

coup d'état in Moscow has raised the ante and brought new demands from the fledgling sovereign republics.

In these difficult circumstances, what may motivate policy-makers and public opinion in the West to divert resources to Central and Eastern Europe? The end of the Cold War, all now realize, is not the end of insecurity, but rather a source of disturbing new insecurities. The fundamental insecurity for Western donors, particularly in Europe, turns around the fear that failure of the economic and political transition in Eastern Europe could spill over and jeopardize Western prosperity and stability. Concern is heightened at a time when the European Single Market is being consolidated. For Jacques Delors, President of the European Commission, the main rationale for increasing aid to the CEEC rests on the fact that: "There is a grave risk that these countries will become bankrupt and the democratic reforms will be stifled."<sup>4</sup> By coordinating G-24 aid, the EC has necessarily become the "world leader of the 'salvation army'," recognizing "that if it does not do more to help Eastern Europeans stay at home and earn a living it might have to face the prospect of massive westward migration."<sup>5</sup>

Apprehension about Eastern European immigration is fuelled by social tensions and political debate in Europe over Third World immigrants. *The Economist* warned its readers last spring that:

As unemployment sweeps through Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union disintegrates, the numbers may continue in the low millions in each year of the 1990s. The citizens of Western Europe, already suffering from rising unemployment, are deploying troops to keep out refugees along the old Iron Curtain.<sup>6</sup>

What may have sounded alarmist became a reality in front-page news photos of Italian troops holding back rioting Albanian refugees. Small wonder that the G-7 at the London Summit last July reaffirmed support for Central and East European reforms by underscoring the West's self-interest in their success.<sup>7</sup>

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4 "Europe Supports \$2.4 Billion plan to assist Kremlin," *New York Times*, 15 December 1990.

5 This felicitous phrase is David Buchan's in the *Financial Times* (London), 4 February 1991.

6 *The Economist* editorial "Poor Men at the Gates," 16 March 1991

7 G-7 Political Declaration as reprinted in *Le Monde*, 17 July 1991.