

Andean Report by EIR's Lima Bureau

Peronist leader Labaké in Peru

Perhaps for the first time, a major political figure travels to promote Ibero-American integration.

I am giving the impetus to an alliance for Latin American integration, formed by political and union leaders, managers, intellectuals and retired officers of the armed forces of each Latin American country," the Argentinian Peronist leader Juan Gabriel Labaké said on Sept. 4 during a press conference in Lima, Peru.

Labaké introduced his new book, *A Proposal for 30 Million*, to the press, and declared that his tour has two major objectives: "to create the conscience in the bases of our society toward integration and to produce concrete deeds that help our rulers to move towards the road of integration"; and "to render my complete support to President Alan García for the boldness and courage of his proposal; he needs and deserves a greater support from all the Latin American nations."

On Sept. 2, Labaké began a tour through Peru, Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, and Ecuador. It is perhaps the first time that a major political figure has traveled specifically to organize and promote the objective of Ibero-American integration. An activist in the Justicialist Party, Labaké was named a member of the directing board of the Peronist Superior Command in 1984 by former President of Argentina, María Estela Martínez de Perón.

Regarding his book, Labaké stated that it is a fraternal proposal to promote the unity of all Latin America. "No nation," he stated, "can free itself from political dependence if it is not

through a subcontinental alliance that joins our 21 nations, which represent a force of 300 million."

In the book Labaké states that the foreign debt is a great obstacle and that a global restructuring is needed. In Argentina's case, Labaké proposes a maximum limit of 20% of export income for the payment of the debt (about \$2 billion a year). The rescheduling of the debt, he states, must be done on the basis of the development requirements of nations, and not on the basis of the recessive prescriptions of the International Monetary Fund.

In response to a question about the expected results of his tour, Labaké said that the productive sectors of the economies will be those which accomplish concrete results. Soon, many governments will join; we must defend the rights of our nations and fight together. "If in comparison we observe the great pool of 800 creditor banks and the great power they represent—since they control not only the credit but also the reserves—to fight alone is like fighting against windmills. Therefore, we must not leave President Alan García alone; his victory will be that of all Latin Americans."

"Peronist leader demands support for Peruvian thesis," was the headline on page 3 of the Peruvian government-owned *La Crónica* on Sept. 5, above a photo of Labaké. The article began, "Juan Gabriel Labaké demanded total Latin American support for President

Alan García's efforts on payment of foreign debt." It described Labaké's tour for Ibero-American unity, the press conference, and his book on how Argentina could become one of the world's top powers.

The staid *El Comercio* quoted Labaké's answer to a question about reprisals the International Monetary Fund might take: "Those are just threats, because the creditor banks would be the first to go under if there were a consensus of countries not to pay the debt." "A country can't go bankrupt." As an example of IMF viciousness, Labaké cited the announcement that Argentina's insulin supply would be cut off "if it resisted paying debt service."

Labaké told *El Comercio*, "Money, credit, taxes, etc. must be put to the service of production if you really want a country's economy to recover."

In Mexico City, the next stop on Labaké's tour, two dailies, *El Financiero* and *El Nacional*, ran an AP cable datelined Lima under the headlines: "Peronist leader calls for front of debtor countries" and "J.G. Labaké, Peronist leader, urges debtor unity." AP reported that Labaké said, "The triumph of the Peruvian President will be a victory for all Latin Americans in the difficult struggle on payment of the foreign debt which exhausts all the governments in this part of the continent."

Many will be reminded of the famous "Operation Juárez" proposal of U.S. economist Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. In fact, Mr. Labaké went to the United States in July to meet with LaRouche. He told the press in Buenos Aires at the time that he hoped to "bring back the technical information which we need to establish an institute dedicated specifically to studying the process of integral industrialization for the next decade."