

hold the bag for the unemployment and depression rampant in West Germany. Once this is done, Strauss' victory is ensured.

SOUTH KOREANS CAUTIOUS ON DEBT MORATORIUM OPTION

NEW YORK, N.Y., Dec. 24 (IPS)--For the past week, bankers have been heatedly debating whether South Korea will default on its debt. The collapse of commodity prices, particularly electronics and textiles, are bringing these industries to a halt and along with it South Korea's ability to pay its \$6 billion debt. Even the recent devaluation of the Korean Won, a panic move to bolster exports and foreign investment, will aggravate the situation as long as the world market stagnates and foreign capital from debt-strapped countries like Japan continues to dry up.

The Korean loan officer at Chemical Bank in New York, when asked what the borrowing status of the Korean Government was, replied: "We cannot say whether we will or will not give loans to Korea next year. We have to be very cautious." When asked whether Korea will be able to pay back the short-term credit it borrowed to pay off its \$2 billion balance of payments deficit, he answered, "This is the big question."

A representative from the Bank of Korea, when briefed by an IPS reporter, maintained safe silence. Another from the Korea Exchange Bank claimed that he could not understand English, and would the reporter please write the question out.

The question of default would have never been considered if Rockefeller's development strategy had ever materialized. The losses the Korean economy has incurred in the light industrial sector were to be compensated for by incoming investments in heavy industry, such as steel and petrochemical plants scheduled for relocation from Japan and Western Europe. The Rockefeller cabal's inability to get these projects off the ground has left Korea and other Third World countries with a sky-rocketing debt and no way to pay it off.

Convinced that they will get a large petrodollar loan from Saudi Arabia or other Rocky sheikhdoms, the Koreans have so far refused to consider a debt moratorium. The Financial Officer at the Korean Embassy in New York City hysterically denied to IPS that any problem exists with Korea financing its debt. He was, however, quick to add: "The U.S. banks can't give us any more money and we have to go to the Arabs."