

Malthusian bankers write off Africa

by Mark Burdman

The chiefs of the international financial community and their agents in Western governments have initiated a policy of cutting off aid flows to Africa. The word from bankers' headquarters in London, New York, and on the European continent, is that Africa has been "written off," and if this creates more chaos and deaths on the continent, that is, in their view, all the better.

The policy behind this "write-off," *EIR* has learned, is that the malthusian elites claim there is a "racial imbalance" in the world: too many of the darker "Negroid" races, relative to the "Caucasian/Anglo-Saxons." In the words of one close associate of former West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, whose Inter-Action Council of Former World Leaders has become a command center for malthusian propaganda, AIDS, famine, and locust plagues are *not good enough* for reducing population, since they "don't produce many deaths" and are "not really affecting, in quantitative terms, population growth," which must be curbed by "limiting births."

On Feb. 4, the U.S. government announced a cut-off of development aid to Zambia, on the flimsy premise that the country was in arrears on debt repayment of a few million dollars. Zambian government pleas that the country did not have the ability to pay, and that it could not deviate from its policy of debt repayment at the rate of 10% of export earnings, fell on deaf ears. Days later, the French government followed suit, and cut off aid to Zambia. This was soon followed by a bizarre decision by a Dutch court declaring the nation of Zaire bankrupt.

Zambia and Zaire are two of the worst AIDS-ridden countries in the world. One-half of the Zambian army, by some estimates, is AIDS-infected. Both countries are desperately in need of assistance to build health and technological infrastructure as rapidly as possible. Cutting off aid, and denying debt-forgiveness, means radically increasing the death rate.

On Feb. 14-15, the Swiss bankers' daily *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, derided Zambians as normally "idle and indolent."

In contrast to this barbarism, Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda was the voice of reason and conscience in his speech to the conference of the International Fund for Agricultural Development in Rome on Jan. 27 of this year: "There's no doubt at all that the natural resources that exist in most developing countries are abundant enough to feed the existing populations of these countries a hundred times over. This is no exaggeration."

Death sentence for nations

According to the French-language newsletter, *Lettre de l'Afrique*, in its Feb. 9 edition, a policy of cut-off of aid to Africa, was decided at the highest levels of the U.S. financial-industrial establishment. In late January 1988, claims the newsletter, leaders of large industrial concerns, the major banks, and several multinationals held informal discussions on American global economic strategy for the coming 4-5 years. On this occasion, the "big bosses" decided that the United States had devoted too much attention to aid to Africa, relative to other areas in the world: "For them," the newsletter writes, "the African continent is now of a very secondary interest, and they are seeking to rally to their point of view, the Democratic and Republican staffs. . . . [They think that] to accord an excessive attention to the difficulties of development of the African continent, is to concentrate on the dying trees, and to refuse to see the rest of the healthy forest."

The newsletter reports that on Jan. 29, the Reagan administration informed Congress officially that 30 countries would no longer receive American strategic assistance for the budget year from July 1988 to June 1989. Seven African countries, including Botswana, Cameroon, Guinea, Liberia, Madagascar, the Central African Republic, and the Sudan, would be cut off from the Military Assistance Program. Kenya would be cut off from the Foreign Military Sales program, while the Economic Support Fund would be totally cut off to 10 countries in Africa: Botswana, Cameroon, Gambia, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Niger, Tanzania, Zaire, and Zambia.

The financial inspiration

One senior London financial expert opposed to the general policy thrust, said: "The atmosphere in banking capitals is that Africa will no longer receive financial aid. There's a fundamental indifference to Africa. As long as Africa is going through hunger, backwardness, turmoil, and confusion, that's fine. Bankers think they already have enough problems with difficult Asians and Latin Americans. So, if Africa goes down the bloody mire, all the better. It's very cynical, and it is becoming the official policy of governments as well. . . . It's de facto genocide."

The aforementioned close associate of Helmut Schmidt, said bluntly, during a Feb. 15 discussion: "As far as the financial community is concerned, Africa has been written off, period! The banks are not going to intervene in black Africa. Why expect them to do otherwise? They have come

to the conclusion that any money lent to Africa, is lost money. And since when have bankers had a conscience?"

Then, this fellow admitted that the real issue is reducing Africa's population: "The population viewpoint toward Africa is very clear," he said. "We have never had the slightest doubt that Africa should master its demography. Schmidt and [Japan's Takeo] Fukuda have always been extraordinarily open, frank, and direct on this point at Inter-Action Council meetings. They would like to see smaller growth rates of population."

Asked if Schmidt et al. were not sufficiently satisfied that general famine, AIDS, locust spread, etc., were reducing world population, he said: "All these factors don't produce many deaths. They are really not affecting, in quantitative terms, population growth. They are factors that count in the *many thousands*, which is nothing compared to the *millions* born every day. I agree, Africa is a place where AIDS will be devastating. There *will be* more and more famine. And, Africa will suffer all kinds of locust plague. But all these factors together, do not limit the fact that there has been an incredible *extension of life span*, thanks to medical drugs, vaccination, eradication of smallpox, and the like. *Natural*, extraordinary causes which provoke *death*, do not balance out *man-made* interventions which increase *life*."

Schmidt is a policy spokesman for the elite banking families of Hamburg, including Warburg, Brinckmann, Toepfer, and others, as well as powerful elements in the Swiss and Venetian banking-insurance cartels. His Inter-Action Council Policy Board will be holding a meeting on Africa, in Harare, Zimbabwe, from March 20-22 (see *EIR*, No. 7, Feb. 19, 1988).

World Bank: Projects spread AIDS

A variant on the Schmidt/Inter-Action theme, is coming from the World Bank in Washington, D.C., which is now arguing that development projects in Africa *cause* the spread of AIDS, and therefore must give way to new "priorities."

The World Bank argument was endorsed in the Feb. 8, 1988 edition of the newsletter of the Berne, Switzerland Ost Institute, directed by one Dr. Peter Sager. The newsletter draws attention to a "highly disturbing document about the economic aspects of AIDS," published in Washington by the World Bank, "the most important financial institution dealing with multi-national development assistance."

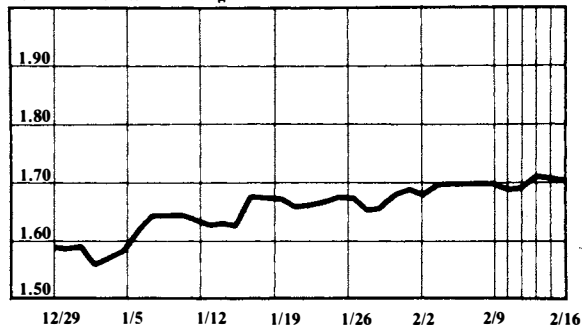
The newsletter writes: "The World Bank thinks that economic aid and technical cooperation has itself contributed to the spread of AIDS throughout the world. Technical assistance personnel from the industrialized countries become infected and bring the disease home. One of the results is that AIDS is by no means restricted to Africa, and the economic consequences are spreading."

A Sager aide recently admitted, "Dr. Sager points to the fact that population in Western Europe is stable, while the population of Africa is rising too fast. . . . The point of racial imbalance comes across."

Currency Rates

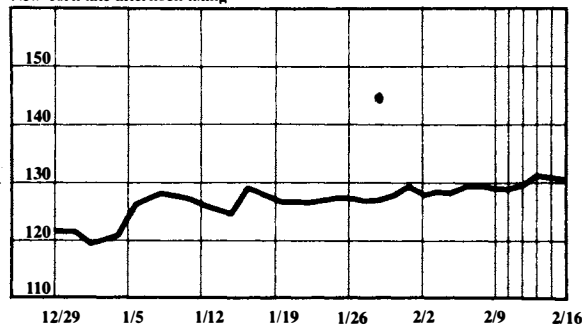
The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



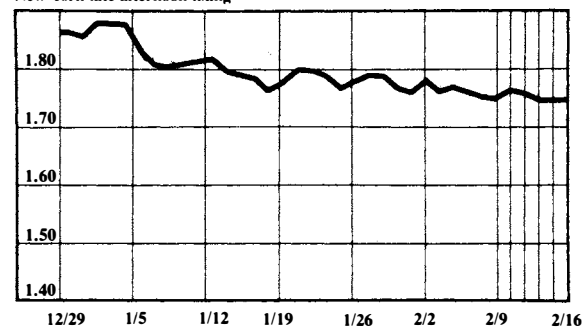
The dollar in yen

New York late afternoon fixing



The British pound in dollars

New York late afternoon fixing



The dollar in Swiss francs

New York late afternoon fixing

