

## Editorial

### *Pope gives an alternative*

While some of the most evil men in the world were meeting in Bangkok during the week of Oct. 14—site of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) meeting—Pope John Paul II began a 10-day visit to Brazil. He began his visit on Oct. 14 by counterposing the dignity of man to a bankers' dictatorship. "One must state firmly," he said, "so that the whole world hears it, that a country's foreign debt can never be paid at the expense of the hunger and poverty of its people."

This is precisely the opposite of the message coming from Bangkok, where the arrogant representatives of the British Crown and its American followers, not only demand that debt repayment be made sacrosanct, but have spelled out the means to enforce this at the cost of human lives. The message from Bangkok is austerity, and then more austerity. This, of course, is not new—the IMF and the World Bank have already written off the whole of Africa, put the dope mafia into power in Ibero-America as their debt collectors, and are deployed to impose a bankers' tyranny on nations newly freed from the enslavement of the Soviet empire. What is new is that now they are turning their attack on a major industrial nation—and one with a relatively healthy economy—Germany.

Thus, they had nothing but praise for the brutal George Bush, who has vetoed extension of unemployment benefits in the United States. Right now, in the U.S., as industry and state and local governments are laying off thousands and tens of thousands of workers, and as there are fewer and fewer jobs to be had, unemployment insurance is the only lifeline for families as their savings vanish. This is especially so in states such as Michigan, which are denying home relief to men and women who do not have direct responsibility for caring for young children and are of working age.

When their unemployment insurance runs out, these people become homeless drifters, dependent upon private charity for bread and soup to sustain them. Already in major U.S. cities such as Detroit, cardboard shacks are turning vacant lots into shanty towns for these people. These people are being condemned to slow death.

This brutal, godless state of affairs is being praised by the bankers who sit on top of the world financial system, and moreover they have attacked the German government for failing to follow the American model, for failing to lower wages and cut social benefits. They would force Europe to destroy that remaining industrial and agricultural potential which is the only hope for the peoples of eastern Europe and the republics of the former Soviet Union.

This is a turning point for Germany. There is no longer any room for compromise possible. The German government can no longer afford to capitulate or compromise with the Anglo-Americans who are using trade war and every other sort of pressure, to destroy the economic potential of Germany—and therefore of the whole of Europe. One can clearly say that Europe missed the historic chance of 1989 with the reunification of Germany, by sticking to its pragmatic idiocy. Then, again, with the failed coup in the Soviet Union, there was another chance. But potentials do not remain there in the refrigerator. If the time for action is not seized, then it is missed. At this very moment we are very, very close to missing the second historic opportunity.

At the very moment of the IMF meeting, the signs are of impending bank collapse as banks in Scandinavia, Britain, and the United States admit huge losses. This is merely fueling the hysteria of the Anglo-Americans who are trying to impose their wreckage on every other country so that somehow in the face of economic bankruptcy they will still retain political hegemony over a dying world.

The Anglo-American rulers are the scourge of the earth. They are bringing war to every part of the globe, killing whole continents. This is sheer madness, a dark age worse than any which mankind has suffered before. Either the Pope's message is heeded, either Lyndon LaRouche's infrastructure development policies are followed, or we will soon reach a point of no return.

"One must state firmly, so that the whole world hears it, that a country's foreign debt can never be paid at the expense of the hunger and poverty of its people."