

the roads.

The landless peasant families who, to their misfortune, emigrate to regions like Rondônia, are turned into a human wave which advances, destroying virgin jungle in a predatory process in search of their survival, under subhuman conditions.

Thus, starting with the 1981 "success" of the Northwest Pole, the deforestation of the Amazon grew exponentially. Eight percent of the total deforestation, calculated at 60 million hectares, has taken place in the past seven years. By 1981, all the areas with soils adequate for farming had been occupied and there remained only poor lands which require costly investments in technology for their adequate use.

Cattle ranches have taken 8.4 million hectares of the deforested area; but many of today's pastures were first used to grow food crops. The total food area harvested in the border regions does not fully reflect the deforestation process, since it is an area which rapidly moves about. Thus, statistics on it do not correctly reflect deforestation. Most of the farm production is for the settler's own subsistence and not for market.

The solution to the problem

It is thus insane, as well as cynical, to blame the deforestation of the Amazon on a supposed "excess" population, as the World Bank tries to do in its recent reports.

The truth is that Brazil has the immediate capacity to bring 10 million fertile hectares in the South and Southeast which are now being misused to generate export revenue and alcohol into food production. That would solve in a single year the needs of more than 50 million Brazilians who live in or near absolute misery. That is where the way to put an end to the deforestation of the Amazon must begin.

The World Bank suggests ending the tax incentives and ending the subsidized loans and other privileges which have benefited almost exclusively land speculators. That would certainly help solve the problem. But only a change in the country's agricultural and financial policy, the expulsion of World Bank programs and IMF conditionalities, allied with rational use of Amazon land and resources based on a deep understanding of regional ecosystems and the most advanced technology available would bring salvation, not only for trees, but, above all, for millions of human lives.

Former official of IMF charges genocide

A former top official has charged the International Monetary Fund with Nuremberg crimes and bringing on a new dark age—precisely the charges *EIR* has been documenting for the past 15 years.

Native of Grenada and 12-year staff member of the International Monetary Fund, Davison L. Budhoo, charged in a 160-page open letter of resignation given to the press on Dec. 28, that the IMF has set itself up as a new nobility, lording it over the Third World and destroying it with its nostrums. "The charges that I make strike at the very soul of man and at his conscience," he wrote. "You know, when all the evidence is in, there are two types of questions that you and me and others like us will have to answer. The first is this: Will the world be content merely to brand our institution as among the most insidious enemies of mankind? Or will the heirs of those whom we have dismembered in our own peculiar Holocaust clamor for another Nuremberg?"

He speaks of "the total preoccupation of Fund people, and Fund-inspired people, with personal material gratification and with the lust for, and abuse of power placed so inadvertently, yet so completely, in their hands. It is the timeless story of human beings, faced with an exceptional opportunity to further the cause of mankind, turning around

and destroying everything worth preserving. . . . It is the timeless story of the descent of another century of history into hell. . . . I feel . . . terror at the sight of us doing things of Dracula that we so blithely do." He reviews the exorbitant salaries, well over \$100,000 a year, plus expense accounts, first class plane flights, staying in five-star hotels, what he calls "honey pot" that buys the silence of the staff members.

He spends the majority of the 160 pages on a very detailed case study of the Fund's destruction of the Caribbean nation of Trinidad and Tobago. "We manipulated, blatantly and systematically, certain key statistical indices so as to put ourselves in a position where we could make very false pronouncements about economic and financial performance of that country . . . [which meant] the country was repeatedly denied access to international commercial and official sources of financing that otherwise would have been readily available. . . . The staff has waged within the Fund an aggressive campaign of disinformation and derision about economic performance in Trinidad and Tobago. . . .

He announced his resignation, saying, "Today I resigned . . . after 1,000 days of official Fund work in the field, hawking your medicine and your bag of tricks to governments and to peoples in Latin America and the Caribbean and Africa. To me resignation is a priceless liberation, for with it I have taken the first big step to that place where I may hope to wash my hands of what in my mind's eye is the blood of millions of poor and starving peoples. . . . The charges I make are not light charges—they are charges that touch at the very heart of Western society and Western morality and postwar inter-governmental institutionalism that have degenerated into fake and sham."