

oping countries.”

Solanki opposed the sanctions against Iraq:

“The United Nations has the duty and responsibility to exert all its energies to remove the suffering, hunger, and squalor left behind by the war. This is particularly true of the Iraqi civilian population, whose misery is not lightened by the continuation of economic and trade sanctions. We commend the humanitarian assistance provided to the people of the region by member countries as well as U.N. agencies. At the same time, we believe that any outside intervention in a member country on humanitarian grounds constitutes an abridgement of national sovereignty and is, therefore, fraught with serious implications.”

He said that India “applauds” U.S. efforts to get parties in the Middle East to the negotiating table, and added: “We believe that a just and comprehensive settlement of the Middle East question will be possible and durable only if it restores to the Palestinian people their fundamental rights, including their right to a homeland.”

Ghana: Poverty is a ‘grim enemy’ of peace

The secretary for foreign affairs of Ghana, Dr. Obed Y. Asamoah, warned in his speech to the General Assembly on Sept. 26 that “the world ignores at its own peril” the “monumental” problems of Africa.

“The 85% of the world’s population who live on 30% of the world’s income are not asking the world’s 15% for charity,” he said. “We do recognize our primary and ultimate responsibility for our own development. There is clear evidence that in many instances, some of us have achieved in decades what it took some of the industrial countries centuries to achieve. Some have adopted socially and politically difficult economic restructuring and reform measures. The increasing factor of external influences that are beyond our control has, however, inhibited these efforts.

“The international economic order, including the global financial and trade arrangements, that we were ushered into at independence still exploits our economies. Our restructuring and reform measures have in most cases resulted in increased production and productivity, but with diminishing returns. The unfavorable terms of trade, marked by falling commodity prices and increasing prices of industrial goods and services, coupled with high industrial-country fiscal deficits, and high international interest rates, have made debt-servicing a major burden on our fragile economies. In a situation where 45 to 80% of export earnings are diverted into debt-servicing, the prospect of many of our economies regressing into a state of subsistence is not idle speculation.”

He continued:

“A world that sincerely desires peace would have to rethink its attitude towards the present global economic imbalances. Poverty is a grim enemy of peace. . . . Developing countries have to be relieved of the burden of debt. Both the debt stock and debt service must be reduced or eliminated

completely. The recommendations of the secretary general’s Expert Group on Africa’s debt would have to be given serious consideration. Moreover, all measures that will stabilize commodity prices and promote the transfer of financial resources and technology to the mutual benefit of industrial and developed countries will have to be taken. . . .

“It is tempting, for some, to see the ideological collapse of eastern Europe as a victory for the inequitable global economic system that consigns the majority of the world to poverty. It has been remarked, more than once, that the industrial countries do not need developing countries. There is nothing farther from the truth. . . .

Italy, Austria demand suspension of sovereignty

While some Third World leaders were speaking out against Bush’s new world order at the U.N. General Assembly, there was also no scarcity of endorsements for the Anglo-Americans’ genocide policy.

Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis, in his speech on Sept. 27, called the “right” to intervene in another country for “humanitarian” purposes—as was ostensibly done in Iraq for the sake of the Kurds—“the most truly innovative concept of the remaining decade of this century. This must be the focal point of our efforts through the United Nations, which is also the main forum of the new ‘world order.’ Intervention that is primarily aimed at securing protection of human rights . . . is a prerogative of the international community, which must have the power to suspend sovereignty whenever it is exercised in a criminal manner.”

Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock called in his speech on Sept. 27 for U.N. intervention forces to monitor and settle human rights and environmental disputes, each with their own color helmets, to join the already existing “blue helmets.”

“The United Nations ought to have the possibility to quickly react to serious human rights abuses and to prevent any escalation of such abuses,” he said. “I propose that the Commission on Human Rights adopt an emergency procedure based on a permanent register of experts—who could be called ‘White Helmets’—and would be at the disposal of the Commission.” He also referred to a proposal made by Austria two years ago, “to establish ‘Green Helmets’ who could intervene in the framework of a system of dispute prevention and settlement concerning the environment.”