

Andean Pact heads of state pledge unity against the IMF

by Gretchen Small

In the next few months, the July 23-25 summit of Andean Pact heads of state in Caracas, held in celebration of the 200th anniversary of Simón Bolívar's birth, will prove to have been a crucial branching point in Ibero-American history, shaping the direction of developments for the remainder of the twentieth century.

The three days of meetings brought together the Presidents of Peru, Ecuador, Venezuela, Colombia, and Bolivia, Panama's vice president, the King of Spain, and the foreign minister of Argentina for public ceremonies and private talks in the midst of the worst financial, economic, and strategic crisis faced by the Ibero-American nations since their founding. The results, Caracas insiders report, were much more successful than the Andean Pact summit's organizers had hoped for.

Expressed throughout the several documents produced by the summit's deliberations is the concept of a single "Great Latin American Nation of Republics," the initial conception of the area's most far-sighted leaders at the time of independence nearly 200 years ago. Only through full unity, or "integration" as it is called, can Ibero-American nations become "the protagonists of their own historic mission" and fulfill "their proper role in the universal order."

The calls for integration coming from the Andean Pact deliberations have already triggered the greatest explosion of Ibero-American nationalism seen in the continent since last century's independence struggles, as the region's potential for united economic self-defense and growth open up before the population.

It will likely be Ibero-America's international creditors who first taste the power of these integrationist ideas, if, as now seems assured, they continue their obsession with collecting the continent's pounds of flesh as payment for their usury. When Brazil faced a united front of its international creditors in mid-July, Brazil buckled and accepted some version of the IMF demands, a process through which Mexico, Argentina, and the smaller debtors have also passed in the past year. The discussions in Caracas centered on putting into place the mechanisms of economic defense so that when the next debtor is pushed against the wall, the creditors' cartel would face a debtors' cartel.

A manifesto of unity

Five formal documents resulted from the summit, centered around the "Manifesto to the Peoples of Latin America" (see excerpts, p. 35). Addressed to the rest of Ibero-America the statement calls upon Ibero-America's governments to formulate a "common, global strategy" to deal with economic matters, foreign policy, science and technology, and the eradication of the interwoven drug traffic and terrorist networks which threaten their nations.

The oppressive burden of Ibero-America's \$300 billion-plus foreign debt was a central feature of the presidents' deliberations, and the meeting concluded with the first public commitment by a group of heads of state to joint action to defend their nations' right to development against the demands of international usurers.

"We proclaim the need for the Latin American commu-

nity to reach an agreement on the problems arising from foreign indebtedness, and to prevent efforts to undermine our national sovereignty through manipulation of the international financial system," the final declaration states. "In the same way that the international banks have jointly formulated policy to defend their interests, so it is necessary for the governments of the debtor countries to agree, in turn, on a common strategy which attends to their own interests."

Pieces of a broader regional market were also assembled in Caracas. Separate cooperation and coordination accords between the Andean Pact and Panama and Argentina were signed during the Caracas summit. The Argentine accord mandates the establishment of a "permanent mechanism to exchange information, consult, and coordinate" between the Republic of Argentina and the regional body, specifying that "reciprocal consultation on matters relating to the world and regional financial-economic situation" must be intensified "in order to identify areas of agreement for eventual joint action."

Similar accords are under study by Brazil and Mexico, the Andean Pact document reports.

All eyes are now on the Aug. 1 meeting of special representatives of the Ibero-American heads of states in the Dominican Republic, where agreement on common guidelines in the renegotiation of each country's debt is to be hammered out. The Andean presidents in their final statement called upon that meeting—a closed-door session with representatives of all the countries, including the other three big debtors, Argentina, Mexico, and Brazil—to put together a "program of joint regional action."

In turn, agreement to convoke a Latin American Economic Conference in the fall is expected from the Santo Domingo meeting. That conference could then institutionalize and expand the emergency Common Market mechanisms now being put in place, into a full "Zollverein" (customs union) within the region.

A reserve of peace

The deployment of U.S. military force to Central America, dubbed "aircraft carrier diplomacy" in the Caracas press, was a constant backdrop to the summit—and universally rejected. "There is no cause or reason that can justify the military, political, or administrative presence of colonial or neocolonial powers in our region," states the Manifesto to the Peoples. "We maintain that Latin America's problems must be solved without foreign interference, that our continent must become a reserve of peace."

A separate statement of support for the peace efforts of the Contadora Group, citing specifically the peace program contained in the July Declaration of Cancún by the presidents of the Contadora Group members—Colombia, Venezuela, Mexico, and Panama—was issued by the presidents of Ecuador, Bolivia, and Peru, and the foreign ministers of Argentina and Spain at the summit.

In a banquet speech July 23, Colombian President Belisario Betancur warned of the universal rejection any super-

power military intervention in Central America will provoke. "We are mature sovereign nations," Betancur said; "today we do not need the great power games nor their balance of power designs. . . . Force is not government; a subregional order could be temporarily created by force, but that force will not create a stable government, because all our peoples would rise up to recover their dignity."

'Malvinazo financiero'

The presidents met as the continent girds its forces for a "financial Malvinazo" over the next two months; a head-on confrontation between creditors and debtors over terms and conditions of debt payment which is becoming the financial equivalent of Argentina's battle against Britain's colonialist forces in the Malvinas Islands last year.

International creditors, led by the Swiss, have broadcast their intentions to force a showdown with the debtor nations between now and the end of the third-quarter payments period Sept. 30. Their only hope for success, they are well aware, is if the debtor nations remain separated and isolated internationally.

Thus news of the Andean Pact summit and its outcome was blacked out internationally by the wire services, just as news of the dramatic success of the July 21 National Day of Protest against the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Brazil had been suppressed the week before.

Instead, international financial newspapers have concentrated on Venezuela- and Brazil-"bashing" writing of the weakness of these economies and their failure of will to impose measures austere enough to satisfy the creditors. Published threats to seize Venezuelan assets in British and London banks if Venezuela did not accept an IMF agreement in the course of August provoked an uproar in Caracas this week.

Banking sources have outlined a country-by-country strategy to break the debtors over the next two months, beginning with a mid-August confrontation between Venezuela and the IMF, followed by Mexico's Aug. 20 repayment deadline of \$1.3 billion to the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), and a September crisis with Peru.

A collapse of Argentina's credit arrangements was generally expected to wait until the end of September, when the first results are revealed of a judicial investigation into the origins and use of Argentina's public foreign debt that led to a panic at the end of July that Argentina was about to declare a cessation of payments. The finding by a team of investigators under Judge Anzoategui that no records existed for over half of Argentina's (\$40 billion debt) and that Central Bank and Finance Ministry officials had taken kickbacks for contracting many of the country's debts, led to the recommendation that a judicial order be issued blocking payment on any principal and interest until the matter was "clarified"! Now an Argentine financial crisis is viewed as imminent.

A July 24 article in the Swiss financial daily *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* under the title of "The debt crisis, Act II," outlined

the Swiss bankers' hopes—and fears—on the potential for crushing possibilities for united action. What most concerned the Swiss daily was the continuing failure to secure a firm agreement between the IMF and Brazil. "The recent strikes have shown [that the situation is on] a razor's edge," the Swiss paper acknowledged.

A frequent voicebox for BIS head Fritz Leutwiler, the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* reminded its readers that the Swiss remain committed to crushing the debtors, even if it means bringing the world financial system down. "In this game of poker, the BIS has demonstrated forcefully its determination to bring to an end the Brazilian's delaying tactics . . . the Basel institution still has the faculty of calling Brazil into default at any moment of its choosing," the paper warned.

Writing as the Andean Pact presidents issued their debt call, the Swiss voice reassured its readers that as long as key countries stick by their bilateral deals with the IMF, this "decreases the danger that the leading international debtors could gang up together and establish a cartel, and in this way dictate their conditions for debt reorganization."

The continent's creditors should study the miscalculations that surprised the NATO powers in the prosecution of the Malvinas War. Argentina was defeated in that battle, but the political will of Ibero-America was not crushed—only strengthened. It was the Malvinas War that set into motion the process of integration and unity which make possible the creation of a debtor's cartel the next time a debtor nation is pushed to the wall.

Current hardball games with Venezuela to force the government to accept a full IMF standby accord before the December elections may prove the case. Operating off a profile that Venezuela's leadership will panic and run to the IMF if pressured enough, banking circles began putting out the word that Venezuelan assets deposited abroad might be seized if Venezuela attempts to extend the 90-day moratorium on principal payments which expires Sept. 30. A *New York Times* piece July 25 citing First National of Chicago's assistant vice-president for Latin America, Robert Bond, suggesting seizure of assets as one option of the banks became front-page news in all the Caracas press.

But in the nationalist atmosphere dominating Caracas following the summit, all bets are off on how Venezuela will respond.

Presidents agree on trade and cooperation

The disintegration of the 14-year-old Andean Pact itself was reversed in the conclusions of the discussions, themselves the culmination of a month's intense preparatory work including meetings among the five central bankers, as well as among agricultural and foreign ministers to draw up docu-

ments in the month of July. Political support for the presidents' efforts was mobilized in a founding meeting of the Andean Labor Council in La Paz in mid-July, while representatives of the member nations' five Congresses met simultaneously in Caracas under the auspices of the Andean Parliament. Both the labor caucus and parliamentarians issued statements urging their governments to take the step of collective debt negotiation to combat the IMF.

Cooperation accords signed in Caracas included:

- A program to found the José Celestino Mutis Andean System for Agriculture and Food Security. The document brings agriculture under the auspices of the Andean Pact for the first time, outlining steps for transfer of technology and know-how in the field of agriculture, coordination of financing for agricultural development, and the creation of multinational agroindustrial businesses of the Andean region. A system of informational exchange on food supplies, maintenance of coordinated national food reserves to cover for emergencies, and for financing the food needs of any country in an emergency, was spelled out.

- Facilitating of **interregional trade** through a renewed commitment to reduce internal trade barriers and create new financial mechanisms for trade. In addition to committing greater resources to the Andean Development Corporation and the Andean Reserve Fund, the presidents called upon the regional organization to draw up a plan for "the gradual establishment of a unit of account applicable to certain commercial transactions within the region," to be called the Andean peso.

- The original purpose of the Andean Pact—industrial cooperation and controls upon foreign investment to ensure that it contributes to national development—were reiterated in full.

- A program of **cooperation in scientific and technological research and training** was signed, establishing permanent relations between national research efforts, mandating joint research and training programs, creation of a special fund to finance these efforts, and the organization of an annual or biannual scientific meeting, to be called the Simón Bolívar Congress on Science and Technology.

- The reiterated demand for scientific and technological developments throughout the region perhaps best reflects the renewed cultural optimism infecting the continent in spite of war, pestilence, and misery. "Scientific research elevates the cultural level of the people, and is an indispensable tool of economic and political development," the Manifesto to the Peoples of Latin America states. "Science, whether as a cultural contribution or in its multiple technological applications, is fundamental to achieving the full independence of our countries. . . . We wish to make use of it as an instrument of transformation that will enable the aspirations of the Latin American people to be realized."

'We commit our efforts to economic, political and cultural integration'

The following is a translation of the manifesto issued by the Andean Pact Presidential Summit in Caracas, the 24th of July, 1983. Subtitles are in the original.

I. Message of Unity

1) The anniversary that brings us here today and the necessary reflection provoked by the life and works of Bolívar, invite us to examine the great dilemmas that condition Latin America today, in good measure the same ones which motivated the struggle of the Liberator then and which today constitute for the peoples of the Third World an obligatory reference point in their efforts to create a new international order which will enable the elimination of all forms of political, economic, and cultural domination.

2) The unity of the nations of Latin America as an historical necessity and as a fundamental political objective so that our people can fulfill the role that corresponds to them in the universal order, was proclaimed by our liberators as an unavoidable prerequisite to face foreign entrapments and to promote internal prosperity from the crucial moments of the war for our independence.

This conviction has been concretized in numerous accords and declarations which, under the inspiration of the Treaty of Unity, League and Confederation issued by the Congress of Panama in 1826, was agreed to by the sister nations. The importance of this idea is as alive as ever in the face of the threats or aggressions that could be posed to the sovereignty and freedom of the Latin American states, so as to offer the unanimous and unified response that circumstances demand.

II. The Contemporary Reality

3) Territories left behind in the decolonizing process, reverses and weakens achievements on the road to securing economic independence; an unsatisfied desire for progress and social well-being; and constant efforts to reduce the educational and technological gap, testify to the necessity of the extraordinary effort our people are carrying out to achieve and consolidate their total independence and to project it to the most diverse areas of national life.

4) A great longing for liberty, united to a tenacious spirit of struggle, orients the daily efforts of the developing peoples

of the world who want to be the protagonists of their own historic mission and to carry it out without conditionalities of any sort.

Within the countries of the Third World a new sentiment is developing: that of consciousness of one's own identity. In Latin America we witnessed the appearance of a powerful and captivating tendency, which translates into a commitment to affirm sovereignty in all areas, particularly in economics, through the full exercise of our legitimate rights over our natural resources and their exploitation for development.

As an expression of this feeling, a process against the subjugation of our peoples by foreign powers is being reaffirmed, a fight which together with the affirmation of our Latin American identity, demands the categorical rejection of all vestiges of colonialism.

There is no cause or reason that justifies the military, political or administrative presence of colonial or neocolonial powers in our region.

5) Deplorably, new forms of oppression and hegemony have appeared which can be easily perceived in the totality of conditions which limit development and impede its financing.

Economic supremacy leads to political and cultural penetration while political and ideological domination also imply economic control and exploitation.

Frequently programs of cooperation hide new forms of colonialism, reinforcing existing injustices and contributing to the intensification of differences between rich and poor nations.

Similarly, foreign investments are called upon to serve as a useful complement to national savings, not to become one more instrument in the enrichment of the industrialized countries at the expense of the developing countries.

6) The exceptional indebtedness which burdens the developing-sector countries along with its excessively onerous terms, commits a disproportionate amount of their resources, limiting—when it does not paralyze—their own economic development.

Just as the international banks have jointly formulated policy to defend their interests, so it is necessary for the governments of the debtor countries to agree to protect their own interests within a global frame of reference.

7) The deterioration of the terms of trade continues to be

a factor which limits the development possibilities of the countries of the Third World, and is aggravated by the effects on our economies of the inflation in the industrialized countries.

To establish an equilibrium in the terms of trade, joint action is required in defense of remunerative and stable prices for basic products and for fluid access of our raw materials and manufactured goods to the markets of the industrialized countries.

The deceptive results of the UNCTAD VI congress in Belgrade have only been checked by a hopeful fact of undeniable significance: the growing unity and solidarity of the developing world.

8) Under the current circumstances, the world situation presents, besides an unprecedented economic crisis, an unrestrained arms race which has overtaken the developing countries and counters the desire for peace and prosperity that gives hope to their people. It therefore becomes an urgent necessity to concentrate resources on the tasks of development and to limit arms expenditures to the indispensable minimum for the security of the countries.

9) The promotion of balanced and harmonious development of the Latin American countries presupposes overcoming certain specific obstacles which limit the improvement of their inhabitants' living standards. In this sense, the lack of sea coast implies a genuine limitation to development efforts and to the benefits derived from direct access to the sea.

10) Development cannot be reduced to the establishment of exclusively political and economic objectives. It must also encompass the entirety of all aspects of social life. To establish a society which recognizes man as the final object of said development, it is necessary to establish not only fundamental changes of an economic character which assume a reallocation of resources, but also the introduction of innovations in cultural, educational and scientific policies. . . .

11) Science is an essential part of culture because it influences education and technology. Scientific research elevates the cultural level of peoples and is an indispensable tool of economic and political development, contributing the most important means by which to recognize, study and resolve problems such as poverty, marginalization, illiteracy, malnutrition and infant mortality, disease and agricultural and industrial backwardness. Science, whether as a cultural contribution or in its multiple technological applications, is fundamental for achieving the full independence of our countries. We therefore wish to make use of it as an instrument of transformation that will enable the aspirations of the Latin American people to be realized.

III. Integration Efforts

12) Latin American integration is an historical imperative bequeathed to us by our liberators and one of the most precious Bolivarian ideals.

The Latin American Integration Association and the Latin American Economic System are concrete expressions of these regional integration and cooperation efforts which must

be encouraged and deepened.

The challenge posed by the international economic crisis to Latin American development confers on this task an even greater urgency. The regional market must be revitalized, the human and material resources of our countries mobilized, cooperation in all areas strengthened, and coordination of common positions on economic, financial and commercial problems which affect the region encouraged.

In the same context, the processes of subregional integration represent steps toward achieving the objective of Latin American unity and, in that sense, should also be strengthened and its convergence actively promoted.

Within this, the Andean Group constitutes the most ambitious integration project undertaken in the region. Launched 14 years ago, subregional Andean integration—despite the external and internal difficulties it has encountered—remains fully in force. . . .

Inserted as part of this proposal to continue promoting Andean integration is the adoption of an Andean system of agriculture, food security and environmental preservation known as "José Celestino Mutis," in honor of the brilliant naturalist whose first great expedition coincided with the year of the Liberator's birth and which, like the other agreements and pacts which make up the subregional system, defines a new path toward the dynamic presence of Latin America among the nations of the contemporary world.

Similarly, the Caracas Program for Cooperation in Research and Scientific and Technological Training, in homage to the birthplace of the Liberator Simón Bolívar, proposes to strengthen the collaboration of our countries in these fields of human endeavor through joint programs of research, teaching, information and diffusion, convinced that this will contribute to accelerating our scientific and technological development.

IV. Latin American Solidarity

13) Aside from the complex road of integration, there also exist other expressions of Latin American solidarity which have their origins in a common and shared perception of values considered vital to the autonomous development of our peoples, such as occurred in the emancipation endeavor, when unity was based on the necessity of winning independence and of preserving it at all cost. This solidarity today cannot be renounceable, given that at this very moment Latin America is facing manifest threats and dangers derived from the world crisis; from the unjust international order which the great powers persist in maintaining; from the resurgence of bloc policies; from anachronistic colonialist incursions and from the existence of conflicts which find no just and reasonable solutions, all of which heighten the ever more burdensome tensions.

14) In the context of absolute respect for national sovereignties, flexible mechanisms are required to allow for rapid consideration of urgent and common-interest situations that threaten the independence or territorial integrity of the states of Latin America, the stability of their democratic regimes,

or the general peace.

15) In the political sphere, agreement on the critical problems of international scope must be reached. A mechanism for systematic consultation and periodic interchange of ideas on the most important subjects of political reality, can pave the way toward an indispensable unity which can facilitate the design of a global strategy for Latin American foreign policy. . . .

V. Human Rights in Effect

16) The Bolivarian ideal orients toward the organization of a political and social system inspired by respect for the fundamental rights inherent in the dignity of the human being, where the necessary conditions for achieving the fullest development of the individual and the community, within the full exercise of freedom, are guaranteed.

The fight for freedom is one of the most outstanding and admirable constants of the history of America, but the mission of the Liberator will remain incomplete as long as there exist on our continent political systems that trample freedom, dignity and the basic rights of man underfoot.

17) . . . On the regional level there has also been progress in establishing a regimen of international protection of human rights, defined in general outline by the American Declaration of the Rights of Man, which has been incorporated into the Inter-American system by the Charter of the OAS and developed institutionally within the most advanced tendencies through the San José Pact, a mechanism that merits the support and backing of the free republics of America.

VI. Peace and Violence

18) No less fundamental and unanimous is the common and unbending determination of our countries to defend the stability of our institutions and our right to live in peace, liberty, and democracy in the face of those who resort to violence with the aim of exchanging this system for a totalitarian one.

Besides individual and collective condemnation and repudiation, the effective overcoming of violence imposes a special political, social and cultural dynamic that serves to identify the origin of these phenomena and apply appropriate solutions with a constructive criteria.

An effort of social reforms much be undertaken to enable the great popular masses to derive the benefits of contemporary society and to improve the quality of their lives in terms of food, clothes, housing, education, health, and recreation as rights consubstantial with the dignity of the human person. Social justice and political freedom lay the basis for a stable peace that will put an end to the state of generalized violence.

19) The often-made proposal that the problems of Latin America be resolved by Latin Americans takes on special significance at this time through the initiatives of the "Contadora Group"; but this goal can only be fully reached with the firm will of all Latin American peoples, acting as one and guided by the solidarity informed by its community of struggles, interests and hopes.

State Department never heard of Andean summit

U.S. State and Commerce Department officials responsible for monitoring economic and political developments in Latin America and the Andean Pact nations were unaware of the resolution issued by the Andean Pact presidential summit July 24, and in some cases even of the summit itself, *EIR* has learned.

State Department spokesman Alan Romberg had no comment on the summit declaration at the July 26 department briefing.

A Commerce Department official, whose full-time responsibility is the Andean Pact, told a reporter he had not heard they were having a summit that weekend. When told the contents of the communiqué, he responded, "They always make declarations. I'm not sure how much attention we ought to pay to them. . . . There is a great deal of non-compliance within the group right now [with Andean Pact economic regulations]."

Another Commerce Department official had not seen the summit declaration. The official agreed that in some ways "more inter-regional trade makes sense for them," but "coordination on the debt" will create problems. The official then pointed out that while Brazil hadn't met the IMF program, Mexican officials were boasting to Commerce that they had met and exceeded IMF targets and did not even need to draw down their credit lines. Commerce "is the department of this government most concerned about IMF conditionalities," the official went on, "because they are slashing their imports and we're catching it from our exporters." Mexico had exceeded the IMF targets for reducing imports, and "in this case, they're going further than we want them to with the conditionalities."

A bureau of Latin American economic affairs official at the State Department had not heard of the summit. In a meeting the week of July 18, Treasury officials had said case-by-case negotiation and the recovery will take care of everything. Both State and Treasury officials had jointly reviewed the program for the Economic Commission on Latin America (ECLA) written by Enrique Iglesias [which called for joint action on the economic crisis] and did not like it. The official summed up the situation by stating, "I'm just watching Brazil and Argentina go down the tubes, and Colombia and Venezuela are also in trouble."

This unity of purpose becomes especially necessary to resolve the grave situation afflicting Central America, where at the present time violence has acquired the most tragic characteristics.

The imposition of authentically democratic regimes is an essential factor for re-establishing peace. This is only possible through the free expression of popular will, exercised through elections where pluralist participation, the honesty of the process, and respect for its results are guaranteed. . . .

VII. Democracy, Freedom and Pluralism

20) . . . The vicissitudes the countries of America have faced for more than 150 years of republican life toward the construction of democracy, far from signifying a sociological determinism that would make the regimen of public freedom a utopia with no basis in reality, in fact is proof of the unequivocal will of the peoples of our continent to establish, effectively and against all types of adversity, a political regime of authentic popular representation at the service of the common good of the different national collectivities.

21) The systematic and repeated practice of elections not only represents the only means to validate legitimacy in the exercise of power but by the natural alternation that it generates, when protected by the necessary guarantees so that through these it effectively manifests the popular will, it constitutes the most effective means by which pluralism can become not only the possibility of expressing ideas, tendencies and opinions under purest freedom, but also so that respect for rights other than one's own can become firmly rooted in the hearts of men and becomes a permanent way of life, the only way to make development of civil society in peace possible.

Therefore, democracy and its daily practice are not just a goal that can be reached once peace is established, but on the contrary, the ideal means by which this goal can be reached on a solid basis.

To postpone or dispense with an appeal to the popular will becomes a factor in generating tensions which can lead to situations of generalized violence, making ever more difficult the road to peace and freedom, the irrevocable aspirations and goals of Latin American man. . . .

VIII. Final Declaration

The heads of state of the republics of Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia and Panama:

United by the thought of the Liberator Simón Bolívar, identified in the diagnosis of Latin American and world reality, and committed to a joint effort to make of the Bolivarian doctrine an effective way of life for our people, declare:

First, we affirm Latin American unity as an indispensable condition by which our nations can acquire within the international community the place to which they have the right, and we commit our efforts to achieving the economic, political and cultural integration of the region.

Second, we proclaim with pride the Latin American essence of our people, a melting pot of races, and our proud decision to continue as such within the universal spirit open to all ethnic and cultural contributions to humanity.

Third, we affirm that the Latin American destiny of our people is our own destiny. We therefore reject the policy of blocs and the attempt to link objectives of world supremacy with the contemporary processes of our countries. Alignment with this policy weakens the unified march of the Latin American Community.

Fourth, we reaffirm our will to continue to struggle with bold enthusiasm for a new international order capable of guaranteeing freedom, peace and justice to all the peoples of the earth.

Fifth, we confirm our unity with other peoples of the Third World to confront underdevelopment, and establish a New Economic Order which reverses the tendency toward deterioration of terms of trade, assures just prices for raw materials in the international markets, and leads to the indispensable overcoming of the technological gap.

Sixth, we proclaim the need for the Latin American community to reach an agreement on the problems arising from foreign indebtedness and to prevent efforts to undermine our national sovereignty by manipulating the international financial system.

Seventh, we express our full support to the meeting of special representatives of the heads-of-state of the region to be held in the Dominican Republic to analyze the proposals contained in the document "Bases of a Latin American Response to the International Economic Crisis," and the convening of a Latin American Economic Conference to implement a joint regional action program.

Eighth, we affirm the necessity of reorienting the multilateral monetary and financial agencies, internationally and regionally, to enable them to offer to the developing countries effective, opportune and sufficient help to permit them to pay their foreign debt and supercede the emergency.

Ninth, We reiterate that foreign investments should be subjected to the legal order of the country in which they exercise their activities, and if it be the case, to the common multilateral regimens, and to cooperate in encouraging programs that lead to further prosperity and consolidation and progress.

Tenth, we ratify our decision to encourage science and technology in our nations, convinced that they are fundamental factors of integration and important tools of political, economic and cultural change.

Eleventh, we condemn the illegal drug traffic which has disrupted contemporary society and whose impact on the economy and politics demands a decisive and joint action for its eradication.

Twelfth, we reiterate our conviction of the necessity of limiting arms expenditures and applying these resources instead to the tasks of economic and social development of all peoples.

Thirteenth, we affirm categorically the intrinsic equality of all states and, as a result, the need to establish democratic management of the international community, the only way respect for individuality and each country's way of life will not depend on its level of development or military capability.

Fourteenth, we pose the necessity for an effective reform of the regional international agencies, so that in them our community can efficiently develop the necessary constructive dialogue with other nations of the hemisphere and with other regional communities.

Fifteenth, we reaffirm respect for the principle of self-determination of peoples and, therefore, we reject all direct or indirect intervention in the internal affairs of each state.

Sixteenth, we maintain that Latin America's problems must be solved without foreign interference, that our continent must become a reserve of peace and that the internal peace of our republics assumes freedom and justice, as well as effective maintenance of participatory democracy.

Seventeenth, we ratify our democratic faith not only as a political system but as a way of life, effective guarantee against anarchy and despotism. We affirm participatory democracy as the Latin American option for traveling the path of progress toward the future.

Eighteenth, we maintain our adhesion to the principle of ideological pluralism, an indispensable element in the institutionalization of freedom and so that Latin America will have the consciousness of a nation of free men.

Nineteenth, we affirm our unalterable will to fight for respect of human rights, an aspiration rooted in our peoples and the true motivation that led us to attain the condition of sovereign nations.

Twentieth, we support the struggle to rescue the dignity of the human person wherever he may be subjugated, and we commit ourselves to defend that being wherever he or she may be.

Twenty-first, on this bicentennial anniversary of the birth of the Liberator Simón Bolívar, we call on the governments and peoples of the different republics of our one great nation to construct a democratic Latin American community that will allow us an active solidarity among ourselves and a united and meaningful presence in the international arena.

Twenty-second, to all the countries of the world we offer our fraternal and unified support to the causes of freedom, justice and peace, for which Simón Bolívar, the common father of our nations in whose memory we have gathered two centuries later in the city of his birth, Caracas, always fought.

July 24, 1983

Luis Herrera Campins, president of Venezuela
Belisario Betancur, president of Colombia
Osvaldo Hurtado Larrea, president of Ecuador
Fernando Belaunde Terry, president of Peru
Hernán Siles Zuazo, president of Bolivia
Jorge Illueca, vice-president of Panama,
representing President Ricardo de la Espriella

Club of Life mobilizes for Operation Juárez

by Mary McCourt

Emergency conferences held by the Club of Life July 20 to 25 drew 1,200 persons in support of a call for the formation of a debtors' cartel. The call was made by the presidents of the Andean Pact nations—Colombia, Venezuela, Bolivia, Ecuador, and Peru—when they met in Caracas, Venezuela on July 24, Simón Bolívar Day. The Club of Life conferences, held in 14 cities in Europe, 30 cities in North America, and 3 in Ibero-America, were mandated by founder Helga Zepp-LaRouche to put all the resources of this, the only international organization committed to stopping international genocide and the destruction of culture, behind Operation Juárez—the fight for a debtors' cartel and common development policy for Ibero-America.

The conferences focused on *EIR* founder Lyndon LaRouche's assertion that replacing the "age of manipulation" with "age of consultation" is the only way to end both the economic crisis and the careers of such political thugs as Trilateral Commissioner Henry Kissinger, whose deployment is to smash all momentum for a debtors' cartel.

Conferences held July 21 in Washington, D.C. and New York brought large numbers of Ibero-American and African diplomats to hear U.S. Club of Life coordinator Nancy Spannaus, National Democratic Policy Committee chairman Warren Hamerman, and *EIR* Washington bureau chief Richard Cohen in Washington, and Club of Life founding members Frederick Wills and Antony Papert in New York. Wills is a former foreign minister of Guyana.

Telegrams from the United States, Europe, and Ibero-America were sent to the Caracas meeting, both from the Club of Life conferences and from farm groups and trade union leaders. A total of 225 leaders in the U.S. labor movement, along with delegates to the Mexican-American Political Association at their West Coast convention, endorsed the call by Pedro Rubio, secretary general of the Colombian Workers Union, for the formation of a North-South Labor Committee of the Club of Life, through which unionists of the advanced sector and underdeveloped nations can unite to stop the depression.

From Peru to Chicago to Rome

The Club of Life conference in Lima, Peru was addressed by Enrique Aviles, a representative of the Workers Union of the Peruvian Revolution (CTRP) and a leading member of the newly formed Andean Labor Council, which in July called for the Andean governments to collectively renegotiate