

Editorial

A leading Jesuit mimics LaRouche

No one ever said Fidel Castro wasn't a clever fellow. The Jesuit-trained Cuban leader recently fielded a proposal to relieve the unpayable debt burdens of the nations of Ibero-America. In so doing, he was mimicking Soviet officials, to the effect that heinous imperialists were wrecking Third World economies with artificially imposed debt burdens. Well, true enough.

In addition, he was mimicking *EIR* founder LaRouche, the world's leading—just about the world's only—economist, and the author of *Operation Juárez*, a 1982 proposal widely circulated in Ibero-America, recommending debtors' use of the weapon of collective default to compel a reorganization of the international monetary system. Castro mimicked LaRouche. . . to a point.

In remarks carried in Mexico's *Excelsior* newspaper and widely reported throughout the continent, Castro stated: "Latin American countries' foreign debt is unpayable. . . . Creditor nations could and should take charge of it, and use 10 or 12% of their military expenditures to answer their banks. . . . The United States could reimburse the creditor banks for the amount of credits these banks have loaned to the countries of Latin America and the rest of the Third World. . . ."

Way back when, the clever fellows in the Cult of Apollo at Delphi developed methods of oracular utterance that seemed to say and be one thing, and were actually quite another. The Jesuits are very good at such Delphic methods these days. Castro has not forgotten his training.

First, he does not propose to change the international monetary system in order to accomplish the economic development of the underdeveloped nations. Rather, he proposes that creditor-nations' governments reimburse the forces of usury in New York (and London and Zurich, and so on) whose practices in regard to interest rates, refinancing, flight-capital, and rigging of terms of trade—through the Federal Reserve, International Monetary Fund, and World Bank—have destroyed the

economies of creditor and debtor nations alike.

This is the same International Monetary Fund of which Castro said, thanks to it, he "no longer needs to export revolution." These are the financial forces, heavily involved in drug traffic, with which the Soviet Union is currently in alliance to promote the economic destruction of the nations of the West from within.

Second, Castro proposes exactly what the IMF and Paul Volcker's U.S. Federal Reserve have repeatedly proposed: That the U.S. defense budget be cut to bail out the usurers, and in particular, that funds be slashed from the Strategic Defense Initiative. To wit: "If the race for space weapons takes place, it would mean a fabulous cost to humanity. If, to the problems of the international economic situation . . . you add an arms race that would cost millions in a few years, without the least certainty that it will not end in a war, imagine the tragedy. . . ."

Castro is not actually proposing anything economically helpful to Ibero-America. He is proposing cuts in the U.S. defense budget, especially the SDI—what the Soviets are currently demanding in Geneva—on the Delphic argument that defense spending detracts from economic development.

Castro, like the Soviets, knows perfectly well that, at least in the nations which enjoy the Western cultural heritage, defense spending has been a spur to industrial progress. For example, the Strategic Defense Initiative, the Soviets fear above all for the very reasons that *it would not cost a net penny*: Laser and other directed energy technologies are not merely weapons, but will spin off into the civilian sector of industrial and developing-sector economies as tools, the most powerful ever developed by man. These tools, as nothing else can, would provide the means for both industrial nations' recovery and Third World nations development—leveling the power of usury provided that *Operation Juárez* monetary and credit arrangements were put in place.