PREAMBLE* TO ENERGY POLICY STATEMENT

Circulated to Participants in the United Nations Raw Materials Conference

The major difficulty now confronting all nations in respect to industrial development and the well-being of their populations is that a group of interlocking "multinational" interests, effectively beyond remedies of control by any one government, has wilfully imposed a "Malthusian crisis" of shortages and de facto technological stagnation upon the masses of the entire world population.

These same "multinationals" have falsely represented the world's problems in terms of the need to ration out short supplies of raw materials and food. Contrary to that view, given adequate per capita ratios of usable energy, and the determination to rationally apply such energy supplies, there need be no shortage of raw materials nor of food production for the foreseeable future. In that view, the establishment of an appropriate world energy resources development policy is the proper basis for rational approaches to all other developmental issues, including raw materials development, prices and distributions.

The key to solving all these interlocked problems is uniquely located in the immediate adoption of a "brute force" development of controlled thermonuclear fusion power and technology. The necessary scale of such an undertaking demands international cooperation among developed and developing nations. This cooperation in development would be prelude to the equitable access by all nations to the new technology thus established.

Under the terms of such an adopted program, the participating nations would enjoy a rational basis for design and implementation of special short-term programs concerning energy use, raw materials, and development. These programs would obviously be designed to span the period of transition up to the point

that each phase of realization of benefits from the thermonuclear program could provide the alternatives of a qualitative step upwards in general technology.

During this same period of transition, the cooperating nations must provide one another mutual support to the end of frustrating the lawless manipulations of stocks and prices of energy and other raw materials by internationals. A related set of remedies must be provided for those developing countries whose further development is significantly attenuated or even aborted by accumulations of foreign public and private debt-service obligations. The impoverishment of a developing nation, an impoverishment which is essentially a symptom of underdevelopment, must not be permitted to become a pretext to obstruct the flow of needed development aid.

Since these policies directly represent the most urgent interests of the overwhelming majority of humanity, wherever such policies conflict with the formal rights and self-interests of the "multinationals," such rights and self-interests must promptly yield, even to the point of extinction.

National Caucus of Labor Committees [USA] New York, N.Y.

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* Next week's packet from **IPS** will feature the full NCLC resolution presented at the United Nations, April 21.