



NEW SOLIDARITY International Press Service

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NEW SOLIDARITY INTERNATIONAL PRESS SERVICE (IPS)

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COMBINED ISSUE

I. PRIORITIES

S.F. CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL CALLS GENERAL STRIKE

SAN FRANCISCO, April 6 (IPS)--The executive board of the Central Labor Council here unanimously voted today in favor of a resolution calling for a general strike to support the ongoing walkout of 2000 city craft unionists if negotiations remain deadlocked. No date for the strike has yet been set although the entire AFL-CIO membership can be called out at any time while the Teamsters require only a vote of its membership to join the walkout.

At a press conference following the CLC meeting, Labor Council officials reiterated their call for a general strike. In an explicit threat to the Board of Supervisors, they called on a person who they knew to be a representative of the U.S. Labor Party to ask a question. The Labor Party spokesman asked the CLC whether they would back California State Assemblyman Ken Meade's debt moratorium legislation as a solution to the current situation. Union leaders smiled though they did not answer, then called on a second Labor Party spokesman who discussed the international significance of the weekend Teamsters settlement and asked once again about CLC support for a debt moratorium. At the conclusion of the press conference one union official shouted at the press, "Be sure you get that stuff about the debt moratorium."

The strike, which began last week when the San Francisco Board of Supervisors ordered the craft workers to take a pay cut, spread to school bus drivers as the United Transportation Union refused to cross picket lines. The strike had already shut down all public transportation in the city.

Meanwhile, Teamster-organized Yellow Cab drivers served the company with a court order for the company's failure to meet pension requirements of their contract, thus shutting down 500 of the city's 800 cabs in support of striking city workers. Local press as well as CLC officials are comparing the current situation to the 1934 San Francisco general strike when "the whole city was shut down tight." Labor Party Strike Bulletins are being used by some pickets as organizing tools to stop workers from

crossing picket lines.

The next move is up to the Board of Supervisors who must declare a state of emergency to make a new contract offer.

MEXICAN RIGHT-WING CONFIRMS SUBVERSIVE ATTEMPTS AGAINST GOVERNMENT

April 6 (IPS)--Right-wing Mexican lawyer Ignacio Burgoa tied to the reactionary interests known as "the Monterrey Group", said in an interview yesterday that "last February there certainly was a clandestine meeting held in Monterrey which, under the pretext of analyzing (Mexican President Echeverria's new) urbanism bill, had the purpose of conspiring against the country and its institutions... a meeting of Ku Klux Klan-types, of anti-Mexicans, with attacks against the (government) institutions." President Echeverria charged last week that the Monterrey group was involved in clandestine subversive plots against his government.

Burgoa's statements were reported yesterday in the Mexican daily, El Universal.

MEXICAN TRADE UNION CALLS KISSINGER "INTERNATIONAL GORILLA CHIEF"

MEXICO CITY, April 6 (IPS)--In a statement of support for Mexican President Luis Echeverria, the independent union of electrical workers SME described U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger as "a cynical, international gorilla chief," of being behind the "process of 'destabilization'" unleashed by the country's right-wing forces against the progressive Mexican regime in the last weeks. The SME statement appeared yesterday in a full-page advertisement in the Mexico City daily La Prensa.

MEXICAN PRESS BACKS ECHEVERRIA WITH CALLS FOR NEW ECONOMIC ORDER

April 5 (IPS)--Major editorial statements on April 5 by two progressive Mexico City dailies, El Sol and Ovaciones, demanded implementation of a new world economic order to stop U.S. pressures against Third World unity.

Ovaciones declared it to be "suicide" for any country to be caught in "isolation or in unilateral arrangements with the great commercial and economic urban centers... Without any question the problem of development has ceased to be an internal conflict, localized or regional."

Stressing that "the current moment is one of greatest importance for humanity," El Sol castigated "imperialist currents" for trying to break up "the new world economic order that is being created ... It is urgent, to create the mechanisms to make the unity of the third world countries possible."

STATE DEPT DOESN'T KNOW OF ECHEVERRIA ATTACK ON MEXICAN RIGHT-WING

April 6 (IPS)--State Department Mexico desk officers have not yet seen reports of Mexican President Luis Echeverria's nationally-televised speech April 1 attacking Mexico's right-wing Monterrey group of Wall Street-connected industrialists. In one conversation with IPS today, a desk officer replied to a briefing on the speech,

"We haven't seen any newspaper reports of that, so for all I know, you're making it up."

PERUVIAN AUSTERITY CHIEF GRILLED ON DEBT MORATORIUM

April 6 (IPS)--Peruvian Finance Minister Luis Barua was challenged by reporters in the provincial city of Trujillo, Peru, for his resistance to calling for a moratorium on Peru's foreign debt.

When Barua announced that he was sending a top-level mission to North America to meet with bankers, the reporters asked him if foreign indebtedness didn't mortgage the country to foreign financiers. Then he was asked why he didn't call for a debt moratorium. Barua answered, "A moratorium is a double-edged sword... It has to be carefully studied before taking a decision... We are making these studies... But if you make these decisions too often, it starts to create a vice in the economic system."

The interchange is reported in Cronica, the government's daily, April 4.

TWO PERUVIAN LABOR COMMITTEE ORGANIZERS STILL HELD BY POLICE

LIMA, Peru, April 6 (IPS)--Two Latin American Labor Committee (CLLA) members are still being held by police here with no official charges announced. Efforts to free the organizers, Alfredo Erquicio and Angel Moschella, with a writ of habeus corpus today failed. The Labor Committee has had no word on the whereabouts of the two since their arrest April 3.

In addition, members of the Investigative Police (PIP) were at the office of New Solidarity International Press Service here today with a warrant for the arrest of the director.

The Labor Committee will continue to press for the release of the two organizers with a writ of habeus corpus and with a campaign publicizing the arrests and the political circumstances surrounding them.

BRAWL IN BRAZILIAN CONGRESS AS OPPOSITION TO GOVERNMENT GROWS

April 6 (IPS)--The Brazilian lower house of Congress broke into a near brawl last Thursday when it was made known that the government would depose a leading deputy of the only legal opposition party, the Brazilian Democratic Movement (MDB), from his post and furthermore cancel his political rights for ten years. Deputy Lysaneas Maciel was accused of insulting the government in his defense of two fellow congressmen who last week were stripped of their mandates and political rights. The MDB deputy addressed the body charging "this congress is fully conscious that a dictatorial farce is being played out here." He was cut off by a member of the pro-government ARENA party who shouted "You have no support, you rotten communist." "I do not yield to torturers, to defenders of the death squads, to murderers of students and workers," Maciel answered. The president of the ARENA party, then, tried to stop all discussion by shutting down the microphones which only served to infuriate the opposition party. Deputy

Maciel continued, "I do not consider myself deposed, since I am not being deposed by the people, nor by the 100,000 electors which sent me here, for whom I will always fight, against dictatorship, torture, and the death of thousands of Brazilians in the dungeons of oppression."

Mr. Maciel was advised to either take refuge in a foreign embassy or leave the country by his fellow legislatures. The incident was reported by Brazil's leading daily O Estado de Sao Paulo.

COLOMBIAN CP WARNS OF MILITARY PRESSURING FOR AN "ARGENTINE STYLE SOLUTION" IN COLOMBIA

April 6 (IPS)--March 30 declaration of the Executive Committee of the Colombian Communist Party (PCC) that "the growth of militarist and aggressive forces stimulates tendencies which are pressuring for an Argentine-style solution" for Colombia. The PCC declaration also accused President Lopez Michelsen of moving Colombia into "an open reactionary dictatorship," according to the latest issue of the PCC weekly, Voz Proletaria.

COLOMBIAN RESERVISTS REFUSE TO VOTE PROTESTING LABOR REPRESSION

April 6 (IPS)--Eighty-five thousand Colombian army reservists announced their decision not to vote in the upcoming April 13 elections in protest over the current repression of the working class of Colombia.

According to the daily paper of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, extended to the armed forces themselves, whose subofficials are demanding a 50 per cent wage increase and have sent a message to President Lopez to this effect. The message indicated that if this and other demands are not met, the reservists only alternative is "force or violence."

U.S. STEEL MAGNATE HORRIFIED AT TEAMSTER SETTLEMENT, PREFERS CHILE

NEW YORK, April 6 (IPS)--R. Heath Larry, second-in-command at U.S. Steel and 1977 chairman of the National Association of Manufacturers, today denounced the Teamsters settlement victory for the working class as "horribly inflationary." In addition Larry said he would rather "see Chile in the U.S." than participate in a debt moratorium and an international development bank. Along with United Steel Workers union head I.W. Abel and United Auto Workers union head Leonard Woodcock, Larry has been one of the chief forces behind the National Council on Productivity chaired by Nelson Rockefeller.

On the Teamsters settlement, Larry fumed, "Workers have just been consuming too much. Inflation is raging because of years of over-blown contracts by irresponsible unions. People have to accept that this is destroying our system."

Questioned on the political impossibility of enforcing such cuts because of working-class resistance internationally, Larry retorted: "What's happening here now is exactly what happened in Chile, and

if inflation gets bad enough, there'll be the same result. The unions need some sense knocked into them." Asked if he actually supported the idea of collecting the uncollectable New York City debt by bringing in the National Guard, Larry answered, "Well, there are plans for the New York situation...of course I can't elaborate."

To a question on expanding production at the expense of paper debt obligations, Larry replied: "I work for paper, not production. We only engage in production for more paper. I can't eat steel... you want to nationalize everything, declare bankruptcy, set up a Soviet economic system! You're right, we'll continue to be the last bastions against any such policy."

GREENSPAN CLAIMS TEAMSTER ACCORD IS NOT PACESETTER

April 6 (IPS)--Alan Greenspan, the chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisors, said yesterday that the recent national Teamster contract settlement, while "somewhat higher than I would have liked to see," would not add to inflationary forces. Greenspan's reasoning, according to today's New York Times, is based on the assumption that the Teamster master-freight settlement will not be a pacesetter. Machinists in eleven western states settled for a strike today with a contract on a par with the teamsters, according to other newsreports.

Mr. Greenspan and his aides have not been available for comment today, although President Ford met this afternoon with Labor Secretary William J. Usery to discuss "Labor Department matters."

JAY SAYS "NEW YORK BANKERS WANT A MUSSOLINI" IN BRITAIN

April 6 (IPS)--Sources close to Peter Jay, noted economics editor for the Times of London, confirmed today that he will be offered a position in the newly-formed Callaghan government.

Jay, in a recent interview, said the New York banks "want a Mussolini" in Britain and that "Jack Jones (primary architect of the trade union acceptance of the government's austerity program) and this flexible approach to wage negotiations continue to play a part in this game."

NY BANKER SAYS: "GOVERNMENT STABILITY" WILL KEEP BRITAIN SOLVENT

NEW YORK, April 6 (IPS)--A leading banker here said today that "Great Britain is a prime risk with problems." The banker said, however, the British "capacity to borrow has not been filled, if it is just a question of the interest rates that can be imposed." This situation, he concluded, was due to the "stability of the British government" as opposed to other European countries "like France, where people riot in the streets."