

to emphasize the providential truthfulness of the Feb. 17 *EIR* cover story, "Carlos Andrés Pérez peddles snake-oil for debt crisis." Pérez first blamed his predecessor for not imposing the measures years ago, then the IMF. On March 5 he was saying "it was also against the rich, those who speculate, exploit and show off their wealth." Then he said, "It was not between rich and poor but a social violence in protest against speculators."

He also blamed the political parties for not uniting behind his IMF program. Christian Democratic leader Abdón Vivas Terán responded, "Any national unity must be to defeat the program of economic measures the Carlos Andrés Pérez government is trying to impose on us. The unity Venezuela demands is around policies which deal with the horrible poverty and misery and inequality the country is experiencing."

When he saw that all the parties and almost every other organized body in the country opposed his program, Pérez pressed for "a political reform." His reform is along the lines of the liberal fascism of David Rockefeller's Trilateral Commission, otherwise known as "fascism with a democratic face." Pérez observed that "neighborhood associations" should be mobilized (as armed vigilantes) to combat looters—or presumed looters. He contended that they were "more rep-

resentative" than parties.

Pérez's co-thinker Alberto Quirós Corradi wrote on March 9, "The painful bloody events showed all Venezuelans that the political parties neither control nor influence the conduct of the masses." This member of the liberal Establishment's Inter-American Dialogue argued that only the "reform of the political parties," "electoral reform," and the "labor law" advocated by Pérez could prevent opposition to IMF measures from getting out of hand.

The Catholic Church had another view. The Vatican newspaper, *Osservatore Romano*, provoked ire from Pérez by criticizing his austerity measures and suggesting that bread and work for the population must come first. In his homily at the Caracas Cathedral March 5, auxiliary bishop Msgr. Jorge Sabino Uroza declared, "There are those who looted stores, and they should seek pardon. But there are also those, especially in the economic and political sectors, that have looted the country for years; they should also seek pardon." He was undoubtedly speaking of Chemical Bank part-owner James Baker III and his ilk, who sucked out \$25 billion in debt service in the past six years, and of the Venezuelan oligarchs who had sent \$67 billion abroad as "flight capital," starting during Pérez's 1974-79 presidency.

PLV demands ouster of Rockefeller's man Tinoco

The following perspective on how to solve the Venezuelan crisis was issued by the secretary general of the Venezuelan Labor Party (PLV), Alejandro Peña Esclusa, on Feb. 28:

Pedro Tinoco must be removed immediately from the Central Bank and replaced by a person who will defend the interests of the nation and not those of the international bankers.

As is well known, Tinoco has represented the interests of Chase Manhattan Bank—owned by Rockefeller, and the lead bank for Venezuela's foreign debt—which disqualifies him from holding the presidency of the Central Bank. The genocidal IMF policies that Tinoco recommends, mean a bonanza for the bankers and misery for Venezuelans. Does Tinoco want to destabilize democracy? Does Tinoco want to hand the country over to the Soviets' narco-guerrillas?

Not satisfied with selling off our reserves to satisfy the usury of the banks, Tinoco wants to pay the illegitimate foreign debt with the hunger of Venezuelans. To achieve

that, Tinoco argues that the IMF's programs are indispensable. Tinoco lies. The PLV has proven that Venezuela can become an industrial power by implementing measures completely opposite to those imposed by the IMF.

Had the program proposed by the PLV been implemented by the government, none of this would have happened. Fortunately, there is still time to turn around the situation by adopting the following measures of national security:

In the short term: 1) revoke the economic measures adopted recently; 2) break with the IMF; 3) declare a moratorium on the foreign debt; 4) establish strict exchange controls; 5) grant state credits to reactivate industrial and agricultural production; 6) reduce interest rates; 7) establish an emergency food program to include the importation of food and the creation of an emergency food reserve, while food self-sufficiency is secured. All this should be done while orienting the economy toward the domestic market, not the external ones.

In the medium term, we need to launch large-scale agro-industrial, transportation, and infrastructure projects. Second, we need to begin to integrate the Ibero-American continent, to jointly confront the international banks; third, we must launch a continental military war against the drug traffickers; and fourth, we need to return to the fundamental values of the family, based on love of country, and love of God.