

# U.S. anthropologists help to foment insurgencies in Central America

by Susan Kokinda

"It is a human rights violation when you destroy a tree," declared Sheldon Davis, head of the Anthropology Resource Center, to a gathering of environmentalists in Washington, D.C. on March 31. "Nation-states argue that the benefits of large infrastructure projects will uplift everyone by fomenting economic and industrial growth. However, it is the people at the periphery, the majority of the people, that suffer the cost. . . ."

The Anthropology Resource Center (ARC), a Harvard University-based organization, dispatches anthropologists throughout the underdeveloped nations to organize "indigenous peoples' movements." Davis was addressing the Ninth Annual Conference on Rivers, devoted to mapping out strategies against water infrastructure projects.

## Battle against infrastructure projects

The conference speakers took credit for building support for left-wing insurgencies which are undermining many Third World nations. The ARC's Davis described how battles against government-sponsored dams in nations such as El Salvador and the Philippines have fed into the guerrilla movements in those countries.

In El Salvador, Davis said, the government and the World Bank embarked upon the Serón Grande water development project, which necessitated the relocation of 10,000 to 15,000 squatters. Yet the government gave compensation for relocation only to the large landowners.

By 1975, the Jesuits had moved into the area of unrest and began to organize the peasants against the state-planned hydroelectric facility. In 1977 a priest was assassinated during an outbreak of protests and by July of that year, the army moved into and "massacred" protesting peasants. Davis boasted that "since then, the peasants joined with the guerrilla movements, which had had very little support among the peasants up to that point."

Davis described a similar phenomenon in the Philippines,

where various backward and "apolitical" tribes were gradually drawn into support for the Maoist New People's Army around the fight against the projected Chico Dam Project. Davis's Anthropology Resource Center, Cultural Survival, and Friends of the Earth are sponsoring such projects in many countries, including Panama, Brazil, Guatemala, Tasmania, and Malaysia.

The Natural Resources Defense Council's Bruce Rich, who decorates his office walls with posters of the Nazi-led Green Party of Germany, recently worked with the KGB-linked Institute for Policy Studies in stopping a "breadbasket" project in Peru by organizing Indians into opposition. In Peru, the Sendero Luminoso terrorist group, a product of Nazi-communist anthropologists' networks, has been operating on a parallel track by blowing up the electrical generating structures of the country and murdering opponents of their policies. This is the Thirty Years War strategy for depopulating the non-white nations of the world.

## New coalitions and World Bank strategy

Davis elaborated a detailed strategy for linking up with human-rights organization such as Bertrand Russell's Amnesty International, which just concluded "a year on rural violence" against peasant and indigenous peoples, and with groups such as the est-cult-linked Hunger Project (on which Bourne's wife Mary King sits) and the fundamentalist-interfaced Bread for the World.

"We have to develop alternatives to these elitist models of development, where the command structure is in national institutions," Davis expounded at the conference. "We have fascism in the Third World. If you've been flooded out by a project, you know it's fascism. We know the fascist ideology, it is development with a military government backing it up. This is ethnocide."

Workshops focused on protecting "indigenous peoples" from economic and cultural progress, on stopping the World

Bank from funding capital-intensive projects, and on “small-scale alternatives” to sanitation, such as digging holes in the ground. The latter topic was presented by Dr. Peter Bourne, the Carter White House adviser thrown out for peddling drugs. Last year, Bourne was caught red-handed by this news service advising the Moscow-backed government in Grenada.

Other speakers included Bruce Rich of the Natural Resources Defense Council, who works with the terrorist-infested Green Party of West Germany; Brent Blackwelder of the Environmental Policy Center; and Fred Smith of the “free-enterprise advocating” Council for Competitive Economics. Guiding this emerging coalition from the top are such groups as Cultural Survival, which boasts Queen Margarethe of Denmark as an honorary board member, and the World Wildlife Fund, run by Britain’s Prince Philip and Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, who was a Nazi SS officer during World War II. In 1982, *EIR* documented the Nazi International control of the anthropologists’ networks which indoctrinate terrorists around the world and foment “indigenous” insurgencies. (See *EIR*, March 6, 1984.)

Throughout the presentations, the effect of the international debt crisis in halting the development programs of Third World countries was pointed to with relief. Peter Bourne, representing Global Water—a private international effort committed to steering the Third World away from “Western-style” development projects—pointed out that “the debt crisis has had a profound psychological effect in the Third World. Many of these nations now think ‘we got sucked in by buying technology that we can’t maintain.’ You don’t need a pre-existing, capital-intensive water system to provide sanitation for a Third World country. That is very inappropriate and wastes water. Low-cost, local sanitation efforts are much more appropriate.”

Other speakers sought to officially mandate that multilateral lending institutions must protect the environment and habits of indigenous peoples. The World Bank, whose “small-is-beautiful” policies became notorious during the reign of Robert Strange McNamara as president of the institution, still occasionally finances cement factories and roads—chiefly to facilitate the export of drugs and cash crops. The spokesmen at the water conference found such projects too capital-intensive.

Over the past six months, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Anthropology Research Center, and other elements of this coalition have submitted testimony to congressional committees, urging that the United States pressure the World Bank into officially transforming its guidelines in this way—less as a pressure point against the World Bank than as a way to draw the U.S. Congress further into committing itself to policies of enforced backwardness and mass murder for the Southern Hemisphere. Sen. Charles Mathias (R-Md.), a top Senate proponent of the Carter administration’s depopulation blueprint, the Global 2000 Report, and Sen. Robert Kasten (R-Wisc.), a fiscal conservative, have both publicly expressed interest in the proposals.

## The right to backwardness

*From the testimony of Bruce Rich before the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on International Economic Policy, March 27, 1984, on behalf of the Natural Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club, Friends of the Earth, Izaak Walton League of America, National Audubon Society, Environmental Defense Fund, and Environmental Policy Institute:*

We believe in the proposition that “sustainable development and wise conservation are not only mutually reinforcing, but absolutely inseparable goals.” Thus, continued evidence of systematic absence of effective measures to implement this principle in the [World] Bank in the future will lead us to have serious doubts about that institution’s long-term effectiveness and create pressures within our constituencies to seriously question the value of U.S. financial support for IDA and the IBRD [the World Bank and its funding facility]. . . .

We think it is equally essential that the Congress express its concern that inadequate measures by the World Bank to deal with ecological deterioration . . . will tragically undermine IDA’s mission. . . . Proposed World Bank priorities suggested by the above coalition: Population and family planning; small-scale forestry. . . ; conservation of wetlands, estuaries, mangrove swamps, coral reefs, etc.; conservation of pristine natural areas in national parks and other protected areas to prevent the loss of genetic diversity; investment in alternative energy such as solar and geothermal projects.

*Excerpts from March 7, 1984, letter to A. W. Clausen, president of the World Bank, from the Natural Resources Defense Council, National Wildlife Federation, and Environmental Policy Center:*

We are very pleased to have had the opportunity to meet with you. . . . We were pleased to be able to report back to our members your statement that the Bank and its staff need to focus more on natural resource management issues. . . . We were encouraged by your acknowledgement that more attention needs to be given to natural resources and environmental management in the Bank’s policy documents. . . .

*From Global Reporter, Summer 1983, Special Section on Hydroelectrics and Native Peoples entitled “Saving Rivers, Saving Lives”:*

“The effects of the dam are fairly plain. They will destroy the lifestyle of Indian people. They will kill us when they kill the environment, because we are a part of it. But to the ones who build it, it’s legal and it makes a lot of money.” With these words, Clifford Freeman, vice-president of the Indian Association of Alberta, brought home an important point to the 8th Annual National Conference on Rivers: that human rights and environmental issues are inseparable.