the Ibero-American peoples for social justice was the theme of the address given by the Pope at his first general audience since returning from Ibero-America: "We must do everything," the Holy Father said, "to realize this justice, without recourse to violence and totalitarianism, maintaining the democratic order to which those societies are honestly tied."

"Never," he asserted, "must anyone lack bread!"

This appeal, that the most essential and inalienable rights of peoples be quickly realized, had been made by the Pope in the last public appearance of his tour, at Guayaquil, Ecuador, where he said: "No one, therefore, should feel relaxed as long as there is in Ecuador a child without a school, a family without a home, a worker without a job, a sick or elderly person without adequate aid."

It is not by chance that the newspaper of the Holy See, *L'Osservatore Romano*, has recently dedicated numerous articles to Third World countries' economic devastation by international usurers. "An International Conference on Foreign Indebtedness" was the front-page headline on Feb. 15. The article reported on the resolution of the ministerial conference of the "Cartagena Group"—Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela (see *EIR*, March 5). The resolution, said *L'Osservatore*, underlined that the

problem of the debt "must be resolved through direct negotiations with the creditor countries of the Western world, rather than in the technical-economic offices of the international financial institutions, which are required to observe rules and regulations which ignore the political-social impact of the problem."

This is effectively the same proposal formulated by the founder of the Schiller Institute, Helga Zepp-La-Rouche, for the convening of a heads-of-state summit to discuss the problem of the debt outside such institutions as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, whose usurious policies have produced the present situation of injustice and underdevelopment.

The same article recalls the bloody uprisings which took place in the Dominican Republic against the measures imposed upon government by the International Monetary Fund, "accused of promoting in the country a completely insensitive policy of economic revival, and hence harmful to the social needs of the population."

"The debtor countries," the article goes on, "require stable interest rates and trade openings in the creditor countries. It is evident, in fact, that to be able to honor the financial commitments made, the debtor states must be made capable of producing and exporting."

The article also talks about the recent position taken by the director

general of the International Labor Organization, Francis Blanchard, who declared: "The severe conditions imposed by the IMF and other financial organisms to grant loans to heavily indebted Third World countries could threaten the social peace in these states. The reduction of many social services and the rigid policies to reduce inflation have caused in various countries growing poverty and unemployment."

Another article in the same issue of *Osservatore* denounced the emerging famine caused by the IMF's conditionalities in Bolivia.

Then, the intervention of the Holy See's observer at the United Nations' 31st session on narcotics, concluded a few weeks ago in Vienna, was used to denounce "a gigantic international conspiracy of ruthless and cruel high finance."

Monsignor Ceirano also accused the traffickers in drugs of wanting to take control of entire countries and societies and of accumulating immense sums at the price of the destruction and destabilization of entire nations. The Vatican delegate underlined the firm position of the Holy See against all types of legalization, even partial, of drug consumption.

Another important initiative taken by the Pope when he returned to Rome is the constitution of a new Vatican organism, the Pontifical Pastoral Commission on Health Workers. The creation of this Vatican "health ministry" was announced as the Pope presented the Apostolic letter, *Dolentium Hominum (On Suffering Humanity)*.

The new commission's special concern is the problems of the ill and their religious assistance. Its timing makes clear that the new commission will be particularly concerned with stamping out tendencies in medicine which violate the sacredness of human life: Nazi-style eugenics and euthanasia.