

Report on UN Habitat Conference:

Advocates of Genocide Blocked, New World Economic Order on Agenda

June 5 (NSIPS) — The United Nations Conference on Human Settlement (Habitat) currently going on in Vancouver, Canada, was originally planned by the World Bank and an assortment of collaborating academicians as a forum where Third World governments would be organized into the World Bank's plans for "labor intensive development" — deurbanization, deindustrialization, and the destruction of entire populations to ensure debt payments. The conference has instead already become an effective forum for the bitterest enemies of the World Bank and the Club of Rome.

The developing country delegates have rejected the World Bank's genocidal programs and, led by Mexican President Luis Echeverria, have pressed their strongest demands yet of a new world economic order. The attempt to create a controlled environment of zero growth rhetoric was streamrolled from the start by interventions of the International Caucus of Labor Committees, whose exposure of the actual genocidal content of the World Bank program has received international press coverage.

With a week still to go in the conference, the major institutional proposal of the World Bank forces, the call for the establishment of a "Human Settlement Foundation" to coordinate de-urbanization has already been effectively defeated by universal denunciation from both the socialist sector and the developing countries.

Preparations for the Conference

From its inception three years ago, plans and preparations for the Habitat conference have remained under the control of World Bank head Robert S. McNamara (former U.S. Secretary of Defense) and his close colleague Enrique Penalosa, director of the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank's Latin American affiliate. Penalosa has been in direct charge of the conference in his position as Habitat Secretary General. All policies pushed by McNamara for the conference have had a singular purpose — minimize Third World imports and maximize exports to ensure debt re-payments.

The proposed method of squeezing debt service from the Third World is de-urbanization — the enforced movement of as many people as possible from cities to labor-intensive agricultural projects. This is to be coupled with a policy of deindustrialization — substitution of labor-intensive techniques for capital-intensive ones in both manufacturing and construction. The intended effect of such policies of enforced regression of labor productivity — and their inevitable effect — is a massive reduction in consumption levels of the world population and the elimination of tens of millions of "useless eaters."

To persuade Third World governments to accept his programs of fascist genocide, McNamara and his collection of academic apologists, overlapping with those working for the Club of Rome, have devised two basic covers. The first, which he employs in the official pamphlet prepared by the World Bank for the Habitat conference, is the need to increase "employment." With monumental gall, McNamara justifies his policy as in the interests of the world's "poorest billion" — the very people who will be triaged and worked to

death to honor debt service. Labor-intensive methods, says McNamara's pamphlet, are merely ways to provide the poor with what they need most — jobs. Even Adolf Hitler did not try to argue that Auschwitz was aimed at alleviating Jewish unemployment.

The second main argument is to cite the need for "realism" in facing the problem of "our resources": the world cannot, and in particular the Third World countries cannot, financially afford capital-intensive methods, the line goes, and therefore they must "realistically" make do with locally available resources — such as expendable human labor power.

This second, "hard-line" argument is best put forward in an article in the rag, *Science* magazine specially prepared for the conference. Using the United Nations World Model, a computerized input-output program designed by fascist economic planner Vassily Leontieff, the authors take the income of the Third World countries as fixed and, from that basis, demonstrate that present housing standards in the developing countries are too high to be "affordable."

The actual content of the deindustrialization programs are laid out in grisly detail in the International Labor Organization's official proposal to Habitat, and in McNamara's World Bank's own proposals. In pursuit of "maximum employment," the ILO opposes the clearing of favelas (slums) and their replacement with decent housing, since "elimination of the slum destroys the informal sector economic activities which take place in it." "Informal activities" is the World Bank euphemism for such productive employment as begging, blackmarket activities, prostitution and handcrafting of trinkets, none of which requires imports.

To cheapen housing costs, the ILO urges replacing imported concrete and steel with mud, clay, and "ground nut shells." To supply urban energy without expensive oil imports, there can be "methane gas generators with cow dung as fuel." Cheaper still than supplying even ground nuts are "sites and services," where all that is supplied to the slum dweller is land and water supplies. These costs can be cheapened still further, the ILO points out, by supplying only standpipes for every 100 or so inhabitants, rather than "excessively expensive" running water for each household.

McNamara spells out the "pernicious" governmental policies which must be eliminated to clear the way for profitable labor-intensive development: "unrealistically low exchange rates for capital imports, high minimum wages (which encourage capital substitution), underpriced public utilities, and subsidized interest rates."

But preferable to all of these policies is to keep or throw people out of the cities entirely. Barbara Ward, a prominent British economist commissioned by Penalosa to do the main "academic" study for Habitat, has acted as the main propagandist for "decentralization," the dispersion of populations out of cities into the country side. Writing in *The Economist*, Ward praised the Maoist Chinese relocation of students, workers, and intellectuals into the villages and pointed to a French decentralization plan which would chop up Paris and move as much of its population as possible to

small towns and villages. Proposals by Ward and her colleagues for how to stop rural-urban migration in the Third World have included the generalization of the fascistic South African "internal passport" system — a system modelled after the Nazis'.

With the Rockefeller-Kissinger "nuclear terrorism" scenario revved up, Ward was ordered by her employers to introduce the hoax into the conference. She attacked nuclear energy, including fusion power, as "God's gift to terrorists. Just think — suppose five fusion stations could provide the whole energy for Canada. You'd only need five bombs."

Zero Growthers Routed

Despite their careful preparation, and the inclusion of the World Bank policy in nearly every preparatory document including the draft Statement of Principles, the Bank's hopes to force a mandate for zero growth and genocide fell apart practically before the conference had started on May 31. International Caucus of Labor Committees representatives had already begun circulating a resolution condemning the genocide plans and posing the alternative of debt moratoria, the International Development Bank, capital-intensive urban development and fusion power at the Non-Governmental Organizations Conference beginning May 29. At a May 30 press conference attended by 1500 conference delegates and press representatives, Ward and fellow zero growthers anthropologist Margaret Mead, World Watch Institute head Lester Brown, and Penalosa, laid out what they hoped would be the focus of the conference — the program of decentralization, deindustrialization, and opposition to all forms of nuclear energy.

North American Labor Party candidate Alan Levinson replied from the floor, exposing such programs as blueprints for Wall Street debt-collection and genocide, and outlining the Labor Party alternative. He then indicted Ward and her colleagues for crimes against humanity under the Nuremberg Laws.

"Humanitarian" Ward promptly screamed at Levinson, "Speaking of genocide, we should have it and you should be first."

A reporter for the West German weekly *Der Spiegel* followed up by asking how de-urbanization would work. "What are you going to do with New York — move 79th street to New Hampshire?" Over the laughter of the delegates, Margaret Mead responded that welfare grants would be increased in rural areas to help encourage people to flee the cities. How such resettlement was to be arranged — in boxcars or otherwise — she left to the delegates' imagination.

Other reporters pursued the issue of debt raised by Levinson, forcing Ward to admit that she advocated payment of the debt to Wall Street banks by lowering living standards in both the advanced and developing sectors.

The story was immediately carried in the international press. The mass circulation Mexico City daily, *La Prensa*, ran the Labor Party accusations as a banner headline in their Monday edition: "Denounce Genocide." The paper reported "an extremely grave denunciation" issued by a U.S. working class party at the conference. Quoting at length from the ICLC resolution to the conference, *La Prensa* described the slogans of "labor-intensive policies," "organic growth" and

"appropriate technology" as covers for "massacre on a world scale." *La Prensa* concludes, "These reflections thus put the Habitat delegates on their guard."

Mexico's government newspaper, *La Nacional*, and a third daily, *Heraldo*, gave similar coverage. The following day, *La Nacional* endorsed the accusation of the ICLC in its own editorial. The leading Mexico City daily, *Excelsior*, subsequently covered USLP Senatorial candidate Will Wertz's exposure of the "nuclear terrorism" conspiracy, a conspiracy aided by Ward's anti-nuclear propaganda at the conference. The *Excelsior* coverage named Henry Kissinger and Nelson Rockefeller as those accused of heading the conspiracy. Wertz had made the charges at a press conference by the U.S. delegate to Habitat, the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Carla Hills.

Nor was the coverage limited to Mexico City. The Vancouver Sun featured the debt issue as the central one of the Sunday session and ran a long interview with USLP candidate Levinson, focusing on the choice of debt moratorium or genocide at Habitat.

International Consequences

With the controlled environment destroyed before the first day of the conference, Mexican President Echeverria made the issues facing the conference clear to every delegate in his speech May 31. Echeverria posed the choice facing delegates as the new world economic order or regression and war. He called unequivocally for urban growth based on real industrial development and high technology development of agriculture, and denounced policies which "relegate millions of human beings to subhuman conditions."

On June 2, the Cuban delegation strongly backed up Echeverria. Emphasizing that mechanized agriculture was an essential step toward urbanization, the Cubans warned again that the developing countries are determined to achieve the new world economic order. "The new order is firmly anchored" despite "global exploitation," they emphasized, locating the reason for their optimism in the strength of the working class forces in the capitalist nations: "We are sure the revolutionary struggles of workers will advance."

The speeches by the Rumanian, Tunisian, and Nigerian representatives all also identified the new world economic order as central to the problems of the cities. The Czechs and the Soviets, joined by Ghana and other developing countries, also denounced the plans to found a Human Settlement Foundation to push labor-intensive programs.

The intervention of the ICLC and the firm opposition from the Third World has at this point put the genocide conspirators on the defensive.

UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim was still able to back labor-intensive construction the morning of May 31 through "rudimentary techniques and personal sacrifices to build housing." But by Tuesday, the retreat was on. U.S. delegate Hills felt obliged by growing Third World anger to assure the delegates the U.S. backed capital-intensive development, although she did not explain how it would be financed without a debt moratorium. According to the Cuban press service, *Prensa Latina*, Third World diplomats noted the "marked timidity" of the U.S. statements compared with the Kissinger-style arrogance normal before the Rockefeller defeat at Nairobi.

Even Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, who is vigorously pushing slave-labor austerity in his country, when confronted by the USLP's Wertz, buckled to the growing pro-development mood of the delegates. Wertz asked Trudeau, "Where do you stand — for debt moratorium and the new world economic order, or with Rockefeller's labor-intensive genocide?" After thinking a minute and observing the audience, Trudeau replied, "Yes to the first question, no to the second."

By the end of the conference's first week, Brown and Ward were no longer bothering to defend themselves. After giving a forum June 3 on food control, Brown hastily left to avoid a question from NALP representative Levinson. Levinson walked to the podium and briefed the 200 attendees on the Middle East situation, the International Development Bank, and the debt moratorium, and termed Brown's speech as an

effort to "recruit agents for the genocide network." Ward abandoned ship immediately after delivering a speech on the "dangers of nuclear power" and the "nuclear terrorist threat." U.S. Labor Party representative Ira Liebowitz then took over the vacated podium and briefed the 300 people in the audience on who the actual instigators of "nuclear terrorism" are.

At this point, it is still uncertain whether the Third World group will follow up their strong tactical victories at the conference and push through substantive resolutions. Many of the major Third World delegations are still waiting for a Soviet move. However, there can be no doubt that the World Bank will be unable to stop such resolutions if the leading Third World countries decide to introduce them.

Next week's NSIPS will feature a wrap-up report on the Conference.