

Africa Report by Mary Lalevée

The World Bank markets genocide

Its latest report qualifies its authors for the dock at Nuremberg, while allied agencies lie that "the famine is over."

A report issued on Sept. 3, 1986 by the World Bank, *Population Growth and Policies in Sub-Saharan Africa*, contains the Malthusian arguments for genocide common to supranational financial institutions: The difference, says Ernest Stern, World Bank senior vice-president, is that the "report is addressed to a broad African audience—not just policymakers in the narrow sense of top government officials, but the wider community of technical experts, administrators, academics and opinion leaders."

The introduction notes the shift over the last decade in African governments' positions on population control, recalling that at the 1974 World Population Conference in Bucharest, only three African governments, Botswana, Ghana, and Kenya, "sought to slow population growth. Today more than three-fourths of sub-Saharan governments officially support family planning."

The fact is that many governments have been obliged to accept population-reduction measures as a condition of obtaining loans from the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank!

The World Bank report makes clear its aim: "For its part the bank views population assistance as its highest priority in Africa. It will increase its spending as rapidly as the program can be developed."

The World Bank simply dismisses counter-arguments to Malthus, such as that technological change and modern agricultural methods could mas-

sively increase food production and raise living standards, saying, for example, that increases in agricultural production "would require investments in irrigation, new technology, and assistance to small farmers on a scale that is unlikely to be achieved soon. Just to sustain the inadequate current standards of nutrition, agricultural production in Africa would have to grow at a sustained rate of over 3% a year for the next twenty years. Improvement of agricultural policies will help. In some countries that rate of agricultural growth is not impossible. But for the region as a whole, such a growth is unlikely."

The World Bank then calls for Chinese-style measures, the lifting of medical restrictions on the use and provision of injectable contraceptives and of sterilization.

Famine? That's due to over-population, is the argument, so if a few hundred thousand people die, it is just the result of African governments' refusal to implement population-control programs.

Stern and his friends at the IMF and U.N. belong on trial for crimes against humanity. That's all that the report really means.

Which friends? On Sept. 19 came the announcement of the closing of the U.N. Office of Emergency Operations in Africa. The OEOA started operations in January 1985, following widespread public concern about famine in Africa. Under the pretext that "drought-induced famine" is no longer a continent-wide threat, the office

is closing down by Oct. 31. Instead, the U.N. operations will be centralized under the leadership of oil magnate Maurice Strong, a founding member of the genocidalist Club of Rome, and of many similar associations, such as "Islam and the West." Strong's policy has been to kill Africans, among others, for a long time.

In a press release issued in Geneva on Sept. 17, the OEOA announced: "The great African famine is over." But executive-coordinator Charles Lamuniere said in a press conference that Africa would face a "locust-induced famine, instead of a drought-induced famine" this year. Harvests in 15 countries are facing destruction by locusts and grasshoppers. In its locust bulletin of Sept. 19, the FAO is obliged to report this increased threat, despite its attempt to play down the extent of the potential destruction. For instance, new infestations are already developing in areas sprayed by U.S. aircraft, such as in Senegal. In Chad, the Senegalese grasshoppers have started to attack crops; in Mali, 700,000 hectares are infested, with densities up to 55 per square meter. In Sudan, there are also infestations with highest densities in the Daresfur province.

The 2 million people in southern Sudan facing starvation are no nearer to receiving any aid. "Operation Rainbow" an airlift of food supplies from Khartoum into towns blockaded by the Soviet-backed rebels of the SPLA, is still not under way. The Sudanese government has refused permission to planes to fly into rebel-held territory, saying that their safety cannot be guaranteed.

Lamuniere told *EIR* in an interview from Geneva that the situation in three towns is "close to tragedy." Hundreds of thousands of people face starvation, he said.