

Paris Africa conference weighs war on IMF policy

"I have a secret to tell you," the chairman of the Schiller Institute in France, Jacques Cheminade, confided to the audience of 500 who attended the Institute's conference on the new world economic order in Paris, France, on Feb. 2. "It's a public secret. *We scare people*. Since the people we scare are our enemies, it's good news, very good news."

"The four biggest Parisian newspapers, the ones that have a de facto press monopoly, *Le Monde*, *Le Figaro*, *Le Quotidien*, and *Le Matin*, have all—together—refused to publish the paid advertisement announcing our conference. That is the leaflet you have all read, 'Call for the Formation of a North-South Action Committee for a New World Economic Order, Against the IMF.' There has been a real blackout against this leaflet."

He continued, "First of all, let's be clear about it. We scare them because we are together, we are meeting to denounce the International Monetary Fund (IMF). . . . Now, you know that the old secret of the financial oligarchy is: 1) Divide and conquer, and 2) direct the rage of the oppressed against scapegoats."

"Now we are coming together, from Paris to Buenos Aires, from Bonn to Dakar, from Washington to Lima, we whom the *Wall Street Journal* calls, the 'pariahs,' we who are subjected to usury. And here, side by side, against the IMF are a French Muslim and a French 'clodhopper,' as they say, a leader of the Argentine CGT trade union and a shopkeeper. . . . It's this 'amalgam' that makes our strength! For, together, we will not seek scapegoats, we will not let ourselves be buried in 'secondary causes': We are the future builders of a moral economy, we have declared war on usury."

The one-day conference keynoted by Cheminade marked a milestone in the formation of what he called an international

citizens' movement against usury. The participants came from five continents and 30 nations. The three major economic powers of the European continent, France itself, the Federal Republic of Germany, and Italy, were represented—the last by Christian Democratic Senator Vincenzo Carollo, whose government has just initiated steps to offer Somalia a debt moratorium.

From Africa, the most populous Black nation, Nigeria, was represented by its ambassador to France, speaking for the Foreign Ministry on the subject of why Nigeria has resisted IMF conditionalities. The efforts of Senegal's President Abdou Diouf, currently chair of the Organization of African Unity, to convene a conference on Africa's debt and develop a unified approach to the problem, were described in a thorough presentation by one of that country's top economists, Dr. Moustapha Kasse.

The advanced battle against IMF usury in Ibero-America was represented by veteran Argentine labor leader Alberto Campos, a member of the Schiller Institute Trade Union Commission, who is now getting "red carpet" treatment as he continues his tour through Europe. The Paris conference marked a dramatic step forward toward the unity of African and Ibero-American debtors for a positive program of development. It came only three months after such unity was first posed in the Nov. 1-3 conference held by the Schiller Institute in Rome, Italy, around the theme of "St. Augustine, Father of European and African Civilization."

EIR presents here selections of the major speeches and messages to the Paris conference. We regret that for technical reasons, the speech of Alberto Campos was not available at the time of this publication, but it will appear in a future issue.