

From New Delhi by Susan Maitra

Indian support for Operation Juárez

Message for the Non-Aligned: The third-largest English daily boosts LaRouche's plan for the Ibero-American debt.

Operation Juárez has been launched. The British, American, Swiss, and Venetian bankers and the IMF have begun to spend sleepless nights at Dr. García's declaration." In a major 2,000-word op-ed in the Indian daily the *Hindustan Times* on Sept. 3, journalist Keshav Dev Sharma comes out in full support for Lyndon LaRouche's Operation Juárez, the plan for transforming the foreign debt burden of Ibero-America into an instrument for political unity and an economic recovery based on great infrastructural projects.

The article in the *Hindustan Times*, India's third largest English-language paper, marks an important step in a nation where Ibero-America seems very far away and seldom receives attention in the press. The late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi made major efforts to bridge the gap between the Indian subcontinent and the Spanish-speaking countries of the Western hemisphere. She invited José López Portillo, then the President of Mexico, for a state visit to India in 1982.

Bringing the issue of the Ibero-American debt fight to the fore in India has another significance, because India is the leader of the Non-Aligned Movement. At the early September meeting of the Non-Aligned in Lunda, Angola, the foreign ministers called for "a revision of IMF conditions," and for the first time described Third World debt as a political and not merely economic problem. According to the British *Guardian*, Peru

"emerged as extremely influential with its formula of limiting debt service to a proportion of exports."

Sharma begins his op-ed, "The Third World in general and the Ibero-American nations in particular are currently reeling under the yoke of foreign debt. Ibero-America's foreign debt at the end of 1984 was a staggering \$355 billion, an amount which under the present arrangements with the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank, the World Bank and the IMF simply cannot be paid. The result: The Ibero-American nations face virtual loss of sovereignty and their people condemned to an unending pall of misery perpetrated by the conditionalities of these creditor supranational institutions.

"The tragedy, however, is not that the debt is unbearable or unpayable or uncollectable, but that the Ibero-American nations are becoming a pawn in the hands of the two superpowers and the nongovernmental oligarchic institutions like the IMF. What the British East India Company did to India in the 19th century, the IMF is engaged in doing to the Ibero-American nations today. The nutritional levels of the Peruvians are falling every year, Brazil's industrial and scientific programs are collapsing, the Argentine nuclear power program has already fallen behind, and most of these nations are actually being taken over by narcotics-growers, traffickers and bankers."

He then describes the three proposals to solve the debt crisis, Fidel

Castro's, Henry Kissinger's, and LaRouche's.

"It has to be recognized that Castro says some correct things, and his analysis of debt is very good. The reason: He stole it from the most famous proposal 'Operation Juárez' by Lyndon LaRouche, a U.S. economist and one of the greatest living intellectual giants of this century." Sharma describes Castro as "nothing but Kissinger dressed up with a socialist ruffle!"

Sharma goes through Operation Juárez in detail. LaRouche says to "reorganize the foreign debt of Ibero-America through collective negotiations. This would require the declaration of a moratorium on the existing debt, issuing new Ibero-American long-term bonds at 2% interest, and 'burying' the IMF and the World Bank. Secondly, LaRouche says, form an Ibero-American Common Market."

Thirdly, "Operation Juárez proposes launching great projects of economic development in Ibero-America so that the whole continent could be physically integrated through infrastructure projects, emphasizing advanced industrial technology, especially nuclear energy and lasers, and sincere modernization of agriculture."

Sharma concludes, "It is only Operation Juárez which has the greatest chance of success because a beginning has already been made in its implementation." He describes the meeting of trade union leaders and the efforts of Dr. Alan García, the new President of Peru, "to reorder the Peruvian economy in the interests of the Peruvians—not the IMF."

"The fabulous support that Dr. García has received from all over the world is historical in proportions. Thousands of supporting telegrams are pouring in at the Lima presidential palace. Operation Juárez has been launched."