

Stop the Mexican System of Genocide!

Neither Economic Liberalism, Nor the Farce of Pronasol!

On Feb. 5 a statement was issued by the Ibero-American Solidarity Movement in Mexico City, excerpts of which appear below.

The Ibero-American Solidarity Movement calls on all business, labor, farm, and citizen organizations, both in Mexico and Ibero-America, to mobilize to demand cancellation of the international conference scheduled for this September, sponsored by the National Solidarity Program (Pronasol). To be held in Oaxaca, the conference will be co-sponsored by the World Bank, the United Nations, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, and the Harvard-dominated Mexican government.

With this conference, the Anglo-American financial oligarchy plans to extend the Mexican model of genocide throughout Ibero-America, Eastern Europe, and the world. Already, versions of Pronasol have been set up in Argentina, Brazil, and other Ibero-American countries.

Contrary to the propaganda of the conference's co-sponsors, Pronasol is not a more charitable alternative to savage capitalism. It is a World Bank program to extend neoliberal economic policy wherever it shows its ugly face.

The looting and genocide are being carried out through the International Monetary Fund's shock ther-

apy and brutal austerity programs required to guarantee foreign debt payment. The truth is, that debt is unpayable. Over the last ten years of austerity programs, Ibero-America has paid more than it owed, yet its debt is now larger: In 1980, Ibero-America owed \$242.5 billion. From 1980 to 1990, in interest alone, we paid \$320.8 billion, and now we owe more than \$429 billion.

This is bankers' usury, pure and simple! The results are seen in astounding governmental corruption, misery, cholera and AIDS, as well as narco-terrorism financed and protected by the same Anglo-American oligarchy, as with Sendero Luminoso in Peru.

In the case of Mexico, in 1980, the foreign debt amounted to \$57 billion. Over ten years, we paid \$95 billion—almost double the original debt—but now we owe over \$100 billion.

However the Mexican government may try to dress up its statistics, the truth is, its austerity programs have thrown forty million people into poverty, of whom seventeen million are barely surviving in conditions of extreme poverty. These same programs have caused a 60% drop in purchasing power; a horrendous 50% unemployment rate; the generalized bankruptcy of agricultural producers; and bankruptcy of up to 30% of small and medium-sized businesses.

A New Auschwitz

Pronasol is a significant element in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA); it is designed to transform Mexico into an Auschwitz-style slave labor camp, modeled on what Adolf Hitler created in Nazi Germany.

It is no accident the *Wall Street Journal* gushed praise of Pronasol in a Jan. 8 article: "The do-it-yourself antipoverty plan has been such a success that hardware stores can scarcely keep picks and shovels in stock.... Solidarity road-building projects... cost just 70% of what the government used to pay."

These self-help and road-building programs are modeled on the slave labor projects—*Arbeitsdienst*—set up by Hitler and his Economics Minister Hjalmar Schacht, to employ the workers forced out of industrial and agricultural employment as a result of the looting imposed on Germany by the Versailles Treaty. Today, the I.M.F., the usurious Wall Street and London banks, and the World Bank have imposed the same conditions on Ibero-America to guarantee foreign debt payment.

In place of Pronasol, Ibero-America needs productive jobs and respect for human dignity. This will only be possible with debt moratorium, Ibero-America's economic integration based on large infrastructure projects, and development of our Hispanic-Catholic cultural tradition.

No to Pronasol's International Conference!
Productive Work and Dignity, not Slave Labor and Crumbs!
Debt Moratoria and Ibero-American Common Market Now!