



The *Brazil-Information newsletter* is published under the joint responsibility of three Brazilian organizations: *Federation of Agencies for Social and Educational Assistance (FASE)*, the *Pastoral Commission for Lands (CPT)*, and *Brazilian Institute for Social and Economic Studies (IBASE)*, the latter of which is responsible for its actual production. This issue, Vol I No 1, follows two previous publications. *Fase Informe* Nov-Dec 1981 and *Fase Informe* Jan-Feb 1982, published by FASE. From this issue on, the newsletter will be published simultaneously in French and English, on a bimonthly basis. We will soon also be publishing a Portuguese-language edition for domestic and Latin American circulation.

FASE is a non-profit organization with over twenty years of experience among Brazil's rural and urban poor. The CPT was founded in 1976 by a group of priests and pastoral agents to support Brazilian farmworkers and small landholders. IBASE was created in Rio de Janeiro in 1980 with the objectives of promoting the circulation of basic information on Brazil and on international issues, especially among grass-roots movements and organizations; accompanying the evolution of Brazilian economic, political and social developments; and carrying out analyses and specific projects in response to the expressed needs of community, trade union, church, etc. organizations.

The industrialized countries of the north maintain a monopoly, and can impose their own criteria in the handling and circulation, of informations, as we all know. On the other hand, with the consolidation of the military regimes in Latin America, growing attention has been given to fundamental issues of human rights. At the same time, much less attention has been given to developments in Brazil during recent years.

We are convinced, however, that, especially during this transitional period, Brazil deserves close and on-going attention, given the weight and the gravity of the problems it is confronting. Suffice it to recall, for example, that with the

world's sixth largest population, Brazil's per capita expenditure on education places it near the bottom of any international ranking; that with the world's ninth largest GDP, the richest five per cent of the population own more than the poorest fifty per cent; that despite being the second largest food exporter in the world, millions of Brazilians live in absolute poverty and 80 per cent are under-nourished; that Brazil plays a key role in the Western world's financial system and is a key market for the recycling of petrodollars.

The Brazil-Information newsletter therefore contributes to filling a void in terms of information on the country's social, political and economic situation. Its main audience will be the agencies and organizations concerned with international development, rural and urban trade unions and information and documentation centers dealing with Latin America. Each edition will cover information gathered from both the "official" and "alternative" press, from specialized periodicals and from first-hand studies and information gathered by the organizations responsible for its publication.

Presentation by Brazil-Information

CIPEC Quarterly Review

Published by the Intergovernmental Council of Copper Exporting Countries, 177, Avenue du Roule, Neuilly-sur-Seine, France.

Development and Peace

A semi-annual journal devoted to economic, political and social aspects of development and international relations. Published by the Hungarian Peace Council and the World Peace Council, Kultura, H-1389 Budapest, PO Box 149, Hungary.

Economic Quarterly-Wissenschaftliche Beiträge

An exchange of ideas on the economics of developing countries with economists and other social scientists in the GDR. Published by the Institute for the Economy

of Developing Countries, University of Economic Science, 1157 Berlin, Hermann-Duncker Strasse 8, GDR.

IWGIA Newsletter

A quarterly documentation which deals with the oppression of indigenous peoples. Published by the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs, Fiolstraede 10, DK-1171 Copenhagen K, Denmark.

IPW Forschungshefte

A quarterly on international economics and politics published by Institut für Internationale Politik und Wirtschaft der DDR, 1020 Berlin, Breite Strasse 11, DDR.

No 2/82

This issue is an updated and revised of issue 4/1977, which appeared under the same title. It features selected statistic materials on the development of capitalist economies and particularly of the major industrialized capitalist countries, that is of the USA, Japan, West Germany, France, Great Britain and Italy. The tables and lists are based on statistic materials of international organizations (primarily UN, IMF, OECD) or of statistics offices in some of the countries as well as other publications in the field. They refer in the main to the seventies and in many cases also contain data for previous years (from 1950 to 1960).

The tables of the seven sections focus on the following subjects: some basic trends in the development of the international capitalist economic system; major structural data as, for example, the Gross National Product and the crisis cycle; the process of monopolization; the dynamics of industrial production and industrial structure; food situation and agricultural production; the material and social situation of workers; and foreign trade relations of the major capitalist countries.

NPN (Native People's News)

A quarterly newspaper which tries to present indigenous struggles from the perspective — and in the words — of their participants. Published by CIMRA, 218 Liverpool Road, London N.I., England.

BOOK REVIEW

Participation and Action for Environment and Development

A bi-monthly newsletter published by the International Youth Federation for Environment Studies and Conservation, Klostermollevej 48, DK 8660, Skanderborg, Denmark.

La Lettre de SOLAGRAL

A bulletin dealing with economic, political and social aspects of world agriculture from a French perspective. Published by the association Solidarites Agro-Alimentaires, 100 rue St-Helier, 35100 Rennes, France.

No 4: *Les Consommateurs Sous Influences*

No 5: *Produits Laitiers*

No 6: *Dossier Soya*

No 7: *Les Agriculteurs Francais et le Tiers Monde*

No 8: *Dossier soya (2)*

No 9: *Le modèle agricole en débat*

No 10: *Aliments du Bétail*

No 11: *L'aventure incertaine des poulets voyageurs*

Transnational, Brief

A quarterly periodical to assist unionists to investigate the problems they face in their workplaces and communities – problems such as those associated with technological change, work environment, unemployment and economic policy. Published by TNC Workers Research, GPO Box 161, Sydney, NSW 2001, Australia. No 9: A survey of the major new and proposed energy development projects in Australia.

URANIUM

An international quarterly journal for the publication of original studies and comprehensive reviews in the field of uranium. The journal endeavours to maintain a high scientific level and through its international coverage, contribute to a sound development in this field. Published by the Elsevier Scientific Publishing Company, P O Box 330, 1000 AH Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Vol 1, No 1, Nov 1982: *Geology, Exploration, Mining and Milling, and Environmental Aspects*.

DATA CENTER

464 19TH ST.
OAKLAND, CA
94612



Data Center, Corporate Profiles: Mining Companies. Price 100 USD.

Address: CDC,
464 19th Street, Oakland
California 946 12, USA
Phone: (415) 835-4692

During 1982 the number of unemployed miners in the capitalist world has increased dramatically. But so far the unions have had limited success in challenging the policies of the large transnational mining companies that control the industry. The TNCs seem almost undefeatable. How have the companies succeeded in imposing their policies? The reasons are, of course, many and complex, but as the crisis deepens it gets more and more obvious that the transnational mining companies not only control minerals and metals markets, but also information on what they are doing and planning. The TNCs are able to control and manipulate information to workers and to the public through their own global information networks transmitting data and coordinating decision-making in all continents. In this way the TNCs are able to divide and rule.

To understand the global strategies of the TNCs and to anticipate their economic, political, social and ecological consequences it is of vital importance to analyse their local activities, especially in the country where they have their decision-making base.

This, however, is a difficult task. But the *Corporate Profiles* of the largest

mining companies in the world, published by the *Data Center*, a US-based research group, greatly facilitates this work. The *Corporate Profiles* consist of articles selected from labour, business, daily and other press sources published during 10 years.

The *Profiles* offer an excellent introduction to the mining TNCs' financial, social and political impact. They provide comprehensive and well organized information on each company. The *Profiles* also give the historical background needed to understand the fragmented news that appear on TV and in newspapers when "something is happening" at a mine.

The *Data Center* is a non-profit organization with a research library and an information service. It provides research and information for "labor, community, ing to gain control of their lives". With the *Information Services on Latin America* (ISLA) the *Data Center* forms the *Investigative Resource Center*, providing many other services than the *Corporate Profiles*.

The *Mining Company Profiles* at present include 16 of the most powerful of the North American mining TNCs and the British resource conglomerate Rio Tinto-Zinc.

Inco and Noranda – profiles on two Canadian TNCs

Both *Profiles* contain approximately 150 articles, mostly from US business

All readers interested in further information (addresses, prices, etc) on books and periodicals listed in RMR are welcome to contact the editors.

periodicals such as Business Week, Wall Street Journal and Fortune but also daily newspapers like New York Times, Washington Post and Christian Science Monitor. Included in the material are also some radical journals, ie In These Times, Canadian Dimension and The Elements. Only a few journals from the mining industry itself are used as sources: World Mining, Canadian Mining Journal and Engineering and Mining Journal. These publications are not covered completely and the clippings from them are few. However, this is not a serious disadvantage. A lot of valuable information can of course be found by a systematic clipping of these industry sources. But it is easy to find that information by searching the relevant journals' indexes and add that to the Profiles.

The subjects covered in each Profile include:

- Corporate background and history
- Ownership and control
- Corporate finances
- Subsidiaries and divisions
- Geographic operations
- Labor relations
- Consumer and public relations
- Government relations

The main emphasis and best coverage is on the fourth and fifth points, which in both the Noranda and the Inco Profiles cover around half of all articles. The activities of the two companies in Latin America is well documented, but is less complete for other parts of the world. The articles give a good historic background and include the most important material from each year back to the early 1970s, thus enabling the reader to understand the dynamics of the company. In the Inco case the historical material is possibly dominating a bit too much, more than 35 per cent of the cuttings was originally published before 1975. But most of the material is up to date and in the Noranda profile as much as 30 per cent of the material dates from 1981 and 1982.

So when you plan to research a min-

ing TNC, first check if it is included among the Data Center's Company Profiles. That will save you a lot of work!

Magnus Ericsson, RMR.

Agriculture and agribusiness

The following short list of relevant sources has been compiled with the hope that they can be taken into account for possible future editions of "World Hunger" (see page 5 in this issue), as well as for other works of this kind:

From and on the socialist countries

As a general observation it can be said that most socialist countries have institutions specializing in agriculture and/or the problems of the developing countries. Most of these institutions publish books, articles or abstracts in English. This source of information is unfortunately largely ignored by scholars and journalists in the capitalist countries. Here we will mention just two examples:

- The Institute for World Economics of the Hungarian Academy Sciences, which edits *Geography of World Agriculture, Studies on Developing Countries* and the more general *Trends in World Economy*.

- The Institute for the Economy of Developing Countries, at the University of Economic Science, "Bruno Leuschner", in Berlin, GDR, which publishes a regular research report called the *Scientific Papers*.

Transnational corporations

A special bibliographic edition of *IDOC Bulletin* (no 3-4 1982) presents what it modestly calls "a few basic publications on the role of transnational corporations in agriculture". In fact many of the entries in this very useful publication refer to little known radical research published between 1970-1980. It also includes addresses to research groups and organizations. The Bulletin was published in cooperation with the Programme on TNCs of the World Council of Churches.

Trade unions

Material on different aspects union work can be obtained directly from a number of unions in developed as well as underdeveloped countries. Here we will give just two examples:

- *Labour Issues* and other material published by the International Union of Food and Allied Workers Association in Geneva.
- The *Tea Worker* from Sri Lanka gives a "third world" perspective on the struggle of plantation workers in that country.

Books received

S P Amarasingam, *The Industrialized Nations of the West and Third World*, Tribune Publications, Colombo, 1982.

C E Beigie and A O Hero, Jr. editors, *Natural Resources in US-Canadian Relations, Vol. 1: The Evolution of Policies and Issues*, Westview Press, Colorado, 1980.

Environmental Health Criteria 15: Tin and Organotin Compounds, United Nations Environment Programme and World Health Organisation, Geneva, 1980.

Environmental Legislation Survey, International Primary Aluminium Institute, London 1981.

A Gedicks, J Clokey, R Kennedy and M Soref, *Land Grab: The Corporate Theft of Wisconsin's Mineral Resources*, The Centre for Alternative Mining Development Policy, Madison, 1982.

Latin America Bureau Special Brief: Brazil - *State and Struggle*, London, 1982.

R El Mallakh and D H El Mallakh, *Saudi Arabia: Energy, Development Planning and Industrialization*, Lexington Books, Lexington, 1982.

Lotte Müller-Ohlsen, *Non-Ferrous Metals: Their Role in Industrial Development*, Woodhead-Faulkner Ltd., Cambridge, in association with Metallgesellschaft AG, Frankfurt, 1981.

E Nukhovich, *International Monopolies and Developing Countries*, Progress Publishers, Moscow, 1980.

Gonzalo Oroza - Kai Torvi: *International Commodity Agreements for Minerals*, Economic Planning Centre, Helsinki, 1982. ■