

Argentina's Campos tours Europe, broadens Schiller Institute base

by Liliana Celani

A tour of Europe by Argentine CGT labor leader Alberto Campos, representing the Trade Union Commission of the Schiller Institute, has resulted in the transformation of that commission from an Ibero-American into a worldwide institution. Campos has addressed and met with labor leaders and political figures in Italy, Spain, and West Germany, as well as representatives of the Vatican in Rome, recruiting many to the commission and the Schiller Institute program.

The Schiller Institute was founded by Helga Zepp-LaRouche in May 1984, to strengthen the Western alliance and take leadership in the fight for a new world economic order. Its Trade Union Commission, of which leading Argentine Peronist Campos was a founding member, was formed in November 1984, when a group of unionists from Argentina, Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, Panama, Mexico, and the United States conferred and decided to ally, in order to work toward a realization of *EIR* founder Lyndon LaRouche's *Operation Juárez*, for unity of Ibero-American debtors to compel debt reorganization and a new monetary order.

On Feb. 11, the leaders of Genoa, Italy's largest maritime union voted to join the Schiller Trade Union Commission during a meeting with Campos and two other representatives of the Institute. "It is time for new institutions," explained the general secretary of the Unione Italiana Marittimi (UIM), Eugenio De Lucchi. The meeting was also attended by national leaders of the union, by representatives of various cooperatives, and officers in the Italian navy.

De Lucchi, who has been a trade unionist for 30 years, built UIM into the biggest union in Genoa, bigger than the Genoese local of the Communist-controlled CGIL, otherwise the largest trade union in the country. Thirty years ago, he led workers in a blockade against Soviet shipping during Stalin's anti-Semitic purge trials ("the Doctor's Plot"). His union, he declared, agrees fully with the Schiller Institute's battle against International Monetary Fund genocide policies and against terrorism and drugs.

In Italy, Campos was able to inform not only labor leaders, but political leaders, of the situation in Argentina. Three million Argentine workers conducted a general strike against

the IMF on Jan. 24, and a key role has been played by the Schiller Institute.

In Rome, the Peronist leader met with Sen. Vincenzo Carollo, who heads the Senate's Christian Democratic group, and who had earlier joined Campos among speakers at a Feb. 2 Institute conference on African development in Paris, attended by over 500 people from 30 nations (see *EIR*, Feb. 14 and Feb. 21, 1986).

Campos also met with prominent representatives of the Catholic Church, which is following the debt crisis in Ibero-America very closely. He was interviewed for 15 minutes on Vatican Radio's Spanish-language broadcast. A television station in Rome, Televita, transmitted a 40-minute interview.

Campos also had a series of meetings in Milan. He was received by City Councillor Giulio Polotti, representing Mayor Carlo Tognoli, in Palazzo Marino, the seat of the city government. The Milan municipality presented Campos with a bronze medal and a book on the architecture of the municipal palace, and invited him to attend Verdi's opera, *I Lombardi alla Prima Crociata*, at La Scala, in the mayor's personal box seat!

Before leaving for Madrid, the next stop on his tour, Campos paid a visit to Brescia, the steel capital of Northern Italy, birthplace of Pope Paul VI. On Feb. 10, he was interviewed by Brescia's Teleonessa television station, and called on all citizens to join in the fight for a just international credit policy. Afterward, Campos participated in a meeting of trade unionists and Institute supporters, convened when a scheduled meeting with the Brescia chapter of the Catholic trade union, CISL, was canceled by the international office of CISL in Rome, controlled by a leftist minority which complained that Peronists are "too right-wing."

Spain and West Germany

In Spain, the Argentine trade unionist met with political, industrial, and trade union representatives, who, he reported, expressed great interest in the Schiller Institute program on the debt problem—mindful of the fact that the International Monetary Fund is presently preparing its yearly report on the

Spanish economic situation, certain to include the same murderous "suggestions" which have so devastated Third World economies. Some of the political leaders he met in Madrid reported that they had been studying *EIR* founder Lyndon LaRouche's *Operation Juárez* for years, and fully agreed with it. "We should also do like Alan," was the comment of one industrialist, referring to Peruvian President Alan García's defiance of the IMF.

Two Spanish dailies, *Ya* and *Alcazar*, published interviews and articles on Campos' visit. "Argentina Cannot Pay Its Debt, Not Even If It Wished To" was the headline in the Catholic daily *Ya*, which reported: "Campos is here in Madrid to spread the work of the Schiller Institute Ibero-American Trade Union Commission (COSIS) for the integration of Ibero-America and the reorganization of the foreign debt." An accompanying box entitled "The Solution to a Crisis," listed the commission's programmatic points: collective renegotiation of the debt, "the destruction of the IMF, of the World Bank, and of the Kissinger and Fidel Castro solutions which have in common the maintenance of IMF control," and the creation of an Ibero-American Common Market and a "golden peso." *Ya* also reported on the Schiller Institute program for "great infrastructural development projects" and a war against drug traffic using "military means."

Alcazar published an interview on Feb. 16 under the banner headline: "Argentina Faces One of the Worst Crises in Its History." "According to the Argentinian trade union leader Alberto Campos," it reported, "the method adopted by the Argentine government to face a \$50 billion foreign debt will have negative repercussions on production. A wage freeze and inflation have already impoverished the country." To the frequent question, why did the Argentine trade unions conduct a general strike against President Raúl Alfonsín, Campos stated that the Jan. 24 strike was against the International Monetary Fund, not against the government. That is why the international press refused to report it.

Campos's tour next took him to West Germany, where he visited the biggest steel plant in the land, Thyssen of Duisburg, and met with Schiller Institute supporters, African diplomats, and journalists at the Ibero-American Club in Bonn. On Feb. 19, he met with a representative of the Bavarian Employers Association in Munich, who briefed him on the present state of trade relations between Bavaria and Argentina. Bavaria presently exports four more times more than it imports from Argentina. In Munich, Campos also met with 30 Schiller Institute supporters, from businessmen to students.

An institute member from Poland asked him about relations between Argentina and the East bloc. "Because of the policy of the IMF and of the U.S. administration towards Argentina," he answered, "we were forced to increase our trade with the Soviet Union, and presently export to the Soviet Union a great part of our grain production."

Campos: 'It is the hour of the people'

The following is an abridged transcript of the speech by Alberto Campos, veteran leader of Argentine's CGT (General Confederation of Workers), member of the Schiller Institute Trade Union Commission, to the international conference of the Schiller Institute on the New World Economic Order in Paris on Feb. 2.

I want to bring from my country a homage and greeting to the heroic French people, a message of solidarity to our African brothers who suffer as we do, and to all those who are here at this conference, to pledge ourselves to fight for dignity. I also want to render homage to a great man of this century, an illustrious Frenchman, Charles de Gaulle: When he was in Argentina, we proudly said to him, "De Gaulle, Perón—one heart alone" ("De Gaulle, Perón—un solo corazón").

I want to say that we are all in debt. At this time, we are confronted with the debt to the International Monetary Fund, which is an infamous robbery, a baldfaced sellout. We are also fighting for the rights of man, the dignity of man, for social justice, freedom, and democracy, so that each people can be the maker of its own destiny. For this reason we must all pledge together to fight for a New World Economic Order against the IMF, to fight for the unity of peoples, to fight for the people who are most oppressed, forgotten, and down-trodden, those doomed to hunger and misery. . . .

We are now living through the hour of the peoples; democracy undoubtedly must keep on advancing and nobody should be kept waiting; we must all take our appropriate places in action. We have an example in the Americas in Alan García, who had the courage to face up to the IMF, the drug traffickers, and the guerrillas. We have another example in Colombia, where our brothers in struggle are persecuted and condemned to assassination by drug traffickers and their agents. Listening to [Senegalese economist Prof. Moustapha] Kasse and [Italian Sen. Vincenzo] Carollo speak of their countries' struggles, we see that this specter of injustice which is the IMF afflicts us all equally, and no one has remained exempt from persecution and attempts to break up our unity, our solidarity, and our organization. For this reason, we have to come out of here strengthened, determined to fight to the finish, for we are responsible for the world's future.

No one is free from IMF persecution, nor from the venal, sell-out journalism that refused to publish the announcement of this conference, that twists things, reports anything nega-