

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-

tive, and blacks out the positive. I brought here a copy of the Argentine paper *La Razon*, which is funded by the multinationals and paid for by the IMF, which reports on the success of the strike carried out by the CGT and the whole Argentine population, and goes on to tell how to criticize this powerful movement.

I want to tell this audience why we are fighting the IMF, and why we feel defrauded and betrayed in what was promised, and also the danger which Argentina faces, which is somewhat the mirror of Latin America. This is the danger when people no longer believe in democratic systems and look for a totalitarian system, and this is why our fight is committed to keeping alien ideas from invading our country. . . .

### **'To lie is a sin!'**

Here is the photo of our secretary-general, Saúl Ubaldini, who some time ago took up the fight provoked by the current President of Argentina. Once the President labeled Ubaldini a crybaby because he was protesting against police who had repressed a demonstration. The next week, Ubaldini, or rather the CGT, mobilized a rally to the very doors of government offices, and told President Alfonsín, in a massive outpouring: "To cry is a feeling, to lie is a sin!"

Everything the government promised, it has not delivered: There are still laws on the books imposed by the military dictatorship; and even though a special commission was set up, there has been no study issued on the legitimacy of the debt. No doubt, it is decent and necessary to pay what is owed, but one must never pay for what one does not owe, what never came into the country, what was stolen. In Argentina, among the many things we are sick of, are the Plans: We have the Austral Plan, the Baker Plan, the Volcker Plan, the Rockefeller Plan—all agents of the IMF. The Austral Plan means the death of wages and the cemetery of business. On Aug. 29 of last year, a mobilization was carried out on Avenue July 9, one of the widest streets in the world. Not only the trade union movement but shopkeepers, businessmen, students, and professionals came out to say that we did not accept being condemned to hunger and getting squashed more and more by the day.

The Radical government which had promised in its political campaign to defend dignity and not to pay what was not owed, capitulated to the IMF, and today, to our shame, is used as the example of how to give in and pay the debt. Argentina even wants to aim at complying with the Baker Plan, which promises an amount of money which is not even enough to pay interest, puts us more in debt, and compromises the future, because money is lent to those who cannot return it, to doom them to depend forever on the IMF.

The Baker Plan has an unknown provision; in Argentina, all the economists, bankers, and people who represent the IMF have lined up to convince people it is the solution for the country; but thank God, in our country there is some

conscience and there are even some sectors of the ruling Radical Party which oppose continuing to sell out the country's future.

The political parties have all reacted, saying, we've had enough exploitation by the IMF. The Jan. 24 strike was a stunning success, with a 97.4% shutdown of work. That was reported by a paper that is not the union's, and the government did not deny the success of the strike. This goes to show that the system they are trying to impose should be put to a plebiscite: to pay the debt and condemn people to hunger and factory closings—or to be happy. There is no alternative except to take the bull by the horns. It has to be turned around, or the bull has to be told to get on the right path.

But let's be careful: What we seek is for democracy to continue. We have to look after, and we are looking after the government that arose after hard years of dictatorship. The worst that can happen to any country in the world is a military

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intervention, a coup d'état. I want to make this very clear, because sometimes things get twisted. We have not strong-armed the government, but what we want changed is the sell-out—there must be no sell-out of our economy.

Let no one be confused, we defend democracy, freedom, the continuity of democracy, whoever may govern; but we also have the obligation to our people to fight for a New Economic Order. They are about to divide up the world as at Yalta, and we don't want to be the "Guest of Stone"; we want to take part, we want the neediest to be remembered, because if there is not justice, there will be rebellion, and when people get fed up, their warnings will thunder.

For this reason, the Schiller Institute Trade Union Commission, you French who are a cradle of democracy and freedom, we must all fight for unity, and above all for the unity of the South of the world—those of us who are submerged and forgotten, who have been suffering for centuries under the belief that we were born and raised to suffer, to be cannon fodder. We want to stop this once and for all, to free ourselves of this bondage. We have made many attempts to seek Latin American unity, but the possibility has always

been cut off from us by coups d'état, because the reactionary forces got together and overthrew progressive, popular governments. The ideal is to accept the free determination of peoples. It does not matter if it is another country or another brother, it is sufficient that it be the same struggle for dignity, decency, and justice.

In November 1952—I name the date so that you may see how long we have been fighting for unity—there was an attempt in Mexico to draw up a document. It is too long to read here, but the principle was to seek Latin American workers' unity, distinct from the [Christian Democratic] Inter-American Regional Organization of Workers (ORIT) and the [AFLCIO-linked] Latin American Confederation of Workers (CLAT), which represent a different tendency, and even include some who are against the Schiller Institute, because we are intervening in politics, we care about social justice, that workers' rights be respected, that people can be fulfilled in total and absolute freedom. When the document was drawn up in Mexico, almost all the countries agreed, Argentina (because it was sort of General Perón's idea), Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela. So, it was a semi-reality, but it did not last long, because those who run the world saw that the Peronist revolution was seriously on the march and that structures were changing, and they unleashed the coup that overthrew Perón.

It would be too long to read parts of this resolution, but I



Argentine labor leader Alberto Campos, addressing the Paris conference of the Schiller Institute.

trust that there will be no lack of opportunity to follow this subject, because I am passionately committed to it. Those of us who had the good fortune to live fighting for justice have the obligation not to leave this world without seeing how everybody is organized, and I am very happy here. I've seen many youth and many women here, and that means that the year 2000 is going to find us organized and aware, because of these meetings.

I think it would be useful in leaving this meeting to know what the best way is to conduct these unity meetings for concrete results. How can we ourselves be the ones who give out the information, which otherwise sometimes arrives in a twisted form? How much time do we need to achieve success, to achieve justice? How can we prepare not to be surprised by the events, which those who want to go on eternally exploiting us are seeking to unleash? . . .

I have information, and don't know if it is exact, about what is going on in Africa. Of the 50 states, according to my information, in more than 20 there is starvation, people are dying, children are dying for lack of food, they can't develop mentally because they don't have good nutrition, there is illiteracy. In a quite important zone of Brazil, and in my country, which has a food surplus, many children die of hunger. Truancy is horrendous, because when winter comes, there is nothing to send them to school with.

This did not just happen in the years of dictatorship; it continues now. In Argentina the government had to resort to a packet of food which is given to the family so they can eat for a week. If a country is rich, potentially rich in wheat, with all the fruit, and with meat, why does this state of affairs exist? What could be going on in the countries that did not have the blessings of God, to give them fertility and the possibility to have everything like we do?

To conclude, I want to say that Argentina has only one labor center, which is the Confederación General del Trabajo (CGT), and which is Peronist in its majority, but includes all tendencies. I say this, because the French CGT, with the same initials, is in communist hands, and sometimes it gets confused with our CGT, which is Peronist, but all parties belong. The political arm is the 62 organizations, which have Peronists but also other social currents and other political tendencies. But when we mobilize, we all do it *en bloc*; there are no defections, and there is no other objective except to fight for the workers—we leave politics for later.

I am going to end with compliments to the creator of the idea of this Institute, to Helga LaRouche, and to Lyndon LaRouche, to the people who make sacrifices, because there are many friends here who call me at home in Argentina, up to midnight, Saturday, Sunday, working for this to become a reality and to become a commitment of everybody, so that the New World Economic Order cartel will not just be a cartel but a commitment, and so that there will be a New World Economic Order, where we will all have the same rights and the same potentials.